



Exciting new research collaboration is underway between the **University of Nairobi (UoN)**, **Universities of Kentucky (UKY)** and **Georgia (UGA)** in the United States. This research is a continuation of the work between **Prof. Stephen G. Kiama (UoN)** and **Ashley W. Seifert (UKY)** who uncovered the **Natural ability of African Spiny mice (*Acomys*spp.)** to regenerate skin and ear wounds (*Seifert et. al., Nature, 2012*). Now, with funding from the U.S. National Science Foundation and the Office for International Science and Engineering, **Kiama and Seifert** along with **Prof. Vanessa O. Ezenwa (UGA)**, postdoctoral scholar **Dr. Thomas R. Gawriluk (UKY)** and graduate student **Dr. John M. Kimani (UoN)** will investigate the interaction between the **immune system** and **regeneration in *Acomys***. Over the next four years, the team will be testing the hypothesis that a trade off exists between the innate and adaptive immune response and the ability to regenerate. To complete the project, the team is using wild ***Acomys*** and a sympatric mouse species that cannot regenerate and is performing a series of experiments at the **Department of Veterinary Physiology and Anatomy**. This study is one of the first to characterize the relationship between immunity and regeneration in a wild mammal, and will provide invaluable data on the understanding of wound healing in mammals. Pictured above and below are **Thomas Gawriluk** and **John Kimani** collecting serum from mice.