



ANDI Newsletter - 15 December 2015

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## ANDI Innovation Awards 2015

ANDI Innovation Awards Celebrate and Inspire Innovation in Africa!

The ANDI Innovation Awards are given to institutions in Africa that embody and emulate ANDI's mission and vision especially in technology development, manufacture and access to health products. The award highlights the efforts and contributions of African institutions to address African public health needs.



*Awardees from Left to Right - (Third) James Kimotho, representing Kenyan Medical Research Institute; (Fifth) Hanan El Baz, representing Theodor Bilharz Research Institute Egypt; (Sixth) Olobayo Kunle, representing National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research and Development, Nigeria; (Eighth) Elizabeth Molyneaux, representing Queen Elizabeth Hospital Malawi and Rice University, U.S.A; (Ninth) Hassan El Sefrioui, representing Moroccan Foundation for Advanced Science, Innovation and Research and Innovation; and (Tenth) Niresh Bhagwandin, receiving award on behalf of iThemba Labs and University of Cape Town, both in South Africa) along with ANDI Officials.*

This year's Award honors 7 African institutions whose work range from the development and evaluation of local medical devices for child health by the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Malawi and Rice University, U.S.A; to the development of a novel diagnostic kit for Schistosomiasis by the Theodor Bilharz Institute Egypt, and radio labeling reagents for bio-medicine by iThemba labs in South Africa. Other works recognized are: the development and manufacture of diagnostic kits for infectious diseases and cancer at the Moroccan Foundation for Advanced Science, Innovation and Research and at the Kenyan Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), as well as cutting edge work on new antimalarial drug at the University of Cape Town- South Africa, and the National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research and Development, Nigeria for its work on sickle cell disease. Most of these institutions are also ANDI's Centres of Excellence.

In receiving the award on behalf of Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Malawi, Prof. Elizabeth Molyneaux said,



"This award humbles us...it means a lot to me and my Institution and I would like to thank ANDI on behalf of the Malawian children.'

She went on to say, "I have worked for the Malawi government health service for over 30 years. In that period, we have received many donations of medical equipment, all designed for a dust free and power - protected environment, often requiring expensive spare parts. Our hospital workshop is filled with unusable items. What we needed were inexpensive, reliable, robust, repairable equipment preferably made locally. In collaboration with Rice University, ANDI and other partners, we developed and did clinical trials on the Pumani machine which helps babies – especially premature ones – breathe. At least one machine is now available in every district hospital in Malawi and plans are in hand to extend this to other hospitals. Also, a phototherapy unit called Babylights used for treatment of jaundice in newborn babies was first prototyped at Rice University but modified and produced in the Malawi Polytechnic with ANDI funding. The next step is the identification of an industrial partner to support further improvement, scale up and commercialization of the instrument."

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**About ANDI**

The mission of ANDI (*The African Network for Drugs and Diagnostics Innovation*) is to promote and sustain African-led health innovation to address the continent's health needs through the assembly of collaborative networks, and building of capacity to support public health and development. ANDI focuses on addressing Africa's health needs by harnessing the untapped power of collaboration among African researchers as well as equitable North-South and South-South partnerships, with the vision of creating a sustainable platform for health innovation in Africa. ANDI is hosted by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia). The ANDI approach is at the heart of the Post 2015 Development Agenda and sustainable development goals which the world is now focusing on. It is also relevant to the AU 2063 Agenda and other strategies.



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