

SALAMA Study

A Success Story of Africa-Europe Research Collaboration in Personalised Medicine

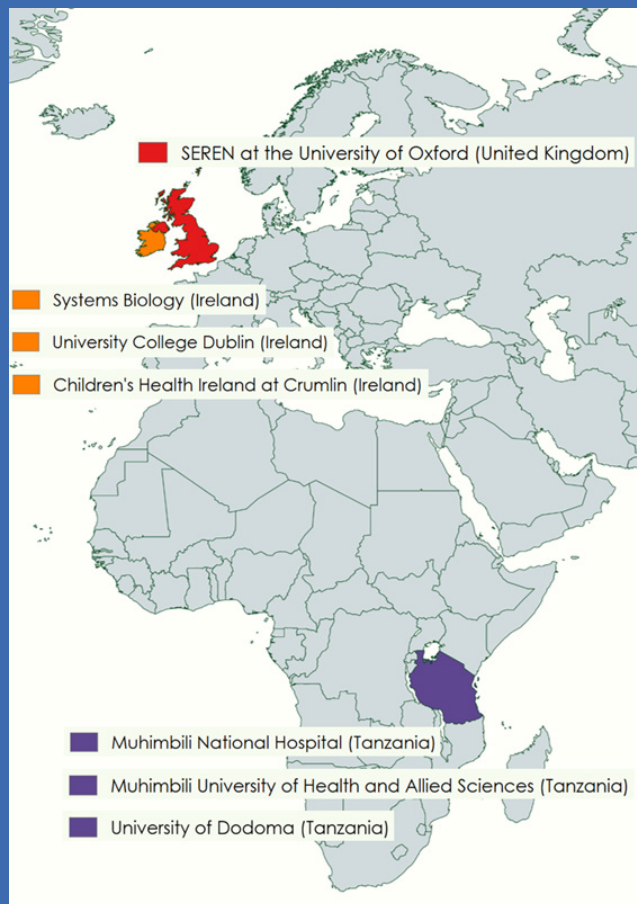


Overview

The SALAMA study (Studying Acute Leukemia Mutations in Africa) is a collaboration between research groups in Europe and Africa to improve the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric acute leukemia through personalised medicine. Specifically, the collaboration focuses on studying the genetic landscape of childhood blood cancers in Tanzania. The partnership, which took off in 2018 has contributed to the overall improvement of various pediatric oncology conditions. Key achievements include the introduction of molecular profiling methods, which have laid the foundation for personalised treatment approaches, although significant challenges related to resource availability have been encountered. Since 2011, Ireland through the Tumaini la Maisha Foundation, a non-governmental organization, has been supporting pediatric oncology patients in Tanzania. The SALAMA study is part of this collaboration, which was launched to tackle the low survival rates for acute leukemia patients in Tanzania by studying the genetic abnormalities of leukemia subtypes prevalent in African children.

Funding

The SALAMA study is funded by the Little Princess Trust, UK, in partnership with Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group, UK.



Highlights of the Africa-Europe Collaboration

- **Molecular Profiling and Personalized Treatment:** The study introduced molecular profiling methods for pediatric leukemia in Tanzania, aiming to tailor treatments based on genetic mutations. This approach is foundational in advancing personalized medicine within Africa's pediatric oncology landscape.
- **Bridging Resource Gaps:** Despite significant progress, challenges persist due to limited resources and infrastructure in Tanzania, which restrict access to advanced genetic testing and require ongoing support to build local capacity.
- **Capacity Building and Collaboration:** SALAMA fosters a sustained collaboration between European and African institutions, combining European technological expertise with African clinical knowledge, thus supporting capacity building and shared learning.
- **Data Integration and Future Trials:** The study has created a robust dataset identifying genetic differences in leukemia subtypes between Tanzanian and Irish patients. This will guide future clinical trials to assess patient responses to targeted therapies, setting the stage for long-term impact in personalized pediatric oncology.
- **Sustainability Focus:** To ensure sustainability, the SALAMA study plans to continue clinical trials, enhance diagnostic tools, and build essential research infrastructure, supporting a resilient pediatric oncology system for Tanzania and other low-resource settings in the future.

Learn more about the SALAMA story here: <https://shorturl.at/cOXF7> 



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