

KEMRI and University of Nairobi to strengthen partnership.

A team from Kenya Medical Research Institute, led by the Director, Dr. Philip Bejon visited the University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter M. F. Mbithi in his office at the Vice-Chancellors Committee Room, today April, 29, 2015 and discussed ways of strengthening the partnership between the two organizations even as they front a common ground in the search for vaccines for common diseases.

Speaking during the event, the Vice-Chancellor assured KEMRI of the University management support in their joint venture with the University to find vaccines for ebola, malaria, diabetes, HIV/AIDs among others. Prof. Mbithi also noted that the projects being funded need to be sustainable well after the main sponsor has stopped and in this regard, he charged the teams to work on modalities of sustainable funding for projects because of the significance of the projects. The Vice-Chancellor also appreciated the application of health research in solving the health issues affecting Kenyans.

KEMRI Director, Dr. Bejon, noted that the mandate of KEMRI is to create advancement and hence collaborations with Universities come in handy.

KEMRI together with the College of Health Sciences and the College of Biological and Physical Sciences have partnered in various ways key among them; joint research, building of malaria molecular biology labs that is currently being used by Masters and PhD students, student mentorship and more specifically mentorship of young masters students and student career advancement.

This joint venture has born fruits; six PhD students have already been trained in the area of Pharmacy and Paediatrics.

Those present during the meeting included: Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, (Student Affairs), Prof. Henry Mutoro, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration and Finance), Prof. William Ogara, Director (Centre for International Programs and Links).