

Dr. Francis Ekow Dennis is a Research Fellow in the Department of Electron Microscopy and Histopathology, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, University of Ghana. He is a member of the African Rotavirus Surveillance Network, and a core staff of the West Africa Regional Rotavirus Reference Laboratory (RRL, Ghana), where he has been providing technical support and training for rotavirus surveillance within the sub-region. For the past few years, he has served as the RRL Ghana focal point for the Global Paediatric Rotavirus and Diarrhoeal Surveillance Network, contributing to efforts to estimate etiology-specific burdens of diarrhoea hospitalizations and deaths through the sentinel site surveillance network.

Dr. Dennis has a keen interest in molecular diagnostics and the epidemiology of diarrhoea-causing pathogens in humans and animals. His research focuses on the use of genomic epidemiological tools to answer questions of public health importance in diarrhoeal diseases, including the influences of pathogen genetic diversity on intervention strategies, and host-genetic factors on disease susceptibility. Following the introduction of a rotavirus vaccine into the national immunization programme in Ghana in 2012, his recent work has focused on surveillance of rotavirus strains circulating in Ghana before/after vaccine introduction employing a full genome-based characterization approach, as well as investigating the relationship between histo-blood group antigens, rotavirus infection, and serum antibody responses to rotavirus vaccine in Ghanaian children.

Dr. Dennis is a founding member of the African Enteric Virus Genome Initiative (AEVGI), a consortium of young African research scientists born out of the African Rotavirus Surveillance Network. He is a co-PI of the multicenter AEVGI project which seeks to understand the effect of rotavirus vaccine introduction on rotavirus evolution on the continent.

Dr. Dennis holds B.Sc. and M.Phil. (Biochemistry) degrees from the University of Ghana, and a PhD (Medical Science) from Tokyo Medical and Dental University.