

About CARTA

The Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA) is a collaboration jointly led by the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC), Kenya, and the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), South Africa.

CARTA was formed to support the development of a vibrant African academy able to lead world-class multidisciplinary research that impacts positively on public and population health. The consortium enhances the capacity of African universities to create sustainable multidisciplinary research hubs by supporting junior faculty members to undertake their doctoral training locally and to become internationally recognized research leaders. Ultimately, CARTA strengthens university-wide systems to support research.

Our Approach

1. Doctoral and Post-doctoral Training

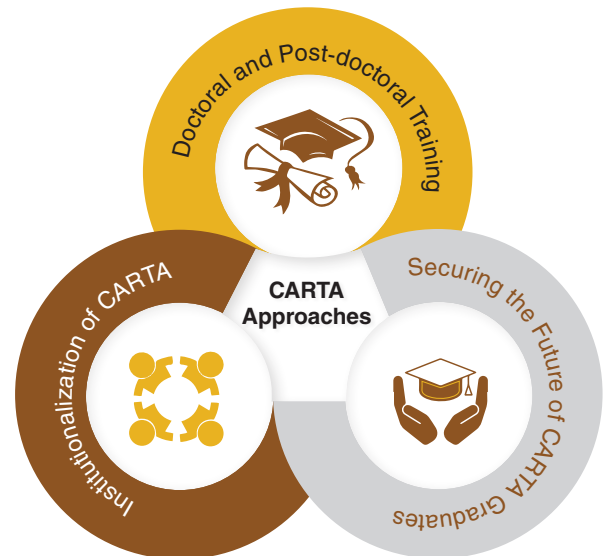



CARTA helps universities develop exciting environments for academic and research pursuits. It supports promising African scholars in affiliated universities to obtain high-quality doctoral training in public and population health.


Joint Advanced Seminars


Over the course of four years, each cohort of students attends four advanced seminars each running 3 to 4 weeks. They expose students to key theories and concepts, seminal readings, and research methods of disciplines relevant to public and population health; they train students in critical research skills; and build and maintain a network of researchers for scientific collaborations, professional support, and mutually beneficial exchange of scientific resources.


Figure 1: The three CARTA strategic approaches that help to recruit, train and retrain a critical mass of African researchers



- 

JAS-1
Builds **critical thinking**, technical skills, and other core research competencies, and introduce students to the essential concepts and seminal articles of the disciplines.
- 

JAS-2
Focuses on **data management and analysis**. Fellows learn to use software packages for qualitative and quantitative data management and analyses.
- 

JAS-3
Focuses on **data presentation, the doctoral dissertation, and scientific writing and communication skills** to facilitate results dissemination and policy engagement.
- 

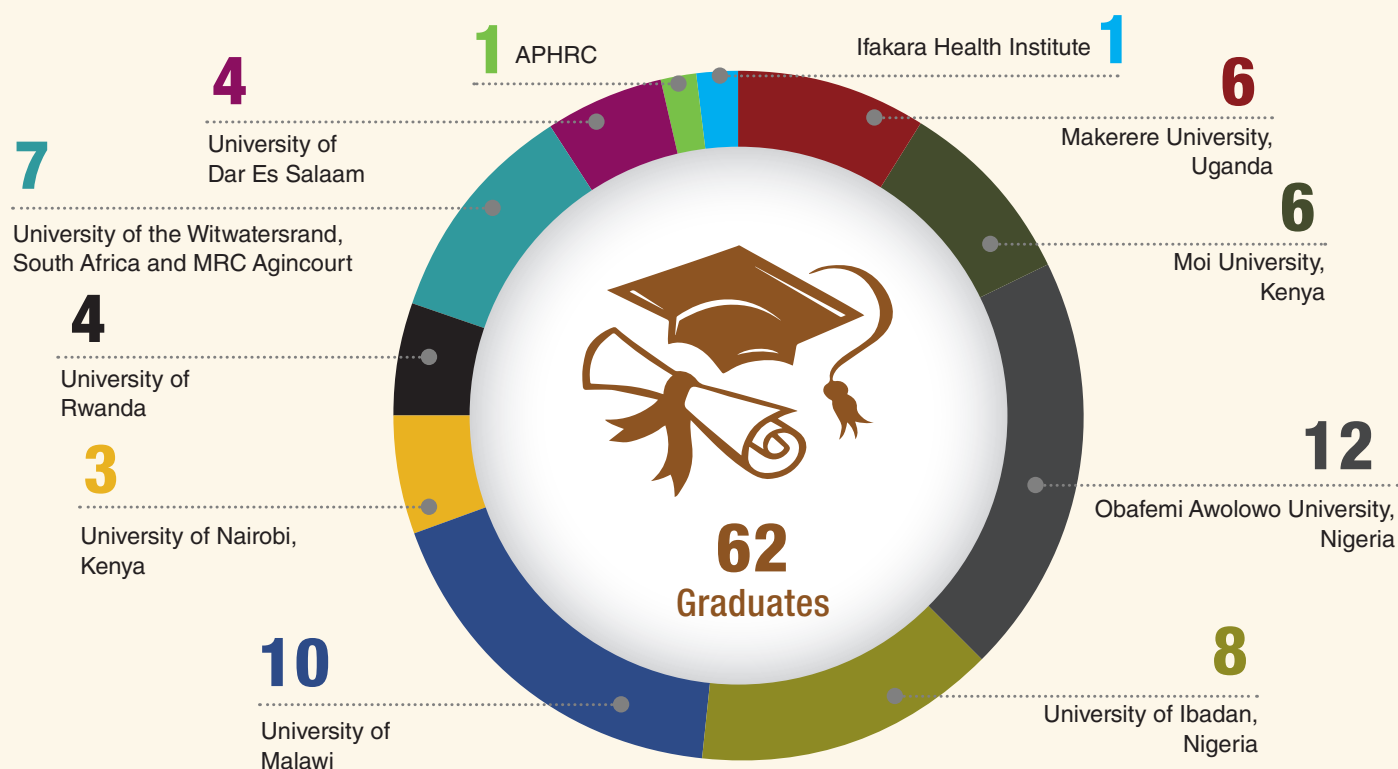
JAS-4
Addresses professional development including skills necessary to manage and teach large class sizes, raise and manage research funds, grant writing and research management. It is also an opportunity for senior fellows to practice mentoring of junior fellows through discussions and laboratory sessions, software training, and general information sharing.

Distribution of CARTA fellowships per home institution and institution of registration

Institution	Number of Faculty awarded CARTA fellowships	Number of CARTA fellows undertaking studies at institution
Makerere University, Uganda	22	18
Moi University, Kenya	18	10
Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria	27	18
University of Ibadan, Nigeria	32	24
University of Malawi	26	17
University of Nairobi, Kenya	21	26
University of Rwanda	20	6
University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa and MRC Agincourt	27	60
University of Dar Es Salaam	5	6
APHRC	5	
Ifakara Health Institute	6	
Total	209	185*

*Cohort Nine is yet to register to a partner institution for their doctoral studies.

Distribution of graduates per home institution



2. Institutionalization of CARTA

CARTA strengthens the human resources and university-wide systems resources critical to the success and sustainability of its programs at affiliated universities through workshops for university administrators.

CARTA Institutionalization Awards

Obafemi Awolowo University, University of Rwanda and Makerere University competitively won grants worth USD 100,000 each to incorporate CARTA concepts in their respective institutions.

The grant is to institutionalize aspects that strengthen and sustain PhD training, build research-supportive environments, and accelerate high-quality research activity such as supervision, mentorship, faculty visits and improved administration in African institutions.

The awards are meant to support CARTA's African partner institutions to mainstream and institutionalize proven and tested innovations into university regular programs with a strong emphasis on documentation of experiences and lessons learned.



Participants from partner universities at the 8th Faculty and Administrative Workshop in University of Malawi, July 2018.

Faculty and Administrative Staff Workshop

CARTA has hosted eight annual workshops that offer a platform for university managers and administrative staff to discuss how the different functionaries in the universities can be more responsive to and supportive of research, research training and doctoral and post-doctoral fellows in their respective institutions.

To date, **approximately 630 faculty members and administrators** have been trained.

3. Securing the Future of CARTA Graduates

Graduates need opportunities to further their training, to network and to collaborate with peers. CARTA offers a variety of high quality post-doctoral opportunities.

CARTA graduates who have secured re-entry grants



20 CARTA graduates have secured re-entry grants so far.

The re-entry grants support CARTA graduates remaining or returning to their home institutions to start a research project.

CARTA graduates who have attended supervisors' workshops



28 CARTA graduates have attended supervisors' workshops.

Apart from ensuring that supervisors and mentors have a clear understanding and commitment to of what CARTA does, the workshop offers a platform for collegial discussions on best practices in doctoral supervision and mentorship.

Post Doc awardees



22 CARTA graduates have been awarded merit-based postdoctoral fellowships so far.

10 of these awards are supported by non-CARTA awards.

CARTA's postdoctoral fellowship builds on its aim of securing the future of high achieving graduates to build specific skills, expand their networks, encounter research leadership and role models and receive strong mentorship.

Achievements as of March 2019

External grants raised by fellows



911
Publications

Total of peer-reviewed articles by fellows/graduates

Gender distribution of CARTA Fellows



CARTA Partners

Participating African Research Institutions

- ◆ African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC), Kenya.
- ◆ Agincourt Health and Population Unit, South Africa.
- ◆ Ifakara Health Institute (IHI), Tanzania
- ◆ KEMRI/Wellcome Trust Research Programme, Kenya.

Non-African Partners

- ◆ Brown University, USA.
- ◆ Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research (CCGHR), Canada.
- ◆ Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH), Switzerland.
- ◆ Umeå University, Sweden.
- ◆ University of Gothenburg, Sweden.
- ◆ University of Warwick, UK.
- ◆ University of Bergen, Norway.
- ◆ University of Chile, Chile
- ◆ Uppsala Monitoring Centre, Sweden.

African University Partner Institutions



Contact us:

Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa
African Population & Health Research Center
APHRC Campus, 2nd Floor, Kirawa Road, off Peponi Road
P.O. Box 10787-00100, Nairobi, Kenya

Telephone: +254 (20) 400 1000, 266 2244, or 266 2255 | Mobile: +254 722 205 933, 733 410 102
E-mail: carta@aphrc.org, | Website: www.cartafrica.org

