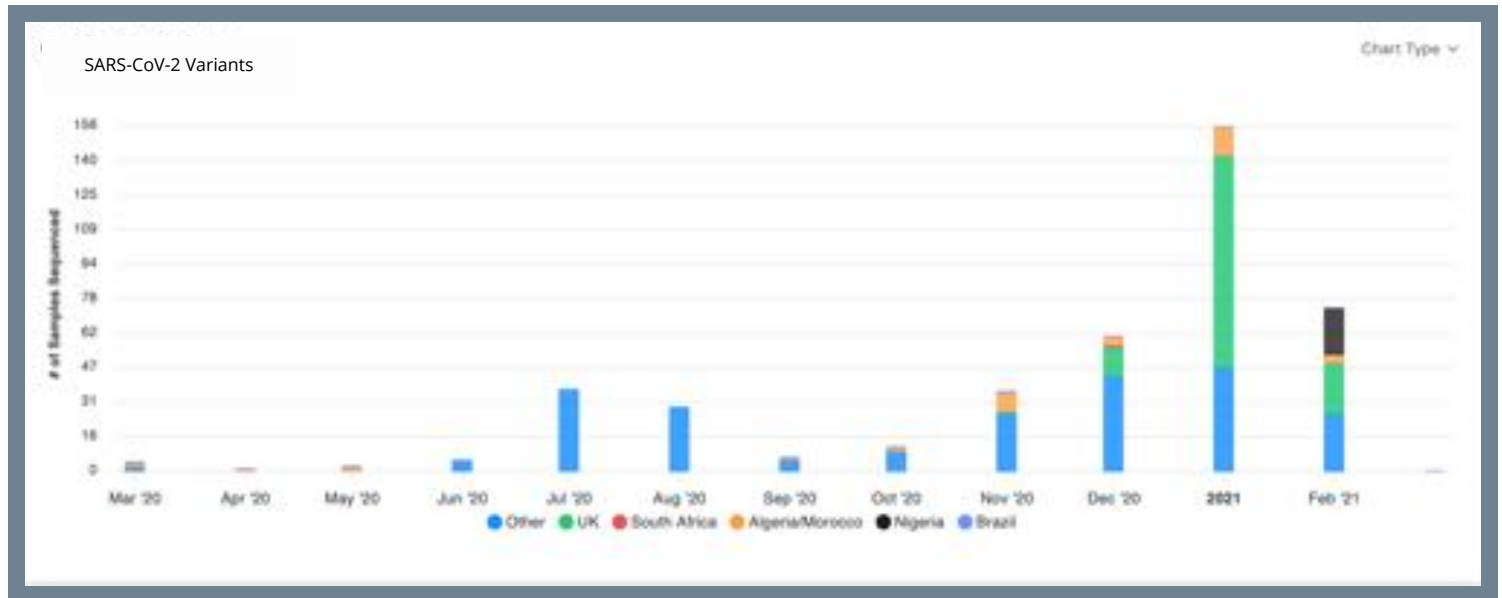


# THE YEMAACHI BULLETIN

A Quarterly Newsletter from Yemaachi Biotechnology



## FROM INSIGHTS TO ACTION: SHARING IS CARING

As part of Yemaachi's mission to advance the state of scientific research in Africa, we are actively working to create and share actionable knowledge. In line with this goal, Yemaachi has launched *Insights*, a public, open-source interactive platform that brings the scientific knowledge from our work to the world in simple terms. (<https://insights.yemaachi.com>)

Last year, Yemaachi seized the opportunity to leverage its expertise in next generation sequencing, bioinformatics and immunology to contribute to the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. In collaboration with the West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP), Yemaachi secured a grant from Google and other partners to identify, track and share real-time information on the evolution of the SARS-CoV-2 virus across Ghana. This joint project, named SeqCOM-GH (Sequencing for COVID Mitigation in Ghana) is the first to be hosted on Yemaachi's *Insights* platform.

The SeqCOM-GH dashboard provides easy to read visualizations which tell the story of the variants of SARS-CoV-2 circulating in Ghana, where they are most prevalent, and when they first surfaced in the country. (Contd on Page 2)

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## CAPE COAST TEACHING HOSPITAL PEDIATRICS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Yemaachi spread some holiday cheer last December by gifting customized, fun- and activity-filled packages to inpatient children at the Cape Coast Teaching Hospital Pediatric Department's annual Christmas party. Dr. Ella Amoako, who set up the hospital's pediatric oncology unit, represented Yemaachi and presented the gifts. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 protocols, the rest of the team could not join in the party fun.

This activity marked the launch of "Yemaachi Cares", a community service initiative that is part of our mission to engage the local community to promote cancer awareness.



*A patient and her mother, at the CCTH Peds Dept Christmas Party*



*Dr. Ella Amoako, right, presents gift bag to patient's mother*



*The packages contained books, toys, snacks, stationery and party favors, customized for the different age groups of the 40 recipients*

## FROM INSIGHTS TO ACTION (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Carefully crafted, the information presented scratches the itch of those with scientific expertise while remaining accessible to the general public.

The journey to the SeqCOM-GH dashboard epitomizes the nature of collaborations we at Yemaachi see as important to our mission to share knowledge. Working closely with academia, government and industry healthcare players, we coordinated the collection and sequencing of COVID-19 samples from six key regions in the country. The COVID-19 pandemic provided an opportunity to build and prove these types of collaborations are possible and as we ramp up

our work with cancer in Ghana and across the continent, these types of partnerships will be the bedrock of our process of generating and sharing critical information.

Our data science and technology teams will continue to build and evolve Insights, adding useful features that we hope will demystify and provide information people can use to improve their health especially when it comes to our core research on cancer genomics.

This is the beginning. We strongly believe an open sharing eco-system will drive sustainable research in Africa and we hope you join us.



# YEMAACHI AND H3D ENTER COLLABORATION AGREEMENT



Source: [www.h3d.uct.za](http://www.h3d.uct.za)

Earlier this year, Yemaachi's CEO had the honor of being introduced to Professor Kelly Chibale, a renowned organic chemist and founder of Africa's first integrated drug discovery and development center (H3D) at the University of Cape Town, South Africa.

In a subsequent informational meeting, scientists from both companies recognized the need for a mutually beneficial collaboration, to explore African genetic diversity to optimize existing treatments and identify new therapies for African patient populations.

The first joint endeavor is the Africa Liver Project. This project will leverage the considerable pharmacology expertise at H3D and the genomics and computational biology capacity at Yemaachi to understand how drug metabolism varies across the continent, with the aim to better optimize treatment regimen for African populations. Variations in drug metabolism are known to contribute significantly towards adverse drug reactions (ADRs). Africa carries a high burden of ADRs owing partly to the use of poorly-optimized drugs and high levels of genetic diversity. Because of the limited representation of Africans in clinical trials worldwide (2% of clinical trial participants are people of African descent), very little is known about how drugs behave among African populations.

Studies such as the Africa Liver Project will help identify common genetic variants in relation to ADRs and enable better drug dosing to reduce toxicity and the risk of ADRs as well as improve the efficacy of drugs. Through this partnership, Yemaachi will gain significant exposure including participating in H3D's dialogue with the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA) to showcase work in Africa. In turn, H3D will benefit from Yemaachi's expertise in immunology, genomics, human genetics and computational biology.

Yemaachi looks forward to a long and productive collaboration with H3D - working together to establish sustainable health research in Africa and improve the lives of African people.

## MEET YEMAACHI'S NEWEST TEAM MEMBERS...



Abeba Birhane  
ETHICS ADVISOR



Apetsi Ampiah  
FULL STACK DEVELOPER



Emmanuel Agbeli  
DATA SCIENTIST

Visit [www.yemaachi.com/our-team](http://www.yemaachi.com/our-team) to learn more about their background and interests

## ALSO IN THE LAST QUARTER...

### FIRST PUBLICATION

Yemaachi is proud to be already published, less than a year after incorporation. The editorial, "Unseen and unheard: African children with cancer are consistently excluded from clinical trials" was authored by Dr. Emmanuella Amoako, Desmond Jumbam and Dr. Yaw Bediako, and published in BMJ Global Health this past January. It can be accessed at <http://gh.bmj.com/>

### CEO SPEAKS AT PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ON GHANA'S COVID VACCINE ROLL OUT PLAN

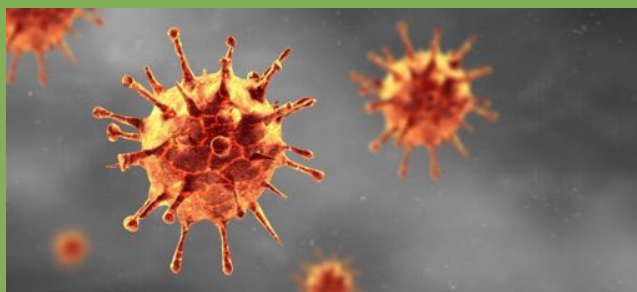


The government of Ghana last February invited Dr. Yaw Bediako to speak to the nation, as an independent Immunology expert, about the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines approved for rollout in the country. He joined the nation's public health leaders to answer questions from guests and media representatives in attendance. The event was broadcast live on national television.

### ADAE FESTIVAL COVID-19 PRESENTATION

Dr. Yaw Bediako returned to Akropong, the town he grew up in, to speak about COVID-19 at Adae, a yearly festival of remembrance. Speaking in Akuapem-Twi, the dialect of the Akropong people, he discussed the modes of transmission, symptoms and current treatments of the disease with the festival's attendees, which comprised of the chiefs and elders of Akropong and its neighboring towns as well a few invited guests. He also urged them to follow the recommended protocols to avoid getting infected.

## YEMAACHI IN THE NEWS



### Ghana records 2 new Covid-19 variants; experts call for immediate action

A cancer research company, Yemaachi Biotech has identified two new variants of the Covid-19 virus which they say is of much concern.

[MyJoyOnline.com](http://MyJoyOnline.com) / Mar 18



### UK aid cuts scupper early-career Africa grants - Research Professional News

Demise of FLAIR fellowship round 'a necessary reality check', says unfunded winner

[researchprofessionalnews.com](http://researchprofessionalnews.com)

Bediako believes the news from FLAIR is disappointing but "a necessary reality check" highlighting fundamental problems in African research funding. "The current system of funding for global health research does not empower African science. It breeds a dependency," he says.

"Until African scientists own their own research environment, such problems will persist," adds Bediako, who recently founded a Ghana-based cancer research start-up, Yemaachi, which courts local and international private investors for funding.

