About CARTA

The Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA) is a collaboration jointly led by the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC), Kenya, and the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), South Africa.

CARTA was formed to support the development of a vibrant African academy able to lead world-class multidisciplinary research that impacts positively on public and population health. The consortium enhances the capacity of African universities to create sustainable multidisciplinary research hubs by supporting junior faculty members to undertake their doctoral training locally and to become internationally recognized research leaders. Ultimately, CARTA strengthens university-wide systems to support research.

Our Approach

1. Doctoral and Post-doctoral Training

CARTA helps universities develop exciting environments for academic and research pursuits. It supports promising African scholars in affiliated universities to obtain high-quality doctoral training in public and population health.

Joint Advanced Seminars

Over the course of four years, each cohort of students attends four advanced seminars each running 3 to 4 weeks. They expose students to key theories and concepts, seminal readings, and research methods of disciplines relevant to public and population health; they train students in critical research skills; and build and maintain a network of researchers for scientific collaborations, professional support, and mutually beneficial exchange of scientific resources.

Figure 1: The three CARTA strategic approaches that help to recruit, train and retrain a critical mass of African researchers
### Distribution of CARTA fellowships per home institution and institution of registration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Number of Faculty awarded CARTA fellowships</th>
<th>Number of CARTA fellows undertaking studies at institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Makerere University, Uganda</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moi University, Kenya</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Ibadan, Nigeria</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Malawi</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Nairobi, Kenya</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Rwanda</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa and MRC Agincourt</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Dar Es Salaam</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APHRC</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ifakara Health Institute</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>209</strong></td>
<td><strong>185</strong>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Cohort Nine is yet to register to a partner institution for their doctoral studies.

### Distribution of graduates per home institution

- **62 Graduates**
  - 1 APHRC
  - 1 Ifakara Health Institute
  - 6 Makerere University, Uganda
  - 6 Moi University, Kenya
  - 12 Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria
  - 10 University of Ibadan, Nigeria
  - 8 University of Malawi
  - 7 University of Dar Es Salaam
  - 4 University of Budapest, Hungary
  - 4 University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa and MRC Agincourt
  - 3 University of Nairobi, Kenya
2. Institutionalization of CARTA

CARTA strengthens the human resources and university-wide systems resources critical to the success and sustainability of its programs at affiliated universities through workshops for university administrators.

**CARTA Institutionalization Awards**

**Obafemi Awolowo University, University of Rwanda and Makerere University** competitively won grants worth USD 100,000 each to incorporate CARTA concepts in their respective institutions.

The grant is to institutionalize aspects that strengthen and sustain PhD training, build research-supportive environments, and accelerate high-quality research activity such as supervision, mentorship, faculty visits and improved administration in African institutions.

The awards are meant to support CARTA’s African partner institutions to mainstream and institutionalize proven and tested innovations into university regular programs with a strong emphasis on documentation of experiences and lessons learned.

3. Securing the Future of CARTA Graduates

Graduates need opportunities to further their training, to network and to collaborate with peers. CARTA offers a variety of high quality post-doctoral opportunities.

**Faculty and Administrative Staff Workshop**

CARTA has hosted eight annual workshops that offer a platform for university managers and administrative staff to discuss how the different functionaries in the universities can be more responsive to and supportive of research, research training and doctoral and post-doctoral fellows in their respective institutions.

To date, approximately 630 faculty members and administrators have been trained.

**CARTA graduates who have secured re-entry grants**

- **20 CARTA graduates have secured re-entry grants so far.**

The re-entry grants support CARTA graduates remaining or returning to their home institutions to start a research project.

**CARTA graduates who have attended supervisors’ workshops**

- **28 CARTA graduates have attended supervisors’ workshops.**

Apart from ensuring that supervisors and mentors have a clear understanding and commitment to what CARTA does, the workshop offers a platform for collegial discussions on best practices in doctoral supervision and mentorship.

**Post Doc awardees**

- **22 CARTA graduates have been awarded merit-based postdoctoral fellowships so far.**

10 of these awards are supported by non-CARTA awards. CARTA’s postdoctoral fellowship builds on its aim of securing the future of high achieving graduates to build specific skills, expand their networks, encounter research leadership and role models and receive strong mentorship.
Achievements as of March 2019

External grants raised by fellows

$10,000,000

911 Publications

Total of peer-reviewed articles by fellows/graduates

Gender distribution of CARTA Fellows

48% male
52% female

CARTA Partners

Participating African Research Institutions

- African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC), Kenya.
- Agincourt Health and Population Unit, South Africa.
- Ifakara Health Institute (IHI), Tanzania.
- KEMRI/Wellcome Trust Research Programme, Kenya.

Non-African Partners

- Brown University, USA.
- Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research (CCGHR), Canada.
- Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH), Switzerland.
- Umeå University, Sweden.
- University of Gothenburg, Sweden.
- University of Warwick, UK.
- University of Bergen, Norway.
- University of Chile, Chile.
- Uppsala Monitoring Centre, Sweden.

African University Partner Institutions

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