

The NeTroDis Research Group (www.netrodisresearch.com) is a group with individuals passionate about neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) and emerging infectious diseases (EIDs) research using the one health approach and are committed to the global efforts to beat NTDs through and through research and community engagement.

At NeTroDis we recognize the importance of both basic and applied research. For our basic research, we utilize modern molecular biology techniques including PCR, cloning and sequencing, ELISA and CRISPR technology to study parasite biology and metabolism with a goal to discover novel proteins which are potential therapeutic, diagnostic and vaccine targets.

At the applied level at NeTroDis, we perform epidemiological research that provides vital information on disease hotspots, zones of co-infections, compliance to Preventive Chemotherapy and Control programmes on NTDs as well as implementation research geared at improving the uptake and access of already available interventions. NeTroDis is also interested in co-infections of NTDs and EIDs (such as COVID-19) and the impact of comorbidities on disease transmission, natural history and clinical outcomes.

Research themes

There are four research themes and teams at NeTroDis. They are;

1. Filariasis (Onchocerciasis and Lymphatic Filariasis) Research (Filariasis Team)
2. Schistosomiasis & Buruli Ulcer Research (SchiBu Team)
3. Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis Research (SoTraH Team)
4. Echinococcosis/Yaws (EchiYaws Team)

Members

1. Dr. Kenneth Bentum Otabil (Principal Investigator/Group lead) (hyperlink to my UENR profile <https://uenr.edu.gh/staff/dr-otabil-kenneth-bentum>)
2. Blessing Ankras (Clinical Research Coordinator/Research Assistant) -SchiBu Team
3. Emmanuel John Bart-Plange (Research Assistant)- Filariasis Team
4. Dr. Joseph Ameyaw (Study clinician)
5. Mr. Joseph Gyekye (Physician Assistant)
6. Theophilus Nti Babae (Research Assistant)- SoTraH Team

7. Prince Charles Kudzordzi (Research Assistant) - EchiYaws Team
8. Justice Amenyo Kessie (Group statistician)

Grant Funded Projects

1. November 2020 - African Research Network on Neglected Tropical Diseases and USAID Small Grant (Grant No: SGPIV/0111/241): Funding amount \$ 30,000

Topic: the potential impacts and mitigation strategies of the COVID-19-induced delay of Community Directed Treatment with ivermectin (CDTi) on onchocerciasis elimination targets in Ghana

a. Principal Investigator: Dr Kenneth Bentum Otabil

b. Collaborators:

- i. Prof. Maria-Gloria Basañez, School of Public Health, Imperial College London, UK
 - ii. Prof. Robert Colebunders, Global Health Institute, University of Antwerp, Belgium
 - iii. Dr. Daniel Antwi-Berko, University of Energy and Natural Resource, Sunyani, Ghana
 - iv. Dr Jonathan I.D. Hamley, School of Public Health, Imperial College London, UK.
 - v. Dr Martin Walker, Royal Veterinary College Hatfield, UK.
2. September 2020-Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene small grant programme. Funding amount £ 4,985

Topic: Feasibility of integrating Ov16 rapid testing into onchocerciasis surveillance in Ghana

a. Principal Investigator: Dr Kenneth Bentum Otabil

b. Collaborators:

- i. Prof Robert Colebunders, Global Health Institute, University of Antwerp, Belgium
- ii. Dr HDFH Schallig, Academic Medical Center, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Collaborations and Partners

- i. Global Health Institute, University of Antwerp, Belgium
- ii. Academic Medical Center, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- iii. School of Public Health, Imperial College London, UK

- iv. Royal Veterinary College Hatfield, UK
- v. International Citizen Project on Covid-19, ICPCovid (www.icpcovid.com)
- vi. NTD Support Center/COR-NTD

Contact Details:

Group Lead, Kenneth Bentum Otabil, PhD

Lecturer | Microbiology, Parasitology & Vector Biology

Department of Basic and Applied Biology,

School of Sciences, University of Energy and Natural Resources

Sunyani, Ghana, West Africa

Tel: +233209164671/+233247125587 | Skype: ekowbentum

Email: kenneth.otalil@uenr.edu.gh

Group Website: www.netrodisresearch.com

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/netrodis>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Netrodis-Research-Group-UENR-101270588882875>

