

International Statistics and Epidemiology Partnership

Annual Newsletter

2026



ISEP group photo at African Population Health Research Center (APHRC), Nairobi, February 2024.

Welcome

Hello and welcome to the first International Statistics and Epidemiology Partnership (ISEP) annual newsletter! Founded in 2024, the 5 year UK MRC-funded ISEP aims to strengthen capacity in applied medical statistics for improving health outcomes in Africa. ISEP is now in its third year and has made considerable progress towards achieving its end goal of being a supportive, African-led network of applied medical statisticians by 2028. Since its kick-off event at African Population Health Research Center (APHRC), Nairobi in February 2024, ISEP has almost doubled in size from a network of 26 to 44 applied medical statisticians based at our eight partner institutions: MRC/UVRI & LSHTM Uganda Research Unit; Mwanza Intervention Trials Unit; Zambart; THRU ZIM Biomedical Research Training Institute; MRC Unit at The Gambia, LSHTM; Africa Population Health Center; LSHTM in London, UK and MRC Clinical Trials Unit at University College London (UCL).

This newsletter highlights achievements to date and the partnership's aspirations for the next three years.

Reflecting on 2024/2025

ISEP has celebrated successes since its inception in 2024 with the support of our partners African Research Excellence Fund (AREF), Sub-Saharan Africa Advanced Consortium for Biostatistics (SSACAB), Africa CDC, African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS), and the International Biometrics Society – Sub-Saharan Africa Network (IBS-SUSAN).



2024

JUN

ISEP statisticians at the NIHR Statistics Conference, Sheffield, UK

In June 2024, three ISEP statisticians from Zimbabwe (THRU ZIM), Zambia (Zambart) and Tanzania (MITU) deliver a plenary session on ISEP and their research at the

[NIHR Statistics Conference in Sheffield, UK](#)

Left to right: Vicky Simms, Philip Ayieko, Thomas Gachie, Dorcas Kareithi & Christopher Mwema



JUL

Scientific Advisory Committee

ISEP welcomes members of our Scientific Advisory Committee:

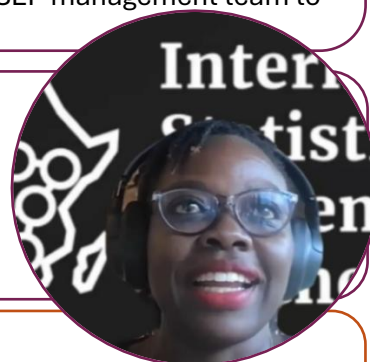
Dr Misrak Gezmu (National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases), Dr Bethany Hedt-Gauthier (Harvard), Dr Lehana Thabane (McMaster), Dr Nicaise Ndembi (University of Cape Town), Dr Freedom Gumedze (University of Cape Town), and Dr Sarah Pett (UCL). The committee meets biannually with the ISEP management team to discuss progress and opportunities.

OCT

Online launch event

Directors from institutions in Africa, the UK & US offer perspectives on what strengthening capacity in applied medical statistics means for Africa now and in the future. Over 140 attendees join the conversation from across the globe.

Photo: Agnes Kiragga



2025

JAN

Theme meetings

We host monthly Theme meetings with presenters from our partner institutes, College of Experts and wider network. Topics include: missing data in health research, biostatistical methods for data triangulation and evidence synthesis, adaptive clinical trials, career trajectory. **Interested in participating? Email: ISEP@lshtm.ac.uk to register interest.**

ISEP Mentoring Scheme opens

Our mentoring scheme commences. 15 mentees were matched with mentors within our network of statisticians. Both the mentee and mentor benefit from improving self-confidence, interpersonal skills, career progression and more. Learn more about our scheme and how to participate, [here](#).

JAN-
FEB

Teacher training in how to teach R

ISEP Co-investigators (Co-Is) Vicky Simms (THRU ZIM & LSHTM) and Elizabeth George (MRC CTU at UCL) train statisticians how to teach R for medical statistics in Zimbabwe. Four ISEP statisticians: Tawanda Nyengerai, Levicatus Mugenyi, Peter Kaberia and Elia Magwaja participated in the training sessions and went onto teach students. Find out more [here](#).

FEB-
MAR

Introductory Course in Epidemiology & Medical Statistics (ICEMS)

ISEP Co-I Nuredin Mohammed (MRC The Gambia) leads LSHTM's [ICEMS course at the MRC The Gambia Unit at LSHTM](#).

This annual 3-week course is aimed primarily at health professionals. Participants learn about the design and interpretation of epidemiological studies and the statistical methods that underpin many of the founding principles. ISEP statisticians based at MRC The Gambia Unit lead several sessions: Abdul Khalie Mohammed, Gaetan Brezesky Kotanmi and Isatou Cham.

AUG

ISEP statistician secures Wellcome funding

[Wende Safari](#) is awarded a Wellcome Early Career Award for her project on 'Quantifying childhood cancer burden in Tanzania: optimising use of multi-hospital electronic datasets and implications for cancer care and outcomes'.

SEP

MSc Medical Statistics Fellowship Scheme



ISEP welcomes its first recipients of the ISEP Fellowship Scheme - Stanley Sayianka from Kenya, and Paddy Kafeero from Uganda. The fellows will spend one year in London studying for the MSc in Medical Statistics, followed by a one year placement at one of the ISEP partnering institutions in Africa.

Left: Paddy Kafeero. Right: Stanley Sayianka.

"Being accepted for the ISEP fellowship has been an incredible honour, providing me the opportunity to build the essential skills and knowledge needed for a career as a medical statistician. I am grateful to be part of a team where I can learn from world-class experts through our theme meetings, and I am now looking forward to applying these skills as I begin work on my research project in close collaboration with the ISEP team." – Paddy Kafeero

OCT

ISEP & MRC Clinical Trials Unit at UCL host joint webinar

We co-host our first webinar with the MRC Clinical Trials Unit at UCL (MRC CTU). Three ISEP statisticians/Co-Is Philip Ayieko, Andrew Abaasa and Vicky Simms share their experiences of being trial statisticians, their challenges and top tips. Over 960 participants join the discussion! Watch the recording [here](#).

DEC

ISEP Co-I EDCTP proposal success

EDCTP fund an initiative led by [Agnes Kiragga](#) (ISEP Co-I) to strengthen epidemiology and biostatistics training in Africa. ISEP will lead the mentoring component.

Journal article

The International Journal of Epidemiology accepts [ISEP's first article for publication](#)!

Looking ahead 2026/2027

As ISEP enters its third year, we look forward to continuing to work with our College of Experts and partners to strengthen research capacity in applied medical statistics through our range of activities. Here's a snapshot of what we aim to achieve over the next two years:

Mentoring scheme expansion & theme meetings

Our mentoring scheme expands to statisticians not affiliated with ISEP institutions. Theme meetings will continue every month online. **Email: ISEP@lshtm.ac.uk to register interest.**

ISEP-led short courses & PhD co-supervision by ISEP statisticians

ICEMS 2026 will be held in February 2026, follows the success of the first two ISEP-led ICEMS short courses in 2024 & 2025 at The MRC Unit The Gambia at LSHTM. Our pool of ISEP statistician PhD supervisors is set to grow over the coming years in collaboration with SSACAB.

Engagement activities with: Youth at African schools; BSc & MSc programme directors; partner institute directors; policymakers such as The Gambia Ministry of Health.

