

SPEECH BY THE KMTC BOARD CHAIRPERSON MR. JOSEAH K. CHERUIYOT, DURING THE 8th KMTC Biennial Scientific Conference

ON 4TH JUNE, 2025.

- The Cabinet Secretary for Health, Hon. [Name], our esteemed Chief Guest,
 - Principal Secretary, State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards, Madam Mary Muthoni Muriuki
 - The Director General for Health,
 - Representatives from partner institutions, both local and international,
 - KMTC Board of Directors present
 - KMTC CEO and Executive Management,
 - Members of the KMTC Board of Directors,
 - Members of the academia, researchers, and students,
 - Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen
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It is my great honor to welcome you to the KMTC 8th Biennial KMTC Scientific Conference. This important gathering comes at a time when the world and particularly our healthcare systems are grappling with fast-paced change, emerging threats, and persistent inequalities. This year's theme, "***Advancing Health Equity in a Rapidly Changing Environment***", is therefore not only timely but urgent.

At Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC), research and technology are not peripheral activities they are central to our institutional identity and future. In our current Strategic Plan, Research and Innovation have been designated as one of the College's Key Strategic Result Areas (KSRAs).

We recognize that without investment in evidence-based decision-making and the application of modern technologies, our vision to provide accessible, quality medical training and improve health outcomes across Kenya will remain elusive.

As a Board, we continue to champion research as a critical pillar in our growth and relevance, ensuring that every innovation, discovery, and publication moves us closer to health equity and national development.

In line with this commitment, we have allocated more institutional resources toward research development, targeting both staff and student-led projects. These funds are not only meant to support academic inquiry but to foster innovative solutions to real-world health problems.

To guide these efforts, the College has put in place a comprehensive Research and Innovation Policy, ensuring that all scholarly activities meet ethical standards, align with national priorities, and are supported from concept to dissemination.

Leveraging Partnerships for Greater Impact

We understand that meaningful research thrives through collaboration. I am pleased to report that KMTC continues to strengthen its research partnerships with both local and international institutions, among them:

- ❖ University of British Columbia and MicroResearch, Canada: through an existing MoU focused on capacity building and applied research.
- ❖ Nashville Medical College and Northwestern University, U.S.A: for academic exchanges and collaborative innovation.
- ❖ KEMRI, county health facilities, and regional health departments: which provide practical research ecosystems.

- ❖ Africa CDC, African Union, and global public health networks: with whom we are exploring joint initiatives in mental health and emerging health challenges.

These partnerships are critical in ensuring that KMTC's research outputs are informed by global standards, yet locally relevant.

As we deepen our research portfolio, we must also begin to commercialize viable research outputs. The College is actively laying the groundwork for transforming research ideas into products, tools, and services that can solve pressing health challenges.

We are developing structures that support intellectual property protection, innovation hubs, and industry linkages, helping turn academic insight into impact-driven solutions.

As we gather over the coming days, I urge us to remember that the ultimate goal of research is not publication, it is transformation. Transformation of systems. Transformation of service delivery. And most importantly, transformation of lives.

To our researchers, students, and collaborators: You are the stewards of KMTC's future. Through your work, you carry the power to shape not only this institution's destiny but also the health outcomes of millions of Kenyans.

These Scientific Conference being held by KMTC is made even more significant by KMTC's recent achievement of ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System certification, as audited and verified by the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS). This certification underscores our commitment to maintaining the highest standards of quality in training and service delivery. It reflects our dedication to operational excellence and ensures that KMTC continues to produce healthcare professionals who meet the demands of a rapidly evolving sector.

As a Board, we reaffirm our commitment to providing a conducive policy environment that supports the successful implementation of RESEARCH and Publication. We recognize that effective policies and governance are critical in fostering partnerships, driving innovation, and ensuring the sustainability of such initiatives.

Above all, let us continue to invest in and protect our research agenda because knowledge not applied is opportunity lost. As I conclude, I affirm our collective commitment to positioning KMTC as a research-driven, tech-savvy, and people-centered institution.

Together, we will not only train health workers we will inspire innovators, empower changemakers, and advance equity in every corner of our country.

Thank you, and may God bless Kenya!
