



Contents
Page 3 A word from the CEO
Page 4 National Executive Committee 2018-2020
Page 5 KEMRI COVID-19 Training Keeping in pace with the rapid evolution of best practices
Page 8  KMA COVID-19 Response Advisory Committee  Supporting the government in the fight against COVID-19
Page 9 Mental Health Training for Healthcare Workers Healthcare Workers Wellness Program
Page 10 KMA-KPA-CPAK COVID-19 Webinars Get your CPD points online
Page 12 COVID-19 Fund Equity group Partnership Launch Training healthcare workers
Page 13 KMA-Uraia Partnership Increasing access to information
Page 15 Launch of KHP Contact Centre Improving the wellbeing of healthcare professionals
Page 16

**KMA National Elections Results** Meet the new NEC



Dear Readers,

2020 was a year that began with a lot of expectations and plans for the association.

COVID-19 pandemic has changed the activities of the association, with many of our annual activities such as the Annual Scientific conference canceled. We have leveraged on use of technology to achieve the associations objectives including holding National Governing Councils meetings online and having online CPD

events. Indeed, the investment the association had made on ICT has paid off. Despite the challenges that COVID-19 has brought, we remain committed to our mission of championing the welfare of doctors and Quality of Health in Kenya.

As part of COVID-19 response, the association has embarked on various activities as you will read in this edition. Among them is formation of KMA COVID-19 advisory committee (KMA-CRAC) which brings together KMA leadership and senior doctors to discuss the country's COVID-19 response. The committee has met weekly and generated various advisories regarding COVID-19 pandemic.

During this period, KMA has partnered with other association to provide COVID-19 training and psychosocial support for health workers. We have received funding from Kenya COVID-19 fund and Equity Group Foundation to further the trainings and run a call centre for the next one year.

This is an election year in KMA and the KMA trust, ICT committee and the National secretariat has been working round the clock to ensure smooth execution of the elections and we are very glad to have delivered the first electronic elections in the history of associations. A Hearty Congratulations to the New KMA National Executive committee members.

The current NEC led by our President, Dr. Jacqueline Kitulu have made tremendous impact in KMA with the KMA name growing bigger each day and the new team has a great place to start from.

This newsletter is evidence of mentorship in KMA as it has been compiled by a team of excellent medical students who are members of Medical Students Associations of Kenya (MSAKE).

Dr Elizabeth Gitau KMA CEO



















## KEMRI COVID-19 Training

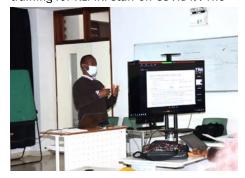




### The Fight Against COVID-19

MA is leading the fight against COVID-19 pandemic in the country. This has been made possible not only through collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH) that allows us to influence policy on response to the pandemic but also our members who are actively involved in the frontlines in fighting this disease. As an association, we believe that to be successful in this fight, our efforts are to be based on science, facts, and evidence. To this end, KMA has invested in COVID-19 trainings for health care workers, keeping in pace with the rapid evolution in best practices.

A collaborative effort between KMA and the MoH saw KMA facilitate a training for KEMRI staff on COVID19. The



training happened from 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> April at KEMRI training center, Nairobi. The training was well-attended with about thirty staff on the ground and over two hundred following online. Diverse topics were covered, including:

Overview of COVID-19; management of mild to moderate cases; case definition, surveillance, screening, contact tracing & quarantine; risk communication; documentation; hospital rapid response teams; self-care and coping mechanisms for HCWs among others.

Our online and social media platforms have been instrumental in these trainings. In partnership with the MoH, KMA has made available (online) COVID-19 content that targets all clinicians and other front-line staff working in the country and particularly in the public sector. This content, put together by leading experts aims to:

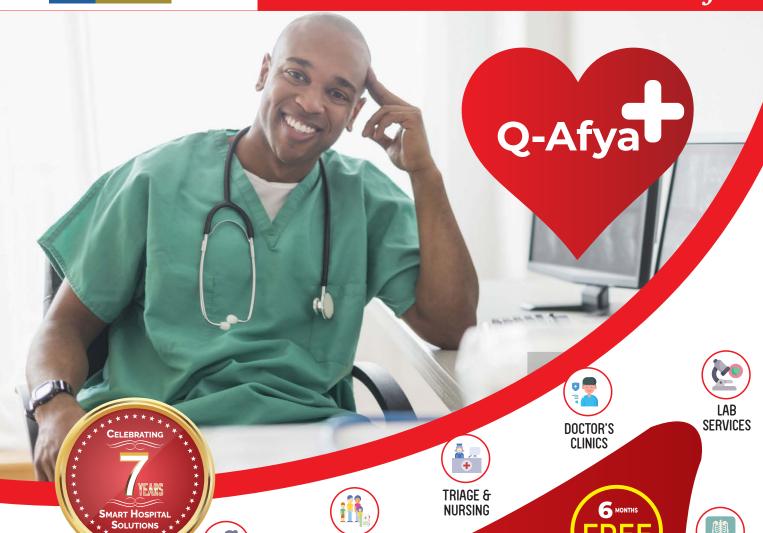
- Serve as an educational aid and reference material for trainers as well as healthcare workers on the country's response to COVID-19
- Disseminate information and knowledge to health care workers on relevant issues including diagnosis, case management, infection prevention and control as well as data reporting and referral mechanisms
- Standardize care, management and prevention of COVID-19 in the country.

The course includes recorded videos in lecture style, videos of practical skills, as well as downloadable checklists and other resources. To access this material visit www.kma.co.ke











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## KMA COVID-19 Advisory Committee

## Responding to the pandemic

owards the end of the first quarter of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic got to Kenya. In recognition of our mission, KMA has a responsibility to inform the public and enhance the preparedness of our Kenyan health workers to fight the war by offering timely updates on case management of COVID-19, advocating for measures to protect health workers and conducting research that will inform our policy position and advocacy efforts.

KMA thus set up a COVID-19 taskforce (KMA COVID-19 Advisory Committee) to achieve its mission and partnered with the government and other nongovernmental institutions. The taskforce also has the mandate to support

members with advice as well as technical resources to help them deal with the pandemic in an evidencebased manner, and to be available to provide technical guidance to the government and the public.



The KMA COVID-19 Advisory Committee is chaired by the KMA Vice President, Prof Lukoye Atwoli. The committee has been meeting every week to deliberate on important matters and generate resolutions and advisories on way forward in the countries COVID-19 response,

DR. JACQUELInongovernmental PRESIDE institutions and DR. JACQUEL to the public. The membership of the committee is drawn from the KMA leadership, Senior Health specialists including Prof Koigi

Aluoch, Dr Khama Rogo, Dr Frank Njenga amongst others, with special associations being represented in the committee.

Kamau, Dr J. A.

Nine (9) Sub committees were also set up to tackle various aspects of the pandemic and ensure a holistic approach is taken, including: Reproductive health in collaboration with the Kenya Obstetrics and Gynaecology Society (KOGS), HIV/AIDs subcommittee, Public Health subcommittee, Advocacy subcommittee, Physician Health and Wellness subcommittee, Social Welfare subcommittee, Managed Healthcare subcommittee, Managed Healthcare and CPD Events Planning subcommittee and a Research subcommittee.

The KMA COVID-19 Advisory Committee remains committed to actively support government in COVID-19 response.





## The Birth of a "Healthcare Workers Wellness Program": Amidst

#### COVID-19

**Dr. Joy Mugambi**, Team Lead and Family Physician

hen COVID-19 struck the world the number of infections and death toll on health workers worldwide led to a wave of anxiety and fear amongst Kenyan healthcare workers.

Kenya Medical Association realized we had to do something quick to ensure we did not end up with a rise in mental health issues and suicide. The national executive council agreed to start online mental health webinars and seek ways to start out a toll free line for health workers by health workers.

Our first strategy was get a baseline survey going, Dr. Edith Kwobah a renown Psychiatrist, and member KMA in Eldoret had a baseline survey on mental health issues amongst health workers of which we adopted and distributed to members and various healthcare workers associations.

To ensure we had the best professional support we partnered with Kenya

Psychiatrists Association (KPA) and Clinical Psychologist Association of Kenya (CPAK). We have had two psychiatrists Dr Gitau Catherine and Dr David Wairoto who have offered guidance on interventions we can undertake virtually. We were later joined by Elizabeth Khaemba a clinical

Psychologist and her team they have been a great support pillar in provision of psychological interventions to three health workers and webinars.

In the second phase we opted to start with creating awareness on various

mental health issues via virtual webinars. The first webinar could only host one hundred attendees, the session had to be live

streamed on YouTube since it was oversubscribed. Subsequently we opted to upgrade and host larger webinars with Facebook Live links in order to reach a larger number of health workers. Our Tuesday webinars have since become very popular with 500 attendees on Zoom and over 2000 views on the live link. Feedback is that the webinars are very informative and touch on key mental health issues. We have held nine (9) webinars which are archived on YouTube and Facebook.

Phase three was to host a call center with a toll free line, the success of this

has been brought on by
partnering with the National
Nurses Association of Kenya
(NNAK), Kenya Clinical Officers
Association, and Kenya

Healthcare Professionals Association who had secured hardware from Konza Technopolis. The call center will be run by, KPA, CPAK, mental health Clinical officers and mental health Nurses. We have

mapped out psychiatrists, psychologists, and primary healthcare mental health providers all over the country who will act a referral contacts for health workers who needing individualized care.

Phase four aims to incorporate group virtual Psychological First Aid (PFA)

sessions, relaxation and Meditations activities for those in far off healthcare facilities. We will also undertake further research

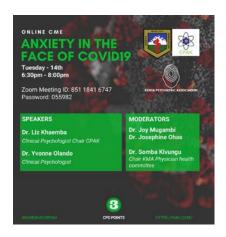
under the guidance of Prof Lukoye Atwoli to understand how the interventions undertaken are impacting lives of health workers, and success of the program.

To run this wellness project we have worked together as professional associations and managed to secure joint funding from the National Covid19 Fund to the tune of 85million Kenya shillings, the project will run for 12 months and hope to have it self-sustaining at the end. Thanks to our tireless KMA CEO Dr. Elizabeth Gitau who worked hard to institute the health workers partnerships and defended the Wellness proposal till it bore fruits.

For once in the history of healthcare in Kenya we have a health workers mental health and wellbeing program. Thanks to all the team members who have worked tirelessly to bring this to fruition.

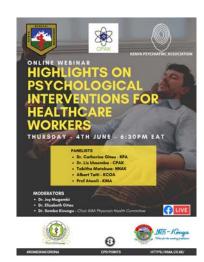
## 10 KMA DIGITAL

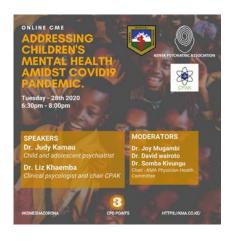
## KMA-KPA-CPAK COVID-19 Webinars

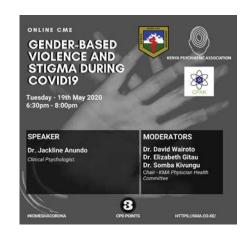




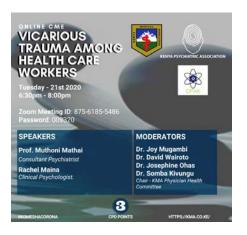














**MEDICAL** STUDENTS' **ASSOCIATIONS** OF KENYA



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### Kenya Health Professionals Equity Foundation Group and Kenya

## **COVID-19 Fund Partnership Launch**

n June 19<sup>th</sup> 2020, Kenya Medical Association on behalf of the Health Professional Associations received 85 million Kenyan Shillings from Equity Bank Kenya and Kenya COVID-19 Fund Partnership. This will aid in training over 50,000 healthcare workers trained countrywide and given psychosocial support. The Launch took place at the National Nurses Associations of Kenya grounds at Kenyatta National Hospital.



Kenya Medical Association will implement the program together with National Nurses Association of Kenya, KMPDU, KPA- Kenya, Clinicians Association of Kenya, PSK and other healthcare professional associations.

Front-line public healthcare staff dealing with COVID-19 patients will receive training on case management and the application and use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE's). They will also receive psychosocial support to help them cope with the daily challenges occasioned by their service in the fight against COVID-19 in the country.

Speaking at the venue, Dr. Jacqueline

Kitulu, Kenya Medical Association
President stated that the doctors handle
the problems of many individuals, and
require psychosocial support because
they go through stressful challenges
within their work environment.

Mr. Alfred Obengo, Chairman of the National Nurses Association applauded all the partners who came to their assistance at this critical time appreciating the Kenya COVID-19 Fund & Equity Group adding that In the course of delivering much-needed services, healthcare workers are exposed to both physical and emotional challenges posing a threat to their welfare & thus the health care system.

Dr. Chibanzi Mwachonda, Ag. Secretary
General KMPDU, applauded the effort by
Equity Group, COVID-19 Fund, and all
medical professionals associations
adding that as a leader in the healthcare
sector, they shall all play their part to
ensure transparency and accountability of
all the resources availed through the
partnership.

"The collaboration between Equity Group and all the medical associations has been very fruitful and has brought us to this partnership being launched today", Prof. Isaac Macharia Chairman Equity Bank Kenya. "It's a partnership to answer the cry by our medical practitioners; the need for PPE and support to adequately mitigate COVID-19."

Dr. Evans Kamuri, KNH CEO added that KNH have been humbled by the partnership. They are happy Equity has stepped in to support medical students and medics, even as we serve Kenyans and look forward to working with Equity again in the future.

To support the health system & frontline healthcare workers in mitigating COVID-19, the coalition will follow the Ministry of Health Kenya guidelines developed together with the COVID-19 Case Management Training Program to ensure this training is cascaded to all counties said Dr. James Mwangi, MD & CEO Equity Group, and Executive Chairman of Equity Group Foundation who also chairs the Health Committee of the Kenya COVID-19 Fund Board.

He added Health is not just a physical embodiment but one you carry in your mind all the time. This was not only a great idea, but a blessed idea that has tremendously evolved in the last 2 months a partnership where all the stakeholders and associations were fully aligned, driven by one purpose.

Prof Stephen Kiama, Vice-Chancellor University of Nairobi who was also present applauded Equity Group and all stakeholders for supporting the healthcare practitioners in the fight against Covid-19 adding, "If we all walk together, we shall give Kenyans hope and faith".

## KMA<mark>DIGITAL</mark> 13

## Improving access to information

Dr Rowena and Dr Leon

RAIA is a non-governmental organization that seeks to provide quality civic education and empower the Kenyan population to exercise their civic duties and thus realize their constitutional aspirations. URAIA is keen on teamwork and this is how KMA-URAIA partnership came to life in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.

The directives and information given by the government proved to be somewhat ineffective in that they were not readily understandable by the community. The partnership aims to increase access of information to the public and also making the government directives easy for the ordinary Mwanachi to understand bearing in mind that URAIA has an access to a wide population base. KMA has therefore been working with URAIA to synthesize information and making it palatable to the public. Furthermore, this was a great channel that ensured continuous feedback from the public across Kenya, which reaches the tables of MoH through KMA leadership.

Such a scenario is when the government gave the directive that the homebased care ought to be embraced. The government did not explain to the public the reasons behind the directive and how it may work in combating the

pandemic. The public developed a notion that the government is taking COVID-19 back to the community. In this situation, URAIA will approach KMA to provide the knowledge surrounding COVID-19 Home Based Care. KMA will then give information in a simplified way that is understandable to the public. URAIA can then give the information to the public and even feedback concerning this. URAIA will then give the feedback to KMA which through its advisory committee will communicate with the government on the modifications that can be done in the decision-making process.

#### Activities

KMA has been involved in developing communication content in issues such as

- Rights issue for quarantine centres regards to quality of facilities
- Payment procedures, public health measures and the enforcement
- Stigma and COVID-19
- Home-based care
- General mass education on COVID-19

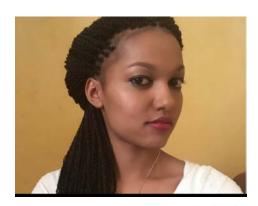
The KMA then have weekly situation rooms where they discuss various matters with different speakers concerning the real situation at the ground level.

URAIA organizes community outreach activities which serve to give information to the public concerning COVID-19 so that evidence-based knowledge can reach the community in the simplest of ways to cater for all members of the public. These are done through Community Meetings where there is dissemination of printed information and, audio files. The information can also be synthesized into skits and short creative acts in order to ass the information.

#### **Partnerships**

KMA would like to appreciate the efforts of URAIA in the creation of a platform that can be used to disseminate information in light of the pandemic. The KMA will continue to strive to support this partnership in order to combat the disease.

Our other partners include the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNHRC) and the Africa Youth Leadership Forum (AYLF).







## Kenya Medical Association

Championing the Welfare of Doctors and Quality Healthcare in Kenya









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EXCULSIVE TO KMA MEMBERS!

Kenya Medical Association

### Official launch of the Kenya Health

#### **Professionals Contact Centre**

n Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020, the Kenya Medical Association National Executive joined the CS Ministry of Information,
Communications and Technology
Hon. Joe Mucheru & the CAS Ministry of Health Dr Mercy Mwangangi in the Official Launch of the #COVID19
Contact Centre at the Nurses Complex Kenyatta National Hospital Grounds.

The contact center which sits at the National Nurses Association of Kenya (NNAK) headquarters is a partnership between NNAK, Kenya Medical Association, Kenya Clinical Officers Association (KCOA), Kenya Health Professionals Society, Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists Union (KMPDU), Kenya Psychiatric Association, COVID-19 Fund, Equity Bank, Clinical Psychologists Association of Kenya (CPAK) and Kenya COVID-19 Fund. The center will offer psychosocial support to the front-line healthcare workers as well as provide a platform to access information and exchange best practices among the practitioners.

The Covid-19 Contact Centre uses
Konza Technopolis Development
Authority digital platform to support
front line health care workers and for
health care innovation in partnership
with Ministry of Health, Ministry of
ICT and Kenya Hubs Association.

KoTDA CEO Eng. John Tanui speaking at the event said that the Covid-19 Contact Centre is a platform for frontline health care workers to access information, exchange best practices, training, psycho-social support and keep track of disease incidence amongst them.

CS MoICT Kenya Mr. Joe Mucheru said





that the Ministry, through KoTDA, will provide technical support, reliable infrastructure and devices that will be linked to the National Data center located at Konza Technopolis. It will provide information to the public and be a onestop-shop for Covid-19 related queries.

Speaking during the launch, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Youth, Mr. Joe Mucheru mentioned that following the COVID-19 Pandemic,



health systems have now been challenged more than ever, with health professionals having to deal with the double burden of managing the disease as well as stigma and fear of contracting the disease. "It is in view of the same that KoTDA and other partners have set up this COVID-19 Call Centre," he said.

His counterpart, CAS The Ministry of Health Dr. Mercy Mwangangi said that the ministry appreciates the utilization of innovation and technology in providing solutions to the COVID-19 challenge.

"As a responsible citizen, KoTDA with other partners have set-up a COVID-19 Contact Centre (Call Centre). The call centre platform that can receive calls into the Healthcare Call Centre for Counseling services, enable health care workers see status of their colleagues, deliver faxes & voicemail to inbox, instant messaging, videoconferencing, online meeting and also provide interconnection to all Nationwide Healthcare Facilities and Workers" Eng. John Tanui, the Chief Executive Officer KoTDA.



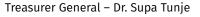
has remained a democratic platform where members have consistently chosen the leaders they want to nas remained a democratic platform where members and advance the practice of medicine in the country. This year, the elections were conducted electronically on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June, and a new team of able leaders was elected to the National Executive Council (NEC).



The President Dr Were Onyino

#### These are:

The President - Dr. Were Onyino The Vice-President - Dr. Amos Otara Secretary General - Dr. Simon Kigondu Assistant Secretary General - Diana Marion





The Vice-President Dr. Amos Otara



Secretary General Dr Simon Kigondu



**Assistant Secretary General** Dr Diana Marion



Treasurer General Dr Supa Tunje

We take this opportunity to congratulate the new NEC members and to wish them well as they steer KMA to the next level. Central to their mandate is our mission: championing for the welfare of doctors and quality healthcare in Kenya.

We also would want to deeply appreciate the team that has served in the previous NEC led by Dr. Jacqueline Kitulu. Through their sweat and sacrifice, KMA is where it is today. Asanteni sana!



## Kenya Medical Association

Championing the Welfare of Doctors and Quality Healthcare in Kenya







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