

<b>Phages for Global Health's 2020 East African Phage Workshop</b>			
<i>Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Dar es Salaam January 12-25, 2020</i>			
<i>Clinical Microbiology</i>			
<i>Author of report</i>	Shawna McCallin	<i>Affiliation of author</i>	University Hospitals of Geneva (HUG)

The 2020 East Africa Phage training workshop was a great success, with 25 research participants from four countries and six teaching staff from Yale University, University of Leicester, University of Warwick, and myself from University Hospitals of Geneva.

Over two weeks, we isolated novel phages for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Escherichia coli* from local environmental samples. Practical courses covered topics from basic techniques, such as phage isolation & bacterial growth curves, to advanced methods, like mutant screening & on-site minion sequencing. I was largely responsible for the preparation of media, cultures, and reagents throughout the course, which was eye-opening to do in a resource-limited setting and with a steep language barrier (I now know how to say “match-box please” in Swahili). My presentation on clinical trials of phage therapy was a new addition to the workshop lectures, which led to a connection with the Muhimbili Clinical Trial Unit and opened a possible future collaboration of pursuing the use of phage therapy against cholera outbreaks.



*Practical courses during the 2020 East Africa Phage Workshop in Dar es Salaam organized by Phages for Global Health.*



This was the fourth workshop organized by Phages for Global Health, and the first that I was able to take part in. These workshops help to train local researchers in phage techniques, which has initiated and supported numerous subsequent scientific projects and grants. I sincerely thank the Swiss Society for Microbiology for supporting my participation in this workshop for it has had a profound impact on me, both personally and professionally, and I have been invited to teach at the next workshop thanks to this experience.