

Visiting Lecturer at the Wangari Maathai Institute



Wangari Maathai Institute is honoured to receive Dr. Thumbi Mwangi as a Visiting Lecturer.

Thumbi Mwangi is an Assistant Research Professor at the Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health, Washington State University and the Integrated Human-Animal Health program under the Kenya Medical Research Institute/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KEMRI/CDC) Research and Public Health and collaboration.

His current research is focused at the human-animal interphase in East Africa investigating the relationship between livestock health and productivity, and human health, nutrition and welfare. He studies the relationships between human and animal health by investigating and quantifying the impact of three pathways: a) zoonotic pathway (infection and transmission of zoonotic and food-borne infections between animals and humans), b) nutritional pathway (effect of access to and dietary intake of nutritious animal source foods on human health, nutritional status and cognitive development), c) socioeconomics pathway (increased incomes, access to education and health care associations with increased livestock productivity). The goal for this research is to improve human health and welfare among livestock-dependent households, through improvement of animal health and productivity. He is exploring ways of (and seeking collaborations on) including environmental health as a determinant of both human and animal health.

Dr. Thumbi attained his PhD in Infectious Disease Epidemiology from the University of Edinburgh investigating the consequences of hosts harbouring multiple infections at any single time. Specifically, his work tested the hypothesis that impacts of different coinfecting pathogens may be synergistic or (in some instances) antagonistic, and the implications these pathogen-pathogen interactions have on disease control strategies. Prior to that, he worked on the epidemiology and molecular diagnostics of African animal trypanosomiasis, at the Biosciences eastern and central Africa (BecA hub), International Livestock Research Institute in Nairobi.