MAH members of CEMAR (Centre for Epidemiological and Mathematical Research) in Malawi attended the Summer Institute in Statistics and Modeling in Infectious Diseases (SISMID. Nicholas S. Adam, Director of CEMAR, met Prof. Matt Ferrari, MAH Scientific Chair. This initial connection led to further introductions within the MAH. As a result, Profs. Aheto and Utazi are now providing scientific supervisory support to Brenda Mhone, "Principal Public Health Officer - New Vaccines Introduction in Malawi. CEMAR is coordinating activities with both local and international partners, strengthening regional collaboration and capacity in measles analytics.

Research Topic

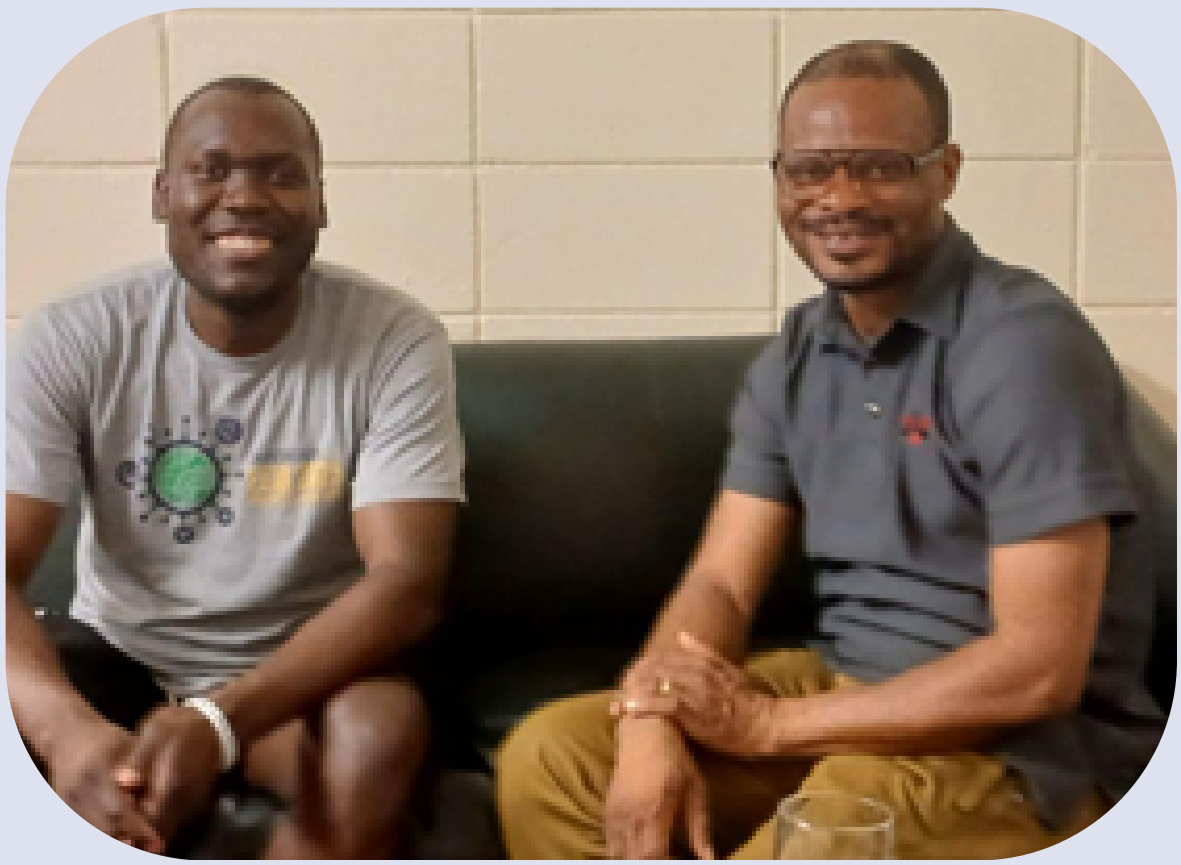
What drives measles transmission in Malawi over space and time? *What role do demographics, district level vaccination coverage and environmental factors play?*

MAH Collaborators

- **Nicholas S. Adam,** CEMAR, University of Georgia
- **Brenda Mhone,** EPI Malawi
- **Prof Justice Aheto,** University of Ghana
- **Dr Edson Utazi, WorldPop,** University of Southampton

Collaboration details & achievements

Malawi is preparing to launch a national measles campaign in April 2026, and advanced modelling will play a critical role in its success. CEMAR is leading efforts to identify high-risk areas and vulnerable populations, improve operational planning, and strengthen the country's long-term immunisation strategy. The research will explore key drivers of measles transmission across space and time, including demographic factors, district-level vaccination coverage, and environmental influences such as flooding and seasonality. Guided by CEMAR's mission to bridge science and policy, and its vision for a resilient African health system, the project is now moving into data acquisition and desk-based analysis. A stakeholder interface meeting is planned, and findings will inform a full grant proposal for expanded work—highlighting the MAH's role in linking global expertise with local leadership.



Photos courtesy of Nicholas S. Adam: Nicholas S. Adam and Prof Aheto during his visit to Athens, Georgia, USA.