



INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GEOLOGY ASSOCIATION (IMGA)

AFFILIATE OF

NIGERIAN MINING AND GEOSCIENCES SOCIETY (NMGS)

Scientific Programme



9th NIGERIA

**&
First African IMGA
Regional Conference & Exhibitions 2026**

Conference Theme:

**MEDICAL GEOLOGY IN PUBLIC HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY
FOR THE CREATION OF RESILIENT COMMUNITY SYSTEMS**

26TH - 31ST JULY, 2026

**@ JOSE A. CENTENO INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR MEDICAL GEOLOGY RESEARCH (JACMEDGEO)
NASARAWA STATE UNIVERSITY KEFFI, NIGERIA**

Keynote Speakers



Dr. Jose A. Centeno is a Physical Chemist (Toxicologist) by training, with international and nationally recognized expertise in biophysical toxicology, environmental and toxicologic pathology, nanotechnology, medical devices, regulatory science and medical geology. He is graduate from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez (BS Chemistry) and MS (Physical Chemistry), a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Michigan State University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship training in biophysics and chemical pathology at the U.S. Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington, DC. Dr. Jose A. Centeno is a founding member and past President of the International Medical Geology Association (IMGA) (www.medicalgeology.org), and the founder and Director of the

International Environmental & Health Sciences Consortium (www.iehsconsortium.org). He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC); Honorary Academician, Royal Academy of Medicine and Surgery, Andalucía Oriental, Spain, and he was recently appointed as Endowment Chair on Medical Geology and Director, “Jose A. Centeno International Center on Medical Geology Research” at Nasarawa State University, Keffi, Nigeria. He has been involved in numerous academic, government and professional activities including serving US National Academy of Science and Medicine-National Research Council Committee on Earth Sciences and Public Health, and National Academies – Board on International Scientific Organizations (BISO), as member of the Working Group for the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC, Vol. 74), as Regional Officer for the International Union of Geological Sciences and its Commission on Geosciences for Environmental Management (2005), as Senior Advisor for the IUGS-International Year of Planet Earth (2007-2009), and as invited speaker at the US Academy of Sciences, Swedish Academies of Sciences and the Academia Sinica, Taiwan, China. Dr. Centeno currently holds Adjunct Professorship appointments at several national and international academic centers and universities including University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, Department of Chemistry; University of Maryland School of Medicine Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine; Nasarawa State University Keffi, Nigeria; and the University of the Republic of Uruguay, Faculty of Sciences. Dr. Centeno is author and/or coauthor of over 200 publications (manuscripts, book chapters, reports, monographs and research abstracts). He is the recipient of several national and international awards, and has been invited to speak in more than 50 countries



Dr. Robert B. Finkelman, retired in 2005 after 32 years with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). He is currently a Research Professor in the Dept. of Geosciences at the University of Texas at Dallas, a Distinguished Professor at the China University of Mining and Technology and an Adjunct Professor at the China University of Geosciences, Beijing. He is an internationally recognized scientist widely known for his work on coal chemistry and as a leader of the emerging field of Medical Geology. Dr. Finkelman has degrees in geology, geochemistry, and chemistry. He has a diverse professional

background, having worked for the federal government (USGS) and private industry (Exxon) and has formed a consulting company (Environmental and Coal Associates). He has lectured and provided mentorship at colleges and universities around the world. Most of Dr. Finkelman’s professional career has been devoted to understanding the properties of coal and how these properties affect coal’s technological performance, economic byproduct potential and environmental and health impacts. For the past 25 years he has devoted his

efforts to developing the field of Medical Geology. Dr. Finkelman is the author of more than 900 publications including four books on Medical Geology. He has been invited to speak in more than 50 countries, and he was the first person to have written a dissertation on the returned lunar samples. Dr. Finkelman is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and has served as Chairman of the Geological Society of America's Coal Geology Division; Chair of the International Association for Cosmochemistry and Geochemistry, Working Group on Geochemistry and Health; founding member and past Chair of the International Medical Geology Association; President of the Society for Organic Petrology; member of the American Registry of Pathology Board of Scientific Directors and is Past-Chair of the GSA's Geology and Health Division. Currently he is a Board Member of the U.S. Section of the Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health and is on the Advisory Board of the GeoHealth Section of the American Geophysical Union. He was a recipient of the Ninninger Meteorite Award; recipient of the Gordon H. Wood Jr. Memorial Award from the AAPG Eastern Section; and a recipient of the Cady Award from the GSA's Coal Geology Division, and the GSA's Geology and Health Division's Distinguished Career Award, 2021 and in 2022 he was presented with the John Castano Award, the highest honor of the Society For Organic Petrology. Dr. Finkelman was also awarded a U. S. State Department Embassy Science Fellowship for an assignment in South Africa and was a member of a National Research Council committee looking at the future of coal in the U.S. In 2019 he was appointed as a Fulbright Specialist for India.



Dr. Alexys Boim holds a BSc in Environmental Engineering from the School of Engineering of Piracicaba (EEP, 2011), an MSc (2014) and PhD (2018) in Soil Science and Plant Nutrition from the University of São Paulo (ESALQ-USP), and an MBA in Management of Contaminated Areas from POLI-USP (2022). Boim carried out postdoctoral research at ESALQ-USP from 2019 to 2025, initially in collaboration with the Federal University of Espírito Santo (UFES) under a fellowship from the Espírito Santo Research Foundation (FAPES, 2019-2020), and subsequently supported by the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP, 2020-2025). During this period, she also conducted a post-doctoral placement at the British Geological Survey (BGS), UK (2023-2024), funded by the BEPE/FAPESP programme. The research interests focused on environmental and medical geochemistry, with emphasis on heavy metal speciation, surface geochemical processes, oral and respiratory bioaccessibility, and human health risk assessment. She has experience in vitro methods, classical and non-specific sequential extraction techniques, and advanced chemometric analyses and currently collaborates on national and international projects in environmental and medical geochemistry. She is a member of the International Medical Geology Association (IMGA) and the International Environmental Health Science Consortium (IEHSC).



Prosun Bhattacharya (born 1962) holds a PhD in Sedimentary Geochemistry from University of Delhi, India (1990). Besides KTH, he also held an Adjunct Professor at University of Southern Queensland, Australia between 2016 and 2019. Since January 2020, he is appointed as Affiliate Scientist at the KWR Water Research Institute in the Netherlands. His primary research interests address the challenges with arsenic, fluoride and geogenic contaminants in groundwater and drinking water treatment in different parts of the world. He has collaborative research engagements with several universities and research organizations across the world. He is leading the Sida funded

bilateral Research Capacity Building programs between Sweden and Tanzania as well as Sweden and Bolivia, focusing on drinking water contamination from groundwater sources and treatment. He has coordinated the prestigious Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency supported action research and implementation project “Sustainable Arsenic Mitigation-SASMIT” Community driven initiatives to target arsenic safe groundwater as sustainable mitigation strategy in Bangladesh (2007-2017). He has led the project in collaboration with UNICEF-Bangladesh on “Enhancing private sector capacity for scaling up access to safe drinking water - policy, systems strengthening and sustainable service delivery” and currently leading a project on “Enhancing private sector capacity and digital data management for arsenic risk reduction in Bangladesh. In collaboration with UNICEF-Bangladesh and DPHE, Government of Bangladesh. He has authored/co-authored over 500 international publications in peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings, cited more than 20,500 times (Google Scholar and Google h-index 76) and i10-index of 240. He has organized several international workshops on natural arsenic in groundwater and sustainable mitigation and edited 12 books on diverse aspects of natural arsenic in groundwater and groundwater for sustainable development until 2022. He is serving the Elsevier in the different editorial capacities since 2009, as Editor in Chief of Groundwater for Sustainable Development, and Associate Editor of Journal of Hydrology and Frontiers in Environmental Sciences. He has been honored as the Fellow of the Geological Society of America in April, 2012 and the International Water Association (IWA Fellow) in September 2018. He has been conferred with the “STE International Achiever Award, 2019” by the Save the Environment Foundation in recognition of his distinguished work in the field of Environmental Geochemistry and Water Quality Analysis as well as the widely acclaimed research on groundwater management has triggered path breaking research and several projects and your scientific accomplishments. He is been selected as the recipient of the prestigious George Burke Maxey Distinguished Service Award 2021 instituted by the Hydrogeology Division of the Geological Society of America. Since March 2020, he is actively working with the global initiative on the wastewater-based epidemiology as a global collaborative effort to maximize contributions in the fight against COVID-19 and other emerging viruses which involves the academic, government, research institutions and the Community based organizations. He has recently voted by the Council of the Geological Society of America to serve the GSA International Committee as Member-at-Large for the four-year term 1 July 2021-30 June 2025.



Professor Emmanuel Arhin is a distinguished Professor of Applied Geology and aglobally recognized expert in regolith geology, mineral exploration, and medical geology. Currently serving as the Coordinator of the Geological Science Department at the University of Energy and Natural Resources (UENR) in Ghana, Professor Arhin has dedicated over three decades to advancing the intersection of geosciences, environmental health, and sustainable mineral resource development. He holds a PhD

in Geology from the University of Leicester, UK, where his pioneering research focused on using regolith geochemistry to delineate gold mineralization under cover in the Lawra Belt of Northwest Ghana. His academic journey also includes an MPhil in Mineral Exploration and a BSc in Geological Engineering from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). Throughout his prolific career, Professor Arhin has held significant leadership roles, including Dean-in-Charge of the UENR Dormaa Campus and Dean of the School of Geosciences. His professional expertise extends beyond academia; he is the CEO of EarthPro Consultancy Group and has served as a technical advisor and project geologist for major international mining firms such as Newmont Ghana Gold, RedBack Mining, and Ashanti Exploration. Professor Arhin is a leading voice in the emerging field of Medical Geology. His current research focuses on using geological mapping and water quality assessments to combat Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Africa. He explores how geological processes and trace element geochemistry, such as the distribution of selenium, arsenic, and mercury, impact public health. His work seeks to bridge the gap between geoscientists and health professionals to mitigate environmental health risks in developing countries. An active member of the international scientific community, he serves as a Global Councillor for the International Medical Geologists Association (IMGA) and is a Fellow of the Society of Economic Geologists (SEG). He has authored over 60 peer reviewed publications and has been a keynote speaker at major international symposia in Brazil, China, and across West Africa. In recognition of his impact in Medical Geology and his ability to research and convey the outcomes of his research practically in this new field to others in Ghana and elsewhere in the subregion, he was named the Outstanding Medical Geology Researcher by the IMGA in 2016. Professor Arhin's mission is to leverage geological insights to solve practical environmental health challenges and to inspire a new generation of scientists to apply geoscience for the betterment of human health and national development.



Prof Georges Ekosse Ekosse. Year 2027 marks two decades of pioneering research into human and enzootic geophagia in Africa, a cornerstone of our work on Clays and Clay Minerals in Africa (CCMA) (Ekosse, 2025; 2023). Research on Geophagia, the deliberate ingestion of clayey soils and materials, is very wide, multi-, trans-, and inter-disciplinary. Being endemic, making geophagic clays safer for human ingestion including aspects of nutritional supplement and bioavailability is a major component of

geophagic research. This presentation is very limited to understanding geophagic clays from selected countries in Africa including Botswana, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Nigeria, and South Africa with a bias on nutrient bioavailability. Questionnaires were administered to geophagists (consumers of geophagic clays) to understand the types of geophagic clayey materials consumed and possibilities of serving as nutrient

supplements as commonly believed. Geophagic clays from different countries were compared to highlight their variations (Ngole-Jeme and Ekosse, 2015). Part of our research characterized the geophagic clays by linking their physical and chemical properties to reasons behind clay ingestion. Studies on their mineralogical and chemical compositions indicate huge variations in the properties of the ingested clays as portrayed in Ngole and Ekosse (2012), Ekosse and Ngole (2012), Ekosse et. al., (2011) and Ngole et al (2010). Though geophagic clays could be sources of nutrient supplement (Ngole and Ekosse (2012), they could have loads of geohelminths which could lead to human geohelminth infection (Sumbele et. al., 2013); thus, the need for their beneficiation. Patents have been obtained for some beneficiation exercise leading to the production of geophagic clay bars and geophagic clay infusion bags. With the recently ended 2026 World Congress on Soil Science in which our research group made presentations on human and enzootic geophagia, its research advancement continues. A Geophagia Working Group (GWG) has been established; a mini conference will take place in September 2026 and a global conference in October 2027.

Ekosse G., Geophagic Clays as an Object of Interdisciplinary Research. Commission 2.4 (Soil Mineralogy), International Union of Soil Sciences Webinar, 20th February 2025

Ekosse G., Contributions to the Study of Clays and Clay Minerals in Africa. Lomonosov Moscow State University Higher School of State Audit. Annual Carpe Scientiam Conference, 29th November 2023



Prof Beneah D. Odhiambo. Geobotany is also concerned with the relationships between the form, composition and distribution of plant communities and their relationship with environmental factors, particularly in undisturbed terrain. The term geobotany is frequently used to include **biogeochemistry**; it is concerned with the detection of biogenic haloes of ore indicator elements in living organisms and their remains (Kovalevsky, 1987) using rapid and sensitive analytical instruments (Brooks, 1972). The nexus between geobotany and human health goes back to antiquity, when man first learnt to *eke a living from the environment*, particularly for treatment of different ailments and diseases. The medicinal and other uses of chromite indicators and related plants species (Odhiambo and Howarth, 1993a) presented in this paper have been summarized from the extensive study of Watt and Breyer-Brandwicz (1962). These plant species include for example, *Faurea saligna*, *Maerua sp.*, *Leucas sp.*, and *Protea sp.* To demonstrate the nexus between geobotany and human health, the biogeochemical research of selenium in Kenyan tea leaves is used. Because selenium has been associated with the suppression of HIV and AIDS, it is interesting to note that it is deficient in sub-Saharan countries, and the populations lack adequate dietary intake of selenium. In China, some areas rich in selenium are abundant with selenium rich tea. The selenium rich tea can effectively supplement the quantities which human bodies need. However, acid rain alters soil pH and reduces selenium bioavailability, while commercial fertilizers also depress uptake of selenium by crops, thus reducing the dietary intake of selenium. The Biogeochemical Research of selenium in Kenyan tea leaves was inspired by literature reviewed on selenium, especially the work completed by members of the Macronutrients, Micronutrients, and Non-Essential Dietary Supplements subgroup of the National HIV Nutrition Guidelines Working Group, USA and by a study on Suppression of Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 1 Viral Load With Selenium Supplementation; a study undertaken by a team of medical experts from the University of Miami in Florida.



Ibrahim Katampe is a Professor of Organic Chemistry and currently the Assistant Director for Innovation & Technology Incubation the College of Engineering, Science, Technology and Agriculture (CESTA), Central State University, USA. In this position, he also serves concurrently as the Director of the Center for Excellence in Emerging Technologies (CEET). Ibrahim Katampe is a Scholar, Research Scientist, Innovator and an Entrepreneur with several years of experience in both academia and the private sector. As an academic and scholar, he has published in several Chemical and allied journals and as a grant writer, he has contributed several millions of dollars to the University's grants portfolio as either PI, Co-PI, with awards from different funding sources such as United States department of Agriculture (USDA), United States Department of Defense (DoD), National Science Foundation (NSF), United States Department of Education (DoEd), with the most recent award being \$4.9million Climate Smart Innovation award to reduce Green House Gas Emissions (GHG). Prior to joining Academia, immediately after his postdoctoral work, Prof. Katampe worked as a senior research and product development scientist in the USA. In this capacity, he worked and collaborated with several other technology companies, not only in the United States but also in Europe and Asia.

As an Innovator, his solution-driven research exploits resulted in several inventions. Prof. Katampe has over 9 United States Patents (USPTO) and have successfully commercialized products from several of the patents. He is a recipient of several awards including the prestigious Planet Africa Science and Technology Award by the planet Africa Group, Canada; the SOIN award for Technology Innovation by the Montgomery County USA, Southern Ohio Consortium for Higher Education (SOCHE) Academic Leadership Fellowship, two-time recipient of NASA Faculty Research Fellowship to mention a few. Professor Katampe is a valuable and active member of the Dayton Regional Community in the state of Ohio, USA. He has served as a member of the board of trustees of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, member board of trustees of the Montgomery County Workforce and Investment Development Board, Dayton Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center, Dayton Entrepreneurship Signature Program (ESP), Dayton Technology and Acquisition Program (TAP) etc. Even though in diaspora, Prof. Katampe has always been interested in contributing his experiences and expertise in various aspects of nation building, working with the following federal government establishments in various capacities:

Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON)

Consultant-standardizations of SON laboratories and technologies for identification of substandard products

Ecological Fund Office (EFO): SA to Perm. Sec

Assessment and development of Pollution Remediation strategies

Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund)

Vice Chair of Adhoc Committee for Deepening R&D in Nigeria's Tertiary Education Institutions

Deputy Coordinator, Environment and Bioresource Thematic Group, TETFund R&D Standing Committee (RSDC).

National Research Fund (NRF) Screening and Monitoring Committee

Lead Facilitator: Proposal Grant Writing Workshops.

Member, Ministerial Committee on Research Innovation and Commercialization (RIC)

Member, Ministerial Committee on National Policy for Research to Commercialization (R2C)

National Development Investment: Promoter/ Pro-Chancellor of



Jesus Manuel Ochoa-Rivero obtained his Master Degree at Universidad Autonoma de Chihuahua in 2013. He participated in 2012 in student internship at University of South Australia-SA Water on project entitled “Hydraulic Conductivity and Vegetation Characteristics of Different Biofilter Designs for Water Harvesting and Reuse”. Currently, He is working at Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales, Agrícolas y Pecuarias (INIFAP-Mexico) as Water Management Researcher also; He is a Lecturer, Soil Pollution and Water Sciences undergraduate class at College of Animal

Science and Ecology, Universidad Autonoma de Chihuahua. MSc. Ochoa-Rivero’s current research is mainly in Water Resources Management, Water Quality, Environmental Management, Soil Science, and Geochemical Transport and Cycling.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

1st place of the Natural Resources Master Degree from the College of Animal Science and Ecology, Universidad Autonoma de Chihuahua, 2013

Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACyT) scholarship for Quality Postgraduates National Program, 2011-2013

Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACyT) scholarship for internship program in University of South Australia, 2012

Outstanding Student Award of the Ecological Engineering Program, 2008-2010

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Environmental & Health Sciences Consortium (ESHC)

International Medical Geology Association Mexican Chapter

International Water Association-Mexican Chapter

International Network for the Sustainability of Drylands

Ecological Engineering College of Chihuahua/Colegio de Ingenieros en Ecología de

Chihuahua Mexican Association of Karst Studies/Asociación Mexicana de Estudios sobre el KARST



Hon. Gaza Jonathan Gbafwi *fnmgs* is a Nigerian politician representing the [Keffi/Karu/Kokona](#) Federal Constituency in [Nasarawa State](#). He is currently serving his third term in the House of Representatives under the [Social Democratic Party](#) (SDP) and House Committee Chairman on Solid Minerals



Dr. Nan Lin Assistant, Assistant Professor at Tsinghua University, China. She specializes in exposure science and environmental chemical analysis, particularly in the assessment of emerging contaminant exposure and health risks.



Theophilus Clavell Davies received his B.Sc. (Geology and Chemistry) at the University of Sierra Leone before moving over to the University of Wales, Great Britain, where he obtained his M.Sc. (Geochemistry) and completed his Ph.D. (Applied Geochemistry) degrees. He is a Research Professor (Environmental and Medical Geology), a Chartered Geologist, and Environmental Consultant. Formerly joint Council Member and Trustee of the Geological Society of London (1996 - 2000), he is presently Regional

Councillor for Africa of the Association of Applied Geochemists (AAG), former member of the Supervisory Board of the International Medical Geology Association (IMGA), Member of the Scientific Committee of the UNESCO International Centre for Global-Scale Geochemistry (ICGG) and Former Member of the IUGS Commission on Geosciences for Environmental Management (GEM). Davies' geoscientific activities are as disparate as they are profound, but his abiding interest centres around the role of geoenvironmental variables as causal co-factors in the aetiology of some obscure diseases (of unknown aetiology), nutrition and food security in southern Africa, as well as the health impacts of emissions from mining and related industrial processes. He has taught and carried out research, community engagement and consultancy in Germany, Great Britain, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Davies' consultancy for the National Bank of Kenya in 1993 led to the discovery of huge gemstone deposits in the Tsavo National Park in southern Kenya, and the commissioning of a mine. Davies has published over 200 papers (peer-reviewed manuscripts, edited books and book chapters, abstracts, conference papers and reports) in course of these activities, some of which appear in the most reputable international geoscience journals. Davies is Associate Editor, Guest Editor or Reviewer for several high impact international (DHET) journals. He has singly or jointly edited six Special Issues of these journals and is the author or co-author of chapters in the inaugural books: "Essentials of Medical Geology - Impacts of the Natural Environment on Public Health" (2005) and "Medical Geology - A Regional Synthesis" (2010) and "Medical Geology of Africa: A Research Primer" (2024). He has successfully supervised a dozen doctoral students and scores of Masters students to their theses completion and graduation. Davies currently holds the status of "Experienced Researcher" according to the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa 'Rating System'. Major awards include two from the prestigious Alexander von Humboldt Foundation of Germany (1986; 1988) and another from the NMGS/Shell Petroleum Ltd. (2014) in recognition of "his persistent and consistent excellent research on the environmental geology of the African continent"



Nadene Joy is a highly decorated professional geoscientist (P. Geo.), international executive leader, and corporate strategist with over 25 years of deep-rooted expertise spanning global resource exploration, public service governance, and the preventative health sector. A recipient of the prestigious Government of Saskatchewan Premier's Award of Excellence in the Public Service, Nadene has a proven track record of driving institutional innovation and high-level cross-sector collaboration. She serves as a Psychological Health and Safety Advisor with the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) and is a Certified Neuro-Linguistic Programming

(NLP) Practitioner, bringing a unique, holistic paradigm to institutional wellness frameworks. As the former CEO of a global consulting firm and the Chair and Founder of the global Lead 2 Impact Summit, she has spent decades advising executive boards, managing multi-tiered corporate structures, and spearheading high-impact public policy campaigns. Her international leadership and advocacy work have been recognized on the world stage, earning her the Sustainability and Growth Summit Award of Excellence and the Social Impact Award in Dubai. Nadene is the Past President of the Saskatchewan Geological Society and the co-founder of Working Wellness, a premier consultancy specializing in proactive, corporate environmental and mental wellness frameworks. Over the course of her distinguished quarter-century career, she has seamlessly merged earth science data matrices with systemic public health strategies, positioning her as the premier national voice to lead the integration of geogenic risk assessments into modern environmental medicine and Canadian healthcare infrastructure.



Nanpet Chuktu is a seasoned water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and international development professional with more than two decades of experience leading complex programmes, shaping sector policy, and strengthening institutions across Nigeria. He currently serves as Head of Programmes at WaterAid Nigeria, where he provides strategic leadership for programme delivery, resource mobilisation, partnership development, and localisation, ensuring that evidence-driven approaches translate into sustainable impact for

underserved communities. Throughout his career, Nanpet has designed and managed multi-million-dollar donor-funded programmes that have expanded access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene while strengthening government systems and community ownership. He played a pivotal role in delivering Nigeria's first Open Defecation Free Local Government Area under the Global Sanitation Fund programme, an important milestone in the country's sanitation journey. Before joining WaterAid, Nanpet held senior technical and leadership positions with United Purpose, UNICEF, and the Sanitation Learning Hub at the University of Sussex, where he contributed to participatory learning, knowledge generation, capacity strengthening, and the application of evidence to improve WASH policy and practice. A trained hydrogeologist, Nanpet holds a Master of Science degree in Hydrogeology and a Diploma in Integrated Water Resources Management from the Galilee International Management Institute, Israel. His expertise spans programme strategy, systems strengthening, climate-resilient WASH, sanitation and hygiene behaviour change, groundwater resources, and institutional capacity development. Committed to achieving universal access to water, sanitation, and hygiene, Nanpet is recognised for fostering collaboration among government institutions, development partners, civil society organisations, and the private sector. His work continues to advance innovative, inclusive, and sustainable solutions that improve public health, strengthen resilience, and support long-term development outcomes across Nigeria.

IMGA NIGERIA COUNCIL MEMBERS

1. Dr. Temitope Laniyan (Chairperson)
2. Dr. Jerry O. Olajide Olukayode (Co- Chair Geosciences)
3. Dr. Rafiu O. Shelle (Co-Chair Medical Sciences)
4. Mrs. Joymavis N. Ojeh (General Secretary)
5. Mrs. Titilayo M. Amodu (Treasurer)
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15. Dr. Oskpolor .M. Omorogieva (Secretary, General Assembly)
16. Prof. K'tso Nghargbu (Member, General Assembly)
17. Prof. Abiodun.M. Odukoya (Member, General Assembly)

SUNDAY 26th JULY 2026

17:00: ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION

18:00 – 19:00: ICE BREAKER

MONDAY 27th JULY 2026

08:00 – 10:00

REGISTRATION

PLENARY 1: CHAIRMAN – Prof K. Nghargbu / Prof Smart Obiora

10:00 – 10:30

1. KEYNOTE SPEAKER – PROFESSOR JOSE A. CENTENO

TOPIC: *Exploring the Intersection of the Natural Environment and Human Health – the Emergent Discipline of Medical Geology*

10:30 – 11:00

2. PROFESSOR ROBERT B. FINKELMAN

Topic: *How Natural Environment Gets Away with Murder*

11:00 -11:30

COFFEE BREAK

11:30 – 12:00

3. HON. GBEFWI GAZA JONATHAN (*Chairman House of Representatives Committee on Solid Minerals*)

Topic: *Legislative Contribution to Mine Safety and Environmental Health in Nigeria*

TECHNICAL SESSION 1

	ROOM 1: GEOMEDICAL DISEASES	ROOM 2: GEO-ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS AND MINERAL WATERS
	CHAIRMAN: Prof U. A. Lar PROF Mary Odukoya	CHAIRMAN: Prof E. C. Ashano PROF Temitope Olaniyan
12:00 – 12:15	Ecological and Non-Carcinogenic Health Risk of Nitrate Contamination in the Groundwater of Kumba, Cameroon Nganje et al	Geogenic Fluoride Contamination and the Occurrence of Dental and Skeletal Fluorosis: An Integrated Geospatial, Hydrogeochemical, and Machine Learning Approach M.A. Mohammed
12:15 – 12:30	Health Risk Characterisation of Pharmaceutical and Pesticide Residues as Emerging Contaminants in Gubi Dam Water Tributaries and Juxtaposed Groundwater Mohammed et al	The Impact of Limestone Quarrying on Soil Quality and the Associated Human Health Implications G.U. Sikakwe and I.M. Sanusi
12:30 – 12:45	Assessment of Air and Environmental Pollution Associated with Quarry Activities in Mpape Area, Abuja, Nigeria	Modelling the Transport of Radionuclides in Groundwater System Around Active and Inactive Mines at Dange-Shuni L.G.A, Sokoto

	N.A. Ebenyi <i>(Poster Presentation)</i>	Aliyu et al
12:45 – 13:00	Geogenic Fluoride Contamination of Groundwater in Zango, Northwestern Nigeria: Implications for Public Health and community Resilience Aminu Tukur	Hydrogeological Vulnerability of Quaternary Aquifers to Effluent Infiltration from Non-Earthen Fishponds in the Niger Delta Ovwamuedo et al
13:00 – 13:15	Mining-Driven Water Contamination and WASH Collapse in a Conflict-Affected Artisanal Gold Rush: Medical Geology Evidence from the Lomera/Luhihi Site, Lake Kivu Basin, DR Congo Grace Bwemere Ciribuka and Joseph Laisi Mulamba	Groundwater Quality and Heavy Metal Contamination in Nguru LGA, Chad Basin, Nigeria: A Medical Geology Assessment of Drinking Water Safety Isa et al
13:15 – 13:30	Assessment of the Relationship Between Silica Dust Concentration and the Prevalence of Silicosis Among Artisanal Miners in Azara Communities of Awe Local Government Area of Nasarawa State, Nigeria Mercury, Awayoh Ashigabu and Basil Bawa <i>(Poster Presentation)</i>	Application and Health Implication of Agrochemicals on Soil and Water by FCT Fadama Project Crop Farmers L.S. Olabode and A.N. Amadi

13:30 – 14:00
LAUNCH BREAK

14:00 – 14:30

4. DR. ALEXYS BOIM

Topic: *Bridging Environmental Geochemistry and Public Health: How Bioaccessibility Shapes Human Health and Risk Assessment*

TECHNICAL SESSION 2

	ROOM 1: GEOMEDICAL DISEASES CHAIRMAN: Prof B. S. Jatau PROF S. E. Obrike	ROOM 2: GEO-ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS AND MINERAL WATERS CHAIRMAN: Prof Orish Ebere Orisakwe PROF P. N. Nnabo
14:30 -14:45	Application of Diatomite-Based Sorbents for Fluoride Removal from Drinking Water Mary Yakubu Ede, Bajda Tomasz	The Beneficial Application of Geological Materials and Processes in Human Health: A Medical Geology Perspective from Nasarawa State, North-Central Nigeria. D.O. Arabi
14:45 -15:00	Aeromagnetic Investigation of the Jos Plateau Volcanic Province, North-Central Nigeria: Implication on Evaluating the Origin, Distribution and Medical Potentials of Natural Occurring Zeolites M.S.A. Mohammed	Distribution of Strontium in the Groundwaters of Parts of Central Plateau, North Central Nigeria Dibal et al
15:00 -15:15	Geochemical Evaluation of Roadside Soils Along Iwo-road, Olode Highway and Lagos–Ibadan Expressway, Ibadan Metropolis, Southwestern Nigeria Qasim et al	Spatial Distribution of Polish Health Resorts Utilizing Natural Medicinal Waters and their Importance for Rehabilitation Dabrowska et al <i>(Poster Presentation)</i>
15:15 -15:30	Building Resilience: Reducing Vulnerabilities, Cubing Open Defecation and Finding What Works for the Urban Poor in Warmer-Drier Climes of Nigeria. Ibezue, V.C. <i>(Poster Presentation)</i>	Natural Mineral Brines and Musculoskeletal Health: The Role of Ciechocinek Balneotherapy in Knee Osteoarthritis Management Placek et al <i>(Poster Presentation)</i>
15:30 -15:45	Heavy Metal Contamination and Health Risks from Acid Mine Drainage in Abuja Mining Sites Onyema Ben-Christeve Ehinomhen	Beyond Resource Estimation: Applying Geostatistical and Spatial Modelling Techniques to Environmental and Public Health Challenges Idowu Abiodun Adegoke

15:45 -16:00	Evaluation of the Impact of Municipal Solid Waste Dumpsites on the Concentrations of Rare Earth Elements (REE) in soils and groundwater around these Dumpsites in parts of Jos-Bukuru and environs, North Central Nigeria. Nchang et al	Evaluation of Groundwater Characteristics of Parts of Bwari Area, North Central Nigeria Garda et al
16:00 -17:00 Annual General Meeting		

TUESDAY 28th JULY 2026		
08:30 – 10:00		
REGISTRATION		
10:00 – 12:00		
OPENING CEREMONY		
PLENARY 3 CHAIRMAN – PROF Georges Ekosse Ekosse / Prof A. N. Amadi		
12:30 - 13:00		
7. DR JESUS M. OCHOA		
13:00 – 13:30		
8. PROFESSOR IBRAHIM KATAMPE		
Topic: <i>Innovative Translational Research: An Imperative for Building Resilient Community Systems in Resource-Constrained Environments</i>		
13:30 – 14:00 LAUNCH BREAK		
TECHNICAL SESSION 3		
	ROOM 1: GEOMEDICAL DISEASES CHAIRMAN: Prof T. C. Davies Prof Michael Gbadebo	ROOM 2: GEO-ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS AND MINERAL WATERS CHAIRMAN: Prof N. G. Goki Prof R. I. Daspan

14:00 -14:15	Environmental Determinants of Neurodevelopment and Motor Function in Children: Implications for Physiotherapy Practice Anna Kaczorowska	Hydrogeochemical Evaluation of Groundwater Quality for Drinking and Irrigation in Three Prominent Towns of Ondo State Gbadebo et al
14:15 -14:30	Assessment of Microbial Contaminants and its Health Risk in Selected Types of Rice Purchased in Major Markets Within Ibadan Metropolis Babatunde Tomiloba Grace	Prospect of Thermal and Mineral Springs as Resources for Balneological Tourism in Nigeria Solomon et al <i>(Poster Presentation)</i>
14:30 -14:45	Geogenic and Occupational Lead Exposure and Associated Health Risks in Lead-Zinc Mining Sites in Nigeria: Examples from Niger, Plateau, Nasarawa, Taraba and Zamfara States A. Liman and U.A. Lar	Geology and Brine Occurrences in Parts of Ebonyi State, Southeastern Nigeria: A Review of Recent Issues P.N. Nnabo
14:45 -15:00	Land Cover Change and Soil Quality Implications for Environmental Health and Community Sustainability in Oluyole Local Government Area in Ibadan Southwestern Nigeria Arojojoye et al	Balneo-Economics: A proposed Scientific Theme for Balneological Research Nghargbu, R. and Nghargbu K
15:00 -15:15	Bacteriological Contamination and Profiling of Antimicrobial Resistance Genes in Selected Hand-dug Wells Around Gege Community, Ibadan South-West Local Government Area, Oyo State Makafan et al	Radiological Assessment of Geogenic Primordial Radionuclides in Aquifer Materials Underlying Redeemer's University, Southwestern Nigeria Ameh et al
15:15 -15:30	Microplastics in the Environment as Potential Carcinogens Usman et al	Assessment of potentially Harmful Elements (PHEs) in Farm Soils Near Abandoned Tin-Columbite Mine Sites, Jos, Barkin Ladi, North-Central Nigeria Ridwan et al
15:30 -15:45	The Silent Burden of Fluorosis in Langtang North, Plateau State, Nigeria. Masin et al	Levels and Forms of Potentially Harmful Elements in Mine Pond Waters of the Jos, Bukuru and Barkin Ladi Area Northcentral Nigeria

		Ridwan et al
15:45 -16:00	Identifying Environmental Triggers for Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) in Bade LGA and Environs, Northeastern Nigeria E.H. Bwakat	Source (s) of Fluoride in Groundwater of Kaltungo and Environs, Northeastern Nigeria S. Sonia
16:00 -16:15	Gender Based Risk in Artisanal Mining in Africa: The Medical Geology Perspective Chima et al	Application and Health Implication of Agrochemicals on Soil and Water by FCT Fadama Project Crop Farmers L.S. Olabode
16:15 -16:30	Optimisation of Hydrocarbon Biodegradation by Providencia Specie Using Response Surface Methodology Zainab et al	Geological Investigation and Medical Suitability Assessment of Natural Zeolites in the Mada Younger Granite Complex, North-Central Nigeria. David et al <i>(Poster Presentation)</i>
16:15 -16:30	Arsenic Above WHO Guidelines, Health Risk Near Thresholds: Geogenic Mobilisation and Risk Dissociation in Shallow Urban Aquifers of Southwestern Nigeria Olukayode et al	Evaluation of Sediment and Surface Water Quality Within Onitsha and Environs, Anambra Basin, Southeastern Nigeria: An Index Analysis Approach Atteh et al
16:30 -16:45	Establishing Medical Geology Foundations: A Multi-disciplinary Framework for Bridging Environmental Geochemical Assessment and Public Health Risk Communication in Nigeria Egbueri et al	Hydrogeological framework and integrated groundwater Quality assessment in Okerenkoko Western Niger Delta: Implications for Sustainable Groundwater Management and Public Health Omorojieva et al

WEDNESDAY 29th JULY 2026

REGISTRATION

PLENARY 4 CHAIRMAN – Prof Aliyu Jibril / Dr. A. A. Kana

08:00 – 08:30

9. PROFESSOR GEORGES EKOSSE EKOSSE

Topic: *Geophagy: The Nutritional Supplement Paradigm and Possible Bioavailability*

08:30 – 09:00

10. PROFESSOR BENEAH ODHIAMBO

Topic: *The Nexus Between Geobotany and Human Health*

09:30 – 10:00

11. PROF. NAN LIN PHD

Topic: *Emerging Contaminant 1, 4-Dioxane: Emission Sources, Global Contamination and Regulatory Disparities*

10:00 – 10:30

12. PROF. EMMANUEL ARHIN

Topic: *Is the Soil Endangering Our Health? Investigating the Origins of Ghana's Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) Crisis Through a Source-Oriented Rather Than Symptom-Oriented Approach*

10:30 – 11:00

COFFEE BREAK

TECHNICAL SESSION 4

	ROOM 1: GEOMEDICAL DISEASES CHAIRMAN: Prof A. S. Olatunji <i>Prof H. U. Dibal</i>	ROOM 2: GEO-ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS AND MINERAL WATERS
11:00 – 11:15	Bridging Science and Tradition: How Climate Change and Geomedical Diseases Reduce Nutrient Absorption from Geophagy, Centred on Urban Women in Southeastern Nigeria Joe-Ikechebelu et al	Baseline Assessment of Nanoparticles and Gaseous Air Pollution in Karu, Nasarawa State, Nigeria A.M. Jaafar <i>(Poster Presentation)</i>
11:15 - 11:30	The Role of Medical Geology in Nigeria's Economic Development and Public Health: Harnessing Geosciences for a Healthier and Prosperous Nation P.D. Dalok and A. Muhammad	Health, Social Security and Environmental Implication of Rare Earth Element Exploration in the Northern States of Nigeria; Cause for Concern R.O.D. Shelle
11:30 - 11:45	Geoenvironmental and Health Dynamics of Potentially Toxic Elements (PTEs) in Hydrocarbon-Contaminated Soil and Water in	An Integrated Source-to-Receptor Health Risk Model for Artisanal Quarrying in North-Central Nigeria

	Bayelsa State, Nigeria: A Review C.C. Ikejiani	Daspan et al
11:45 - 12:00	Integrated Investigation of Lagos Waste Dumpsites to assess Risks to Groundwater Sustainability and Public Health Amodu and Olatunji	Assessment of Mercury Exposure and Human Health Risks in Artisanal Gold Mining Communities of Uke, Nasarawa State, Nigeria Davies et al
12:00 -12:15	Stove resolved Household PM2.5 Reconstruction Reveals Divergent Exposure Trajectories Across 54 African Countries from 1990 to 2023 Wang et al	Mercury Tailings Management: A Panacea for Risk Exposure at Uke Gold Processing Site, Nasarawa State, Nigeria Davies et al
12:15 -13:15	TOUR OF KEFFI	
13:15 -14:00	TOUR OF MINTECH-UNIPOD	

WEDNESDAY 29th JULY 2026

14:00 – 14:30

LAUNCH BREAK

PLENARY 4 CHAIRMAN - *Dr. Enas Ahmed / Prof I. Y. Tanko*

14:30 - 15:00

13: MR NANPET CHUKTU

Topic: *Medical Geology, Hydrogeology, WASH, and Public Health in Nigeria: Integrating Earth Sciences for Safe Water, Sanitation and Healthy Communities*

15:00 – 15:30

14: PROFESSOR PROSUN BHATTACHARYA

Topic: *From Rocks to Digital Resilience: Digital Transition in Medical Geology for Safe Groundwater, Public Health and Sustainable Communities in Africa*

15:30 – 16:00

15: Nadene Joy

Topic: *The Architecture of preventive health: Leveraging Geoscience Data to Drive Naturapathic Advocacy and Mitigation Against Environmental Radon Risk*

TECHNICAL SESSION 5

	ROOM 1: GEOMEDICAL DISEASES CHAIRMAN: T.N. Prof Nganje Asso. Professor Mohammed Ahmed	ROOM 2: GEO-ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS AND MINERAL WATERS
16:00 – 16:15	Combatting Potential Health Impacts of Rare Earth Elements Production and Disposal in Nasarawa State, Nigeria JACMEDGEO Research Working Group	From Rock to Respiratory System: A Pathway Analysis of Radiological and Toxicological Risks in Manual Stone Quarrying, North-Central Nigeria Daspan et al
16:15 -16:30	The Role of Geoenvironmental Variables in Understanding Causal Co-Factors of Diseases of Unknown Aetiology in Africa JACMEDGEO Research Working Group	Geogenic Arsenic Mobilisation and Risk Dissociation in Shallow Urban Aquifers of Southwestern Nigeria: Beyond WHO Guideline Compliance Olukayode et al
16:30 -16:45	Combating Neonatal, Maternal and Child Deaths from Ionising Radiation Exposure Around Gold and Uranium Mines in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Medical Geology Perspective JACMEDGEO Working Group	Ecological Risk Assessment of Potentially Toxic Elements in Surface Sediment Cores from Lagos Coastal Waters, Southwestern Nigeria S.R. Olaniyi and S.O. Popoola
16:45 -17:00	Geophagy (Deliberate Geogenic Material Consumption) in the Greater Keffi Municipality (GKM): A Socio-Economic, Geochemical and Microbiological Study JACMEDGEO Research Working Group	Geoenvironmental and Health Dynamics of Potentially Toxic Elements in Hydrocarbon-Contaminated Soil and Water in Bayelsa State, Nigeria: A Comprehensive Review Ikejiani et al

THURSDAY 30th JULY 2026

WORKSHOP SESSION

09:00 – 16:00

09:00 – 11:00

WORKSHOP 1

GIS MAPPING TECHNIQUES FOR GEO-MEDICAL DISEASES

Dr. Otusanya Olayinka

Nigeria

11:00 – 14:00

WORKSHOP 2

EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH MEDICAL GEOLOGY AND GEOTOURISM FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN AFRICA

Dr. Enas Ahmed

Egypt

14:00 – 16:00

WORKSHOP 3

ISSUES OF GEOMEDICAL CONCERN IN AFRICA

Prof. T.C Davies

Sierra Leone

GALANIGHT / RECOGNITION NIGHT

19:00 – 21:00

Friday 31ST JULY

08:00 – 15:00

FIELDWORK / EXCURSION

To Awe Thermo-Mineral Medicinal Spring

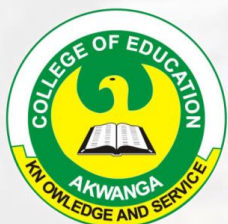
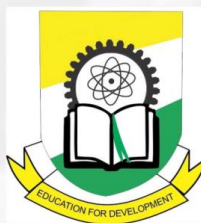
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Advocacy Government House Lafia

Saturday 1st July – Departure



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