



Issue #2

THE NEWS

IVE - Kenyatta University

SPOTLIGHT MDI Program Launches at Kenyatta University

In a significant advancement for biomedical education in Kenya, the Medical Device Innovation (MDI) program officially launched at Kenyatta University on January 8, 2025.

The launch brought together distinguished guests including Professor Matthew Wettergreen, Director of the Global Medical Innovation Program at Rice University, members from the Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen (OEDK), Acting Vice Chancellor Academic Professor J.B. Kung'u, and Dr. June Madete, Director of the Invention Education Program at Kenyatta University.

Designed in collaboration with Rice University, this innovative program will equip KU students with world-class education in biomedical sciences through:

- Hands-on clinical immersion experiences
- Real-world healthcare problem-solving
- Identification of healthcare bottlenecks
- Development of innovative patient care solutions

The program represents the culmination of rigorous development efforts led by Project Director Dr. June Madete, Co-PI Dr. Kenneth Iloka, and Education Coordinator Maryanne Muriuki. Their collaborative work ensures the curriculum addresses local healthcare challenges while adhering to international best practices.

Biomedical engineering students and staff, partnering organizations, KU faculty, and project team members participated in this landmark event, marking a new chapter in medical education at Kenyatta University.





INNOVATION SPOTLIGHT! IVE CATALYST GRANT AWARDS

On February 14, 2025, the Invention Education Program celebrated innovation excellence by awarding catalyst grants to ten promising innovators at the Chandaria Business Innovation and Incubation Centre.

These grants, funded by The Lemelson Foundation, provide crucial financial support to help inventors transform their ideas into tangible prototypes.

- Student recipients: \$1,000 each
- Faculty recipients: \$2,500 each

The award ceremony, presided over by project Co-PI Dr. Kenneth Iloka and Education Coordinator Maryanne Muriuki, recognized outstanding hardware solutions in the biomedical sector from universities across Kenya.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS! CDIE POSTER PRESENTATIONS.

Under the leadership of CDIE Manager Stacy Awinja, the CDIE team recently hosted an impressive poster presentation session for final-year students from the School of Engineering and Architecture.

Fifteen innovative projects from the departments of Electrical & Electronics and Agriculture & Bio-Systems Engineering were evaluated by a panel of three judges. The session showcased cutting-edge designs and minimum viable products aimed at transforming healthcare delivery.

Top Projects

1. Valery Chebet: Vascular Mapping Device
2. Linda June: Bio Med Tracker and IoT-based Inventory Management & Tracking System
3. Ashton Anyango: PneuMonitor - Multi-Modal Wearable Respiratory Monitoring System for early Detection of Pediatric Pneumonia

This session prepared students for scientific conference presentations while catalyzing innovation within the university community. We look forward to seeing how these promising projects evolve to improve healthcare systems across Kenya.

"The Catalyst Grant aims to foster creativity and entrepreneurship within our institutions by providing necessary resources for promising projects. We believe that investing in these initiatives will not only enhance our academic environment but also contribute to the broader community by promoting innovative research."

BY DR. KENNETH ILOKA





FACULTY SPOTLIGHT! INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY PROGRAM

Dr. June Madete, Program Director of the Medical Invention Education program at Kenyatta University, is currently undertaking a year-long mobility program at Rice University in Houston, Texas.

This immersion opportunity allows Dr. Madete to gain valuable insights into Rice's Global Medical Innovation program, applying these learnings to KU's GMI program implementation. During her time at Rice, Dr. Madete has also taken on teaching responsibilities while overseeing KU's involvement in the program. Additionally, Education Coordinator Maryanne Muriuki recently participated in an immersion program at Rice University, further strengthening the collaborative relationship between the institutions

☀️ SPOTLIGHT GLOBAL RECOGNITION FOR DR. JUNE MADETE

We are proud to announce that Dr. June Madete, Program Director of the Medical Design Innovation program at Kenyatta University, has been awarded the 2025 Rice360 Innovation & Leadership in Global Health Award. This prestigious honor is given to individuals who demonstrate outstanding dedication to innovation in addressing global health challenges.

Dr. Madete was selected not only for her leadership but also for her role in shaping Kenya's medical innovation landscape. She was invited to deliver the keynote address at the Rice360 Institute for Global Health Technologies' annual design competition. Her recognition is a testament to her impact in transforming biomedical education in Africa, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and bridging academia with industry to create practical, scalable health solutions.

This prestigious honor is given to individuals who demonstrate outstanding dedication to innovation in addressing global health challenges.



"The idea to establish the Medical Design Innovation program at Kenyatta University arose from the urgent need to integrate real-world problem-solving into academic curricula," Dr. Madete shared in her keynote. "Many programs lack access to innovation and prototyping facilities, and there is a gap in interdisciplinary collaboration. Our program addresses these challenges to develop a new generation of innovators capable of solving pressing healthcare problems."

DR. JUNE MADETE

UPCOMING/ RECENT EVENTS

May 14-16, 2025

25th MEDEXPO AFRICA 2025

Sarit Expo Centre, Nairobi, Kenya

Academia Stakeholders
Roundtable

A productive discussion was held at Strathmore University in Nairobi on March 27, 2025.

East Africa Health Innovations
Series: MEDTECH CONNECT

An Intellectual Property Workshop was held at the Nairobi Garage on February 25, 2025, sponsored by our program and conducted by MEDVICE.

June 2-20, 2025

SUMMER PROGRAM

Center for Design & Innovation and Engineering.
Kenyatta University.

Invention Education Program
Design Challenge

From March 3-7, 2025, we hosted students for the Biomedical Engineering and Information Management System Challenges.

The NEWS is published on a Bi-monthly basis by the Invention Education Program at Kenyatta University. For submissions or inquiries, please contact our editorial team.



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