



Mr Christian Happi

Director of the African Centre of Excellence for Genomics of Infectious Diseases (ACEGID)

Christian Happi, is a Professor of Molecular Biology and Genomics and Director of the World Bank funded African Center of Excellence for Genomics of Infectious Diseases (ACEGID) in Redeemer's University in Nigeria.

Professor Christian Happi did his postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard University, where he subsequently worked as a Research Scientist and later became an adjunct Professor at Harvard University School of Public Health.

Mr Happi recently used next generation sequencing technology to perform the first sequence of the new SARS-CoV-2 in Africa - within 48 hours of receiving sample of the first case in Nigeria. This seminal work not only provided an insight into the detailed genetic map of the new coronavirus in Africa, but also confirmed the origin of the virus and paved the way for the development of new countermeasures including new diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines.

Mr Happi received the Merle A. Sande Health Leadership Award in 2011; the 2016 Award of Excellence in Research, by the Committee of Vice- Chancellors of Nigerian Universities; the 2019 Human Genome Organization (HUGO) Africa Prize for his seminal work on infectious diseases genomics in Africa, including Ebola and Lassa fever and the 2020 Bailey K. Ashford Medal by the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH). In 2021, he received The Trinity Challenge Award: Sentinel forecasting systems for Infectious Disease Risk, Africa Lives-Development Award and became a Fellow of the Academy of Medicine Specialties of Nigeria.

