BANDA A. KHALIFA, MD, PhD, MPH, MBA

Physician · Epidemiologist · Global Health Strategist
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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Physician and epidemiologist with 10+ years of experience in clinical care, emergency operations, infectious-disease surveillance, vaccine policy, and institutional advisory work. Advises WHO Africa on emergency preparedness, co-leads multi-country surveillance work with Africa CDC and the World Bank, and previously supported Ghana's national COVID-19 vaccine deployment. Johns Hopkins training includes epidemiology, pharmacoepidemiology and drug safety, clinical trials, evidence synthesis, vaccine science, and health management.

AREAS OF FOCUS

Global health security · Outbreak preparedness and response · Infectious disease surveillance · Vaccine policy and delivery · Real-world evidence · Regulatory science · Clinical development · Pharmacovigilance & Safety · Benefit-risk judgment · Safety evidence · Health systems strengthening · Evidence synthesis · Implementation strategy · Program evaluation · Technical advisory and briefing · Scientific communication · Clinical and public health leadership

EDUCATION

PhD, Epidemiology
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD 2026
- Certificates: Vaccine Science and Policy; Clinical Trials and Evidence Synthesis.
- NIH T32 Research Training Grant trainee (RIP-TIDE). Dr. Leon Gordis Teaching Assistantship Award.

Master of Public Health (MPH), Epidemiology and Biostatistics
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD May 2020
- Certificate: Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety. Sommer Scholar.

Master of Business Administration (MBA), Health Technology, Leadership and Innovation
Johns Hopkins Carey Business School, Baltimore, MD May 2020
- Beta Gamma Sigma, international business honor society.

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB, MD-equivalent)
University of Ghana School of Medicine and Dentistry, Accra, Ghana Feb 2012
- Alumni Impact Award, University of Ghana School of Medicine and Dentistry.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Co-Investigator, Epidemiology and Surveillance
Africa CDC and World Bank Mpox Epidemiology Study, Kinshasa, DRC Jan 2024 – Present
- Co-lead development of study protocols, informed-consent frameworks, data-collection systems, and ethical processes for a multi-country mpox surveillance study.
- Provide scientific and technical oversight across field sites, ensuring methodological rigor, data integrity, ethical compliance, and operational consistency.
- Coordinate with laboratory, clinical, public health, and data-science partners to integrate surveillance data, laboratory sequencing, and diagnostic tools into outbreak preparedness workflows.
- Translate interim findings into technical updates and stakeholder-facing recommendations to support preparedness and policy action across Member States.

Technical Advisory Group Member, Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR-TAG)
World Health Organization, African Region (Remote / Africa Region) Jun 2023 – Present

- Advise on infectious disease surveillance, vaccine strategy, emergency preparedness, risk communication, and response coordination for 47 African Member States.
- Translate epidemiological evidence into actionable recommendations for ministries of health, WHO technical teams, and regional partners.
- Support alignment of regional emergency strategies with global health security objectives, strengthening preparedness, operational readiness, and cross-border coordination.
- Develop and review high-level briefs, reports, and presentations for technical and non-technical audiences.

Graduate Researcher
Gates Foundation-funded project at Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, MD Jan 2024 – Sep 2024

- Led real-world burden-of-disease analysis for Hepatitis A virus mortality in Bangladesh to inform vaccine prioritization and program decisions in LMIC settings.
- Designed a multi-criteria framework for Hepatitis E virus surveillance site selection, strengthening disease monitoring infrastructure and system-readiness assessment.
- Synthesized epidemiologic, programmatic, and health systems evidence into technical briefs, manuscripts, and policy-oriented recommendations for global partners.
- Collaborated with interdisciplinary research and policy partners to communicate quantitative findings to public health agencies and funders.

Consultant, Vaccine Policy and Regulatory Analyst
Asian Development Bank & IVAC, Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, MD Sep 2022 – Mar 2023

- Assessed COVID-19 vaccine implementation, regulatory, access, and delivery barriers across multiple Asian developing member countries.
- Synthesized epidemiological, health systems, and country case-study evidence to inform vaccine deployment strategy, regulatory alignment, and workforce optimization.
- Supported evidence-based analysis of ADB health investments, including vaccine-related program impact and implementation implications.
- Developed stakeholder-ready reports, evidence briefs, and slide materials translating complex technical findings into investment and policy recommendations.

Vaccine Delivery Advisor, Africa Vaccine Partnership
Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, Accra, Ghana Dec 2021 – Aug 2022

- Supported design and implementation of Ghana's National COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Strategy, using data-informed planning to improve vaccine coverage and reduce wastage.
- Built and coordinated partnerships with government agencies, NGOs, technical partners, and private-sector actors to accelerate equitable vaccine delivery.
- Authored policy briefs and analytical reports used by national immunization stakeholders, including work informing malaria vaccine implementation decisions.
- Translated real-world program data into executive-level presentations and implementation recommendations for senior stakeholders.

Manager, COVID-19 Response Program
Baltimore City Health Department, Baltimore, MD Aug 2020 – Apr 2021

- Directed a multidisciplinary team implementing citywide COVID-19 response operations, contact tracing, data tracking, public messaging, and targeted outreach.
- Applied epidemiological data, digital health platforms, and quality-improvement processes to strengthen response efficiency, accuracy, and equity.
- Coordinated across public health, clinical, community, and government stakeholders to support timely decision-making during an emergency response.
- Produced data-informed situation updates, dashboards, and operational materials for internal and external stakeholders.

Graduate Research Assistant, Health Policy and Management / Epidemiology
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD Nov 2018 – May 2020

- Analyzed NIH involvement in high-cost drug development and reviewed state Medicaid policies for spinal muscular atrophy therapies.

- Evaluated access, affordability, and coverage variation for high-spending drugs in state Medicaid programs.
- Conducted systematic reviews, infectious disease data abstraction, and policy analysis using REDCap and structured evidence synthesis methods.
- Co-authored peer-reviewed research on Medicaid coverage of genetic therapies for spinal muscular atrophy.

Graduate Intern, Costing Analyst
Jhpiego, Lesotho / Baltimore Jun 2019 – May 2020

- Created a five-year costing model for Lesotho's Ministry of Health to support the National HIV Prevention Implementation Plan.
- Analyzed cost drivers, sustainability considerations, and implementation inputs for HIV prevention programming.
- Engaged technical stakeholders to align financial planning with program feasibility and long-term sustainability.

Manager, Battalion Medical Center
Ghana Armed Forces Medical Services, Accra, Ghana Oct 2017 – Jun 2018

- Managed clinical and public health operations for a military medical facility, overseeing service delivery, infection control, maternal-child health, and immunization services.
- Developed evidence-based infection-control guidelines, strengthened clinical workflows, and supported reduction of healthcare-associated infection risk.
- Revamped family planning and reproductive health services, contributing to increased clinic attendance.
- Expanded child welfare clinic services to include immunization, strengthening facility-level routine immunization capacity.

Manager, UN Level 1 Hospital
United Nations Peacekeeping Mission (MINUSMA), Gao, Mali Sep 2016 – Oct 2017

- Led medical operations for a UN Level 1 hospital, providing care to 200+ personnel in a high-risk operational environment.
- Implemented infectious disease surveillance, Ebola preparedness, infection prevention, and emergency response protocols.
- Designed patient-flow processes and operational procedures to improve care delivery, readiness, and safety.
- Coordinated medical evacuation workflows with aeromedical partners and mission leadership.

Manager, UN Level 1 Hospital
United Nations Peacekeeping Mission (UNOCI), Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire Feb 2015 – Feb 2016

- Directed clinical operations and infectious disease surveillance for 300+ UN personnel during a period of heightened Ebola preparedness.
- Developed and executed Ebola virus disease standard operating procedures for infection prevention and surveillance.
- Coordinated patient evacuations and emergency medical operations with aeromedical teams, strengthening mission readiness.

Medical House Officer
Eastern Regional Hospital, Koforidua, Ghana Mar 2012 – May 2014

- Provided clinical care across core medical rotations and collaborated with multidisciplinary teams to improve patient outcomes.
- Supported initiatives to strengthen medication adherence among HIV and TB patients and participated in childhood vaccination campaigns.
- Worked with clinical teams on measures to reduce maternal mortality and improve service delivery in a regional hospital setting.

LEADERSHIP AND ADVISORY

- Editorial Board Member, Africa CDC Journal of Public Health in Africa (2024 – Present).
- Executive Advisory Board Member, The PATIENTS Program, University of Maryland (2024 – Present).
- Invited Panelist, Harvard Africa Health Conference (2025).

- President, Epidemiology Student Organization, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (2023-24).
- School-wide PhD Advisory Committee Representative, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (2023 – 2024).
- Vice President, OneHealth Student Group, Johns Hopkins University (2022).
- Founder and host, Global Health Uncensored Podcast; built an evidence-informed professional education platform with a substantial professional audience across LinkedIn and YouTube.
- Keynote speaker and co-presenter, COVID-19 and immigrant health forums, including the U.S. Coalition on African Immigrant Health and multicultural community partners.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Khalifa B, Folayan MO, Ndembi N. Solidarity for the mpox outbreak: a call for a unified global response. Journal of Public Health in Africa. 2024;15(1):784.
- Abbey EJ, Khalifa BAA, et al. Users of chronic prescription opioids decrease in the first 12 months following bariatric surgery. Obesity. 2025;33(1):33–40.
- Ballreich J, Ezebilo I, Khalifa BA, et al. Coverage of genetic therapies for spinal muscular atrophy across fee-for-service Medicaid programs. Journal of Managed Care & Specialty Pharmacy. 2022;28(1):39–47.
- Khalifa BA, Abbey EJ, et al. The Global Health Security Index is not predictive of vaccine rollout responses among OECD countries. International Journal of Infectious Diseases. 2021;113:7–11.
- Abbey EJ, Khalifa BAA, Oduwole MO, et al. The Global Health Security Index is not predictive of coronavirus pandemic responses among OECD countries. PLoS One. 2020;15(10):e0239398.
- Ayeh SK, Abbey EJ, Khalifa BAA, et al. Statins use and COVID-19 outcomes in hospitalized patients. PLoS One. 2021;16(9):e0256899.
- Osaghae I, Chido-Amajuoyi O, Khalifa BAA, Shete S. Barriers and determinants of consistent offering of HPV vaccination by healthcare facilities. Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics. 2023;19(2):2264596.
- Beres LK, Underwood A, Le Tourneau N, et al. Person-centred interventions to improve patient-provider relationships for HIV services in low- and middle-income countries. Journal of the International AIDS Society. 2024;27:e26258.

Full publication list: Google Scholar

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Career Impact Award, Johns Hopkins University (2025).
- NIH T32 Research Training Grant Recipient, Translating Infectious Disease Epidemiology (RIP-TIDE).
- Dr. and Mrs. Roscoe Moore Jr. Scholarship, Johns Hopkins University (2024).
- Robert Dyar Memorial Fund Scholarship, Johns Hopkins University (2023).
- Alumni Impact Award, University of Ghana School of Medicine and Dentistry, 60th Anniversary (2022).
- AIDS 2020 Scholarship, 23rd International AIDS Conference.
- Sommer Scholar, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
- Beta Gamma Sigma, Johns Hopkins Carey Business School.
- United Nations Peacekeeping Medals and Certificates of Recognition (Mali and Côte d’Ivoire).
- Chief of the Defense Staff Prize for Overall Best Commissioned Officer.

TECHNICAL, ANALYTICAL AND DIGITAL SKILLS

- Statistical and data tools: Stata, R, REDCap, Salesforce, Microsoft 365, structured evidence abstraction, data dashboards.
- Methods: epidemiologic study design, observational research, real-world evidence, burden-of-disease analysis, evidence synthesis, policy analysis, program evaluation, surveillance site selection, costing analysis.
- Scientific and executive communication: technical briefs, manuscripts, policy reports, executive presentations, data-to-decision translation, podcast and video scientific communication.
- AI and digital workflows: generative AI-assisted research workflows, prompt engineering, digital content repurposing, stakeholder education assets.