Timothy Ongaba

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# **Personal Profile**

Dedicated biomedical sciences professional with over 4 years of hands-on laboratory experience in clinical, industry, and research environment. Demonstrated expertise in performing a wide range of molecular testing techniques including PCR, cell culture, gel electrophoresis, ELISA, nucleic acid extraction and use of bioinformatics tools. Seeking, as a next career step, industry/ clinical experience in molecular diagnostics/ clinical pathology, business and technology, research and or development.

**Education**

MSc. Biomedical Sciences | 2024 | Nottingham Trent University

MSc. Molecular Biology and Biotechnology | 2024 | Makerere University

BSc. Biomedical Laboratory Technology | 2021 | Makerere University

**Research and Teaching Experience**

Medical Laboratory Assistant, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (August 2024 to date)

* Process and manage patient specimens for biomedical testing, including receiving, sorting, labelling, and preparing samples
* Operate Q-Pulse Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) for sample tracking, data entry, and quality management
* Conduct preliminary sample analyses, relay test results to healthcare professionals, and handle routine enquiries
* Maintain inventory, manage stock rotation, and ensure compliance with health and safety regulations
* Contribute to quality assurance by monitoring equipment, recording data, and assisting in training new staff members

Laboratory Scientist Intern, Cryologyx Ltd, Coventry, UK (Feb 2024)

* Worked with laboratory and commercial teams on developing assay-ready cryopreserved cell monolayers (BHK-21, Vero, A549).
* Carried out experiments and testing to support production schedules and manufacturing.
* Perform duties such as cell culture, quality control and GMP.
* Analysed data and presented findings to team members and management.
* Ensured adherence to all safety and regulatory procedures.
* Helped maintain a clean, sterile lab environment and equipment.

Research Intern, Makerere University Molecular Biology Lab, Kampala, Uganda (Nov 2019 - April 2021)

* Performed molecular disease detection on ~120 samples per week including nucleic acid extraction, PCR, and protein techniques like SDS-PAGE to provide accurate diagnoses.
* Prepared lab reagents and aliquots in advance to ensure availability for routine testing procedures.
* Demonstrated ability to plan and manage supplies/inventories.
* Compiled testing data into detailed reports and presentations using Excel and PowerPoint to regularly update principal investigators and stakeholders.
* Attended weekly lab meetings to expand knowledge of graduate student research methods and findings. Developed scientific communication skills. Researched relevant topics in cancer biology and molecular methods to present findings each week to lab team.

Field/Lab Technologist, Makerere University (April 2021 - July 2022)

* Executed PCR, electrophoresis, and ELISA on 120+ livestock samples daily to diagnose diseases causing massive cattle deaths in Karamoja, Uganda.
* Led field sample collection from cattle and small ruminants.
* Collected blood, serum, and faecal matter as appropriate for different molecular and microbiological tests.
* Created graphical data reports summarizing findings from a range of molecular, serological, and chemical analyses.
* Demonstrated organisational skills in coordinating fieldwork and lab testing for large research studies.
* Supervised teams of undergraduate students and guided on molecular protocols, instrumentation, and bioinformatics tools.

Lab Technologist, UMC Victoria Hospital Kampala (Aug 2022 - Dec 2022)

* Spearheaded implementation of ISO 9001 quality control guidelines in haematology and biochemistry labs to maintain accreditation.
* Reduced patient waiting times through coordination with other departments during peak hours.
* Fielded inquiries from patients and partners professionally via phone and email. Developed communication abilities.
* Demonstrated reliability and consistency in conducting large volumes of daily molecular testing in microbiology, immunology, haematology, and chemical analysis departments.

Volunteer Phlebotomist, Uganda Cancer Institute (July 2019 - Oct 2019)

* Created an efficient system for organising daily patient blood collections, reducing wait times.
* Performed venipunctures professionally adhering to infection control best practices. Carefully packaged and transported specimens to proper lab departments for analysis.

Volunteer Lab Technologist, Mulago Hospital (May 2018 - Oct 2018)

* Executed timely testing for 60+ TB patients daily using PCR, microscopy, and imaging equipment.
* Implemented procedural changes that reduced turnaround time for actionable diagnostics by 25%.
* Safely handled biospecimen and chemicals.
* Followed protocols meticulously to ensure quality results.

**Relevant Skills**

* Scientific writing and meta-analysis
* Eukaryotic Cell culture (BHK-21, Vero, A549)
* Cell viability assays and Quality control
* Nucleic acid extraction
* PCR and gel electrophoresis
* Data analysis with excel, Minitab and GraphPad Prism
* Bioinformatics; primer design, PDB, PyMol, cBioportal, Chimera, AutoDock Vina etc.
* Reagent preparation, pipetting and protocol optimisation

## **Certifications**

Programming in R and Python, Coursera

[Good Clinical Practice](http://citiprogram.org/verify/?wac5f85c8-5798-4f39-babd-c9c045deabb2-43767764), Collaborative IRB Training Initiative

[Biomedical Research](http://citiprogram.org/verify/?w91af03e6-da15-471b-8f56-b2ffca955462-43767763), Collaborative IRB Training Initiative

Good Clinical Practice, NIDA Clinical Trials Network

Current Topics in Microbiology, UK Microbiology Society

## **Achievements and Publications**

* Won a £3000 international scholarship from Nottingham Trent University -Academic year 2023-2024.
* Publication; A molecular docking study of human STEAP2 for the discovery of new anti-prostate cancer chemotherapeutic candidates [doi: 10.3389/fbinf.2022.869375](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fbinf.2022.869375/abstract)
* *ENOX1,*  *CCDC122* and *LACC1* role in progression of prostate cancer [doi.org/10.1101/2023.10.12.23296974](https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2023.10.12.23296974v1) (Preprint).

**Personal interests and hobbies**

I regularly swim and play water polo as part of a local swim club. I enjoy cycling and going on long adventure rides by the countryside. Indoors, I listen to podcasts, audiobooks and play Sudoku. I have been part of Rotaract (a youths’ version of Rotary International) since 2019 and enjoy giving back to the community and charity work.

**References:** Available upon request.