

Prof. Robert Gallo

In June 2012, Prof. Robert Gallo, who is known for his role in the discovery of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the infectious agent responsible for AIDS and is currently working on a vaccine visited the University of Nairobi during the Partnership for Advanced Clinical Education (PACE) HIV symposium at the College of Health Sciences. Prof. Gallo is the Director of the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland Baltimore.

He made a presentation on viruses and epidemics with special emphasis on HIV-AIDS. He also pointed out some lessons from the past and prospects for control. He said that technologically, the world was prepared to deal with HIV but was lacking in attitudes, awareness and availability of responsible and qualified basic medical virologists. However with time, this is changing. There has been increased awareness of global health needs, funding and emergence of many surveillance groups.

The symposium focused on the role of training and research in health service delivery and the lessons learnt from the HIV pandemic. Roles played by different establishments in the fields of HIV prevention, care and treatment, training, diagnostics and research whether through original research that informs national health policy or as implementing partners in service delivery within the health sector were highlighted.