

**NAVIGATING RESEARCH ETHICS EARLY:
UNDERSTANDING RECS AND ETHICAL APPROVAL AT
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

APRIL 9TH 2026, 11AM-1:00PM

**Director, Directorate of Research, Innovation and
Partnerships (DRIP)**





Prof. Robert Wamala [PhD]

Director DRIP

Prof. Robert Wamala is an Associate Professor at Makerere University and the **Director of the Directorate of Research, Innovations and Partnerships**. He is a member of the Accreditation Committee of UNCS. Previously served as Deputy and Director of the Directorate of Research and Graduate Training. He has also contributed to several University governance structures, including Senate, MakRIF, GAMSU, the Board of Research and Graduate Training, and the Intellectual Property Management Committee





Prof. Julius Fred Kikooma[PhD]
Director, DGT

Prof. Julius Fred Kikooma is a distinguished academic leader and scholar of organizational psychology at Makerere University. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) from the University of Cape Town (2001–2005). He is the Director Directorate of Graduate Training where he oversees doctoral induction, research methods training, and supervisor certification. Previously served as Deputy Principal at the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHUSS) from April 2020 to March 2022. In addition, he served as Head of the Outreach Department and Senior Lecturer within the School of Phycology.





Dr. Sadik Kassim
Chair CAES REC

Dr. Sadik Kassim is the Deputy Director General for Agricultural Technology Promotion at the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO), Uganda. He holds a PhD in Plant Biotechnology and has over two decades of experience in agricultural research, innovation management, and technology transfer. He is the **Chairperson, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Research Ethics Committee**, Makerere University. Dr. Kassim served as Director of Research.





**Hellen Opolot,
Assistant Executive Secretary
UNCST**

Hellen Opolot is the **Assistant Executive Secretary and Head of the Division of Research Management and Quality Assurance at the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST)**. She provides strategic leadership in strengthening research governance systems and coordinating ethical review and oversight of research involving human and animal participants. She has contributed to the development of key operational guidelines that support ethical and responsible research in Uganda.



Prof. Stella Neema
Chair MAKSS REC

Prof. Stella Neema is an Associate Professor of Social and Medical Anthropology at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, School of Social Sciences, Makerere University. She is the **Chair of Makerere University School of Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee (MAKSS REC)**; and vice Chair of the Forum for Research Ethics Committee Chairs in Uganda (FRECU), under the UNCST. She has participated in the training of REC teams on Human subjects protection





**Dr. Moses Ocan, Chair
SBS-REC**

Dr. Moses Ocan is the Chair of the School of Biomedical Sciences REC (SBS-REC). He is a lecturer of Pharmacology and Graduate coordinator at the Department of Pharmacology & Therapeutics, School of Biomedical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, Makerere University. He is president, Uganda Pharmacological Society. He has been an investigator on several studies with several publications in peer reviewed journals. He is well experienced in drug development and clinical trials.



Dr. Paul Kutwabami
Chair SBS REC

Dr. Paul Kutwabami is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Pharmacy at Makerere University College of Health Sciences. He holds a Master's in Bioethics from Case Western Reserve University and is a PhD candidate in Health Sciences/Bioethics at Makerere. He completed bioethics fellowships at Johns Hopkins Berman Institute. Dr. Kutwabami **Chairs the Makerere University School of Health Sciences REC** and he is a member of the Makerere University School of Medicine REC.





Prof. Eddy J. Walakira
Chair CoBAMS REC

Prof. Eddy J. Walakira lectures at Makerere University and he is also a visiting professor at Howest University Belgium, School of social work. He is a Professor of Social Work focusing on children and youth studies. He is the Chairperson of the **College of Business and Management Sciences Research Ethics Committee (CoBAMS REC)**; member of the Makerere Research and Innovations Fund (Mak-RiF) Grants Management Committee (GMC) and serves on many high-level committees, boards of organizations, and technical working groups in his area of specialty.





Prof Sarah Ssali
DVC Academic Affairs

Prof Sarah Ssali is the First Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs) at Makerere University. She is a distinguished social scientist with a PhD in International Health Studies from Queen Margaret University, Scotland, She holds a Master's in Gender Studies and a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences from Makerere University. Since joining Makerere in 2003, she has made significant contributions as a lecturer, Dean of the School of Women and Gender Studies, Director of the Institute of Gender and Development Studies, and through leadership roles within governing and advisory boards.



The Strength of Graduate Research Lies

NOT ONLY

in its Findings

BUT

In the Ethical Standards that Guide Its Conduct

