UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

WELCOMING REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR,
PROF PETER M.F. MBITHI, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI,
DURING 50 YEARS CELEBRATION OF THE FORGARTY
CENTRE OF NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF MEDICINE
HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2018 AT 10.00 A.M.
AT MAYFAIR HOTEL, NAIROBI
Cabinet Secretary for Health

Director, Forgarty International Centre, Roger Glass

Ministry Officials present

Invited Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen
On behalf of the University of Nairobi Council, Senate and on my own behalf, I am pleased to be with you today at this celebration of 50 years collaboration with the Fogarty International Centre.

In pursuit of our Vision and Mission, we have focused on working with various stakeholders including global community to enhance the creation, application of knowledge for the benefit of humanity. In this regard, we place
great importance on collaborations with other world-renowned academic institutions, including the University of Washington.

These collaborations are aimed at fostering research, training, and consultancy as well as technology transfer that benefit students, staff, and faculty. For over 30 years, the University of Nairobi and the University of Washington have been actively engaged in scholarly endeavours that promote these aims.
The Research collaboration was established in 1992 as a joint effort of the University of Washington, the University of Nairobi, and Ministry of Health. The original research was on STIs.

By far the best contribution to our institution has been the mentored research training that has boosted the skills of faculty of the University of Nairobi. These researchers have then
strengthened research at the UoN and brought large research grants to the Institution.

The funding by Forgarty International centre to the collaborating institutions and now directly to UoN is well appreciated. The MEPI grants transformed the delivery of medical education in our institution and opened the eyes of County Hospitals to the opportunity of being referral and teaching centres. The ongoing P-Hert led by Prof
Wamalwa is training junior faculty and therefore strengthening the future of our institution.

We acknowledge that the received in excess of 92 million US dollars as direct research and program funding since 2002. This is a direct demonstration of the successes of the mentored research training through the IARTP programs. This collaborative venture has supported the development of highly productive biomedical research that covers a wide range of topics.
relating to HIV and STD acquisition, transmission, treatment, and prevention in different population groups.

The research has contributed to the country’s response to this epidemic. The collaborative research teams has been incredibly productive, publishing over 1000 scientific manuscripts in internationally acclaimed peer-reviewed journals.
In addition, over the past 20 years, numerous Kenyan investigators have benefitted from training offered both locally and internationally, resulting in academic advancement ranging from certificate courses to doctoral training.
With those few remarks I wish you well as we celebrate the 50th year since the Institute was started.

Thank you.

PETER M.F MBITHI, PhD, EBS
VICE-CHANCELLOR
AND
PROFESSOR OF VETERINARY SURGERY