

NOTICE

PhD SEMINAR

DATE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

TIME: 1:00 – 2:00pm.

VENUE: CEBIB Lecture Hall

THE *PLASMODIUM* INTERSPERSED REPEAT (PIR) PROTEIN FAMILY: POTENTIAL
ANTIGENIC AND PATHOGENIC DETERMINANTS

By Priscilla Ngotho

ALL ARE WELCOME

Introduction

Priscilla Ngotho graduated from KU with a BSc Biotechnology (2008). After which she worked in ICIPE's molecular biology and bioinformatics department between 2008-2009, on generating transgenic trypanosomes expressing red fluorescent protein. She was awarded a KEMRI-Wellcome Trust PhD scholarship working on *Plasmodium falciparum* PIR variant surface antigens encoded by rif and stevor multi gene families, supervised by Dr. Vandana Thathy and Prof. Kevin Marsh. In her PhD studies she utilised a combination of capillary Sanger sequencing and next generation sequencing approaches to study gene expression patterns during the malaria parasite's intraerythrocytic developmental cycle. Conventional phylogenetic tree construction as well as alignment free network methods were applied to study the sequence diversity of these hypervariable gene families. Her research areas are cellular, molecular and computational biology, with specific interest in regulation of variable gene expression. She will be talking about the role of rif and stevor genes in pathogenesis of, and acquisition of immunity to malaria.