

Prime-K records improvement in quality of medical education

The Partnership for Innovative Medical Education in Kenya (PRIME-K) has recorded improvement in the quality of medical education in Kenya.

[PRIME-K](#) is a programme inaugurated by the University of Nairobi in 2010 in collaboration with the University of Washington and the University of Maryland Baltimore.

The programme allows students pursuing medicine acquire hands-on clinical experiences using expert patients and simulation models. In addition, the faculty has been trained in clinical teaching, and new educational approaches have been rigorously evaluated to promote the most effective methods university-wide.

In a meeting between UoN and a team from the University of Washington, the Prime- K team highlighted the impact the programme has had in the medical field. The Prime-K team consisted of Prof. James Machoki, Deputy Director, [UNITID](#), Dr. Onesmus Gachuno, Director, PRIME-Kenya, Prof. Ruth Nduati, [Department of Pediatrics and Child Health](#) and Collins Owek, the Programme Manager.

The team revealed that the programme has developed and implemented a decentralized, community-based program that optimizes training of local medical doctors and specialists, in primary care and preventive medicine around HIV/AIDS. As a result, 18 county hospitals, which are rotation sites for medical students, interns, and postgraduates, have benefitted from the medical training and mentorship. This has recorded an improvement in service delivery, hands-on exposure and communication. PRIME-K will come to an end in April 2016.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, [Student Affairs](#), Prof. Isaac Mbeche, noted that the programme activities have improved the quality of the University's medical training and increased retention of UON faculty by providing opportunities for postgraduates and faculty to pursue clinical or applied research. Prof. Mbeche was speaking on behalf of the [Vice-Chancellor](#).

On her part, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, [Research, Production and Extension](#), Prof. Lucy Irungu, revealed that the [College of Health Sciences](#) (CHS) is the highest contributor to the University's research portfolio. Prof. Irungu said that the research division is working with faculty from CHS to train staff from other colleges on writing winning proposals for funding as well developing a Grants Management Information System.