

# Mike Nsubuga

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Website: <https://mikensubuga.github.io/>

## EDUCATION

2023 – 2027

**University of Bristol, UK Ph.D.**

Research: Using machine learning to trace gastrointestinal disease outbreaks and antimicrobial resistance. Supported by **MRC Ph.D. Studentship**

Supervisors: Sion Bayliss, Lauren Cowley, Andrew Dowsey, and Kristen Reyher

2020 – 2022

**Makerere University, Uganda M.Sc. in Bioinformatics (First Class Honors)**

Dissertation Title: A machine learning approach to predict *E. coli* antibacterial resistance using whole-genome sequencing data in Uganda. Supported by **NIH-Fogarty EANBIT M.Sc. Fellowship**

Supervisors: Daudi Jjingo and Gerald Mboowa

2016 – 2019

**Makerere University, Uganda B.Sc. in Information Technology (First Class Honors)**

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2023 – PRESENT

**Jean Golding Institute of Data Science, University of Bristol, UK**

Ask-JGI Research Data Scientist

2023 – 2023

**Division of Human Genetics, University of Cape Town, South Africa**

Research Fellow, Sickle in Africa Consortium

2022 – 2023

**Department of Entomology, Uganda Virus Research Institute, Uganda**

Research Fellow, Open Data Science Platform - eLwazi

2020 – 2023

**Infectious Diseases Institute, African Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics, Makerere University, Uganda**

Research Fellow & Bioinformatics Trainee

## AWARDS, HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2024 – **Travel Award:**

Awarded a travel grant by the Medical Research Council (MRC) to attend the 2024 Computational Genomics Summer Institute at University of California, Los Angeles

2023 – **Ph.D. Studentship:**

Awarded a studentship from the Medical Research Council (MRC) to undertake a 4-year Ph.D. at University of Bristol.

2022 – **Travel Award:**

Awarded a travel scholarship by Open Science Grid funded by National Science Foundation (NSF) to attend OSG school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

2021 – **M.Sc. Fellowship:**

Awarded a Fellowship under EANBIT project from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Fogarty to undertake a 2-year Master's degree program in Bioinformatics at Makerere.

2020 – **Dissertation Award:**

Graduated top of undergraduate class, 2019, with a CGPA 4.71/5.0

## PUBLICATIONS

### Publications

- Nsubuga, M.**, Galiwango, R., Jjingo, D., & Mboowa, G. (2024). Generalizability of machine learning in predicting antimicrobial resistance in *E. coli*: A multi-country case study in Africa. *BMC Genomics*, 25(1), 287. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12864-024-10214-4>
- Mboowa, G., Kakooza, F., Egesa, M., Tukwasibwe, S., Kanyerezi, S., Sserwadda, I., Kidenya, B. R., Kabahita, J. M., Namaganda, M. M., **Nsubuga, M.**, Nabisubi, P., Ayitewala, A., Kebirungi, G., Nakafu, E., & Akwii, N. P. (2024). The rise of pathogen genomics in Africa (13:468). *F1000Research*. <https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.147114.1>
- Please, H., Narang, K., Bolton, W., **Nsubuga, M.**, Luweesi, H., Richards, N. B., Dalton, J., Tendo, C., Khan, M., Jjingo, D., Bhutta, M. F., Petrakaki, D., & Dhanda, J. (2024). Virtual reality technology for surgical learning: Qualitative outcomes of the first virtual reality training course for emergency and essential surgery delivered by a UK–Uganda partnership. *BMJ Open Quality*, 13(1). <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjog-2023-002477>
- Buyego, P., Katwesigye, E., Kebirungi, G., **Nsubuga, M.**, Nakyejwe, S., Cruz, P., McCarthy, M. C., Hurt, D., Kambugu, A., Arinaitwe, J. W., Ssekabira, U., & Jjingo, D. (2022). Feasibility of virtual reality based training for optimising COVID-19 case handling in Uganda. *BMC Medical Education*, 22(1), 274. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12909-022-03294-x>
- Nsubuga, M.**, Mutegeki, H., Jjingo, D. *et al.* The Ugandan sickle Pan-African research consortium registry: design, development, and lessons. *BMC Med Inform Decis Mak* 24, 212 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12911-024-02618-9>
- Babirye, S. R., **Nsubuga, M.**, Mboowa, G., Batte, C., Galiwango, R., & Kateete, D. P. (2024). Machine learning-based prediction of antibiotic resistance in Mycobacterium tuberculosis clinical isolates from Uganda. *BMC Infectious Diseases*, 24(1), 1391. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12879-024-10282-7>
- Gregorova, M., Santopaolo, M., Garner, L. C., Diamond, D., Ramamurthy, N., Vi, T. T., Nguyen, N. M., Vuong, N. L., Jones, E., **Nsubuga, M.**, Luscombe, C., My, H. V. T., Chanh, H. Q., Chau, N. T. X., Tam, D. T. H., Le, D. H. T., Tam, C. T., Klenerman, P., Yacoub, S., & Rivino, L. (2024). Early NK-cell and T-cell dysfunction marks progression to severe dengue in patients with obesity and healthy weight (p. 2024.09.06.611687). *bioRxiv*. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2024.09.06.611687>

### Other Scholarly Works (Posters)

- Nsubuga M**, Yi Ling Tam, Malaka de Silva, James Hall, Lauren Cowley, Claire Jenkins, Kate Baker, Sion Bayliss. (2024). Mapping the distribution of AMR in *Shigella sonnei*. NIHR HPRU in Gastrointestinal Infections Conference, Birmingham [Poster]. <http://hprugi.nihr.ac.uk/media/f1uc4ayb/mike-nsubuga.pdf>
- Nsubuga, M.** (2023). *A machine learning approach to predict E. coli antibacterial resistance using whole-genome sequencing data* [Thesis, Makerere University]. <http://makir.mak.ac.ug/handle/10570/13162>

## INVITED TALKS

- 13/04/2024 – Combatting AMR using AI in low resource settings, AMR, a one health challenge by Fondation Mérieux, France
- 20/03/2024 – Utilising Machine Learning for tracing gastrointestinal outbreaks and antimicrobial resistance, MRC GW4 DTP, UK
- 23/08/2023 – Empowering low middle income countries against antimicrobial resistance with AI and Whole-Genome Sequencing, AMR Force, University of Bristol
- 23/07/2022 – Ugandan AI COVID-19 chatbot for automated and personalized symptom assessment in

- 04/03/2022 – Luganda & English. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Open Science Grid School, US  
End to end AI and data systems for targeted surveillance and management of COVID-19 and future pandemics affecting Uganda (COAST), Uganda
- 08/04/2022 – Optimizing the SickleInAfrica Registry Data Collection Workflow Using Site-specific Clinical Processes, Sickle in Africa consortium meeting, South Africa
- 26/04/2022 – Virtual Reality in Medicine and Surgery Conference (VRiMs), Uganda

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2024 – **School of Engineering Mathematics & Technology**, University of Bristol  
Teaching assistant – EMATM0047, Data Science Project  
Teaching assistant – EMATM0067, Introduction to AI & Text Analytics  
Teaching assistant – SEMT20003, Methods of Artificial Intelligence  
Teaching assistant – EMATM0048, Software Devt: Programming & Algorithms
- 2021 – 2022 **H3ABioNet and Wellcome Connecting Science**  
Teaching assistant – Next Generation Sequencing short course
- 2018 – 2019 **Department of Computer Science**, Makerere University  
C & Java programming tutorial assistant

## WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2020 – 2022 **Supporting African Math Initiatives (SAMI)**, U.K  
Software Developer (Volunteer to SAMI Math Charity)
- 2020 – 2020 **Statistics for Sustainable Development (STATS4SD)**, Reading, UK  
Programming Intern

## MENTORSHIP

- Rebecca Nakitandwe, MSc in Health Informatics, Makerere University, 2023 – 2025
- Henry Mutegeki, MSc in Computer Science (Google DeepMind Scholar), Makerere University 2022 – 2024
- Sandra Babirye, MSc in Bioinformatics (MakDarta Fellow), Makerere University, 2022 – 2024
- Florence Nakabiri, MSc in Bioinformatics, Makerere University, 2022 – 2024

## SERVICE, OUTREACH AND LEADERSHIP

Work done under Supporting African Maths Initiatives (SAMI), a UK-based charity dedicated to improving access to and quality of mathematics education in Africa.

- 2020 – 2020 **Software Developer**  
SAMI Math Club App (A collection of mathematical problems and puzzles to support mathematical thinking, problem solving and love of mathematics, used in 5 African countries during Maths Camp) – <https://mathsclub.samicharity.co.uk/>
- 2020 – 2021 **Lead Software Developer**  
Card Deck – A web and mobile application together with a printed card deck featuring unique activities, engaging participants in games, puzzles or fun mathematical facts – <https://cards.virtualmathscamp.com/>
- 2020 – 2021 **Junior Developer**

UNICEF Parenting for Lifelong Health – An open source and evidence-based parenting app to support parents and caregivers during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond

Work done under PICSA, a method developed by researchers at University of Reading, UK that combines climate data with African farmers' insights to enhance informed agricultural decision-making through participatory methods.

2022 – 2023

**Technical Lead**

Conducted field digital training and workshops of approaches for farmers in Malawi and Zambia on implementation of the PICSA approach - <https://picsa.app/>

## OTHER PREVIOUS PROJECTS

2023 – 2023

**Web Developer**

AI for Health Equity: Transforming Pandemic Preparedness in Uganda (HEAL) using Large Language Models– Funded by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation - <https://heal.aceuganda.org/>

2021 – 2023

**Lead Software Developer**

An Epilepsy Self-Management and Resilience Technical application for Adolescents and their community – Funded by Epilepsy Foundation in collaboration with Duke University <https://github.com/aceuganda/epilepsy-smart-app>

2021 – 2022

**Junior Data Scientist**

AI-based COVID-19 chatbot for Uganda – Funded by International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

2021 – 2025

**Lead Developer**

Sickle Pan- African Research Consortium (SPARCO) Uganda: Strengthening Capacity for Clinical Care, Research and Training in Sickle Cell Disease– Funded by NIH/NHLBI in collaboration with UCT