

10 YEAR IMPACT SUMMARY



Introduction

Established in 2015, the Makerere University Lung Institute (MLI) has established itself as a center of excellence in respiratory health. With a strong focus on cutting-edge research, high-quality clinical care, practice-based education, and policy advocacy, MLI has significantly influenced pulmonary health in Uganda and beyond. Over the past decade, MLI has played a crucial role in tackling the burden of lung diseases through innovation, strategic partnerships, and a steadfast commitment to improving health outcomes.



Mission

To conduct high quality lung health research that integrates disease prevention, clinical care and training in sub-Saharan Africa.



Vision

An Africa with healthy lungs



Core Values

- Integrity
- Excellence
- Effort norm
- Care
- Innovation

Key Achievements (2015 – 2025)

1. Research & Innovation

The MLI Research and Innovation Department at the Makerere University Lung Institute is at the forefront of addressing critical public health challenges related to lung health. It is dedicated to conducting cutting-edge research across diverse areas of public health concern, including infectious diseases, chronic respiratory conditions, and environmental health. Through strategic collaborations with communities, healthcare providers, global health organizations, academic institutions, and industry partners, the department is driving innovation and contributing significantly to improved health and well-being patient outcomes and the broader global health agenda.

Research Working Groups

1. Lung Cancer and Immunity
2. Environment and Occupational Lung Health
3. Airways Disease, allergy and Lung Fibrosis
4. Non-Communicable Diseases
5. Vaccines and Epidemics
6. Tuberculosis and other respiratory infections
7. Pediatric Lung Health
8. Clinical Trials Unit

Through specialized research groups, driving MLI's research and innovation agenda, the research and innovations department has led an impressive portfolio of clinical trials over the years that have advanced scientific understanding, improved patient care, and shaped public

health policies. From pioneering studies on tuberculosis, Mpox and COVID-19 to groundbreaking research on Asthma, COPD, Lung Cancer, Pneumonia and Air Pollution. Furthermore, MLI's clinical trials have made a lasting impact locally and globally:

150

Peer reviewed
articles
Published
2019-2025

MLI scientists have published over 150 peer-reviewed articles in leading scientific journals, significantly shaping clinical practice, informing public health policy, and driving increased investment in lung health.

Quality Assurance and Regulatory Affairs

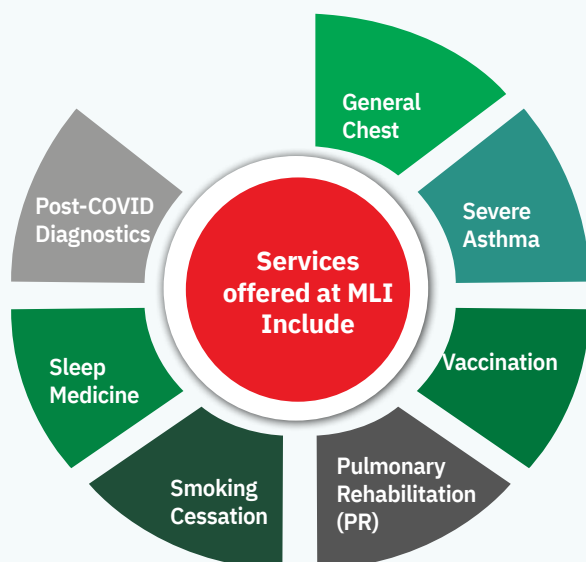
MLI has a Quality Control and Regulatory Affairs Unit that closely monitors all research conducted at the Institute and ensures adherence to national and international research standards, ethical principles; and good research and clinical practice.

Data Management

The Institute has a fully-fledged Data Management Unit that ensures the integrity, safety, and quality of data across all research projects. With a team of skilled data managers, biostatisticians, and IT specialists, the unit has successfully supported numerous research studies, including multi-country clinical trials and cohort studies, among others.

2. Clinical Services Department

Driven by the need to translate research into patient care, the Clinical Services Department provides specialized, evidence-based care for individuals with lung diseases. Informed by years of groundbreaking research, MLI officially opened the Lung Institute Clinic on 19th June 2018, to offer a wide range of specialist outpatient services. Services offered include:

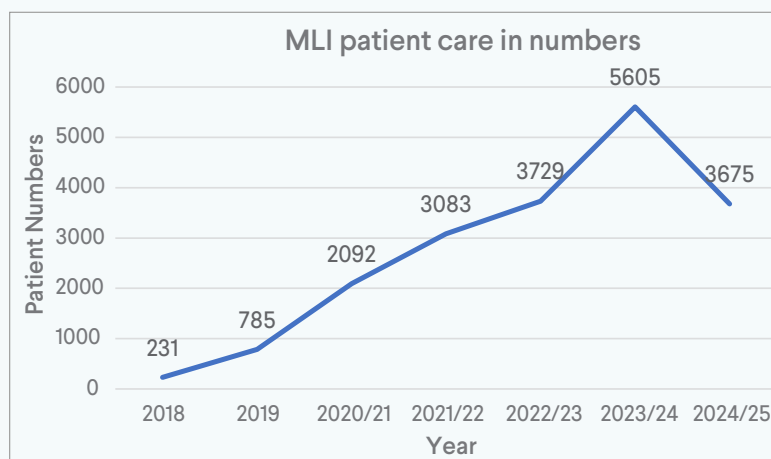


Diagnostics



- **Pulmonary Function Testing (PFT)**
- **Allergy testing** (Skin Prick Testing -SPT) and blood allergy tests
- **Bronchoscopy**
- **Polysomnography (Sleep Test)** - Pioneering the development of Uganda's first state-of-the-art Sleep Laboratory, which will transform the diagnosis and treatment of sleep-related breathing disorders.

The department bridges science and service, applying insights from ongoing studies to improve diagnosis, treatment, education and care whilst identifying clinical challenges and questions for research from its practice and engagement with people experiencing poor lung health. With a multidisciplinary team of physicians, nurses, and respiratory therapists, the clinic has served over 20,000 patients.



20,000

**Total number of Patients
attended to over the
years (2018- May 2025)**

3. Education And Training

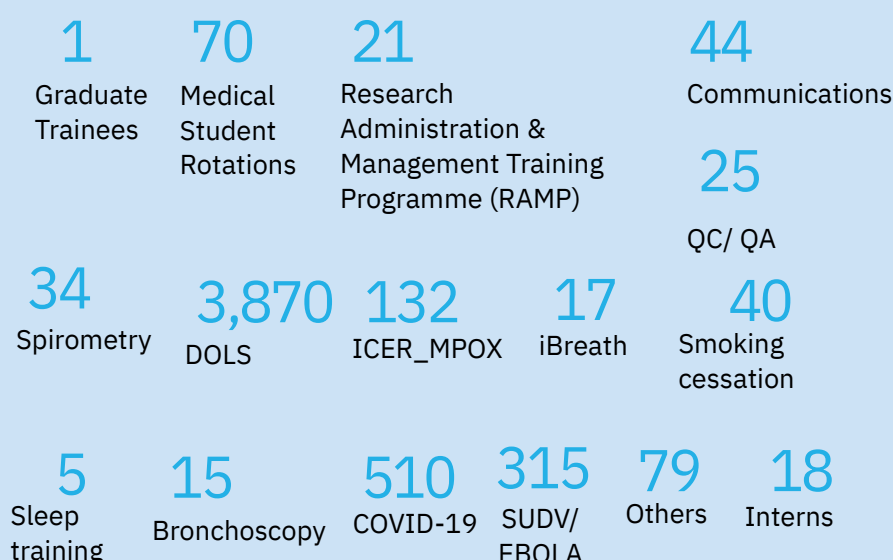
The Department of Education and Training designs, implements, and monitors training and education programmes to equip healthcare workers with knowledge and skills to diagnose and manage lung diseases. The department organizes various events, including workshops, symposiums, Continuous Medical Education (CMEs) and conferences, such as the monthly Day of Lung Science which has attracted a national and international audience of over 3,800 participants. Over the years, the department has:

- Trained over 5,210 healthcare professionals in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of

respiratory diseases.

- Launched the Integrated Respiratory Medicine Training Programme (iBreathe), a groundbreaking initiative aimed at building the capacity of primary health care workers to diagnose and manage respiratory disease.
- Built a strong pipeline of experts, including research scientists, Research fellows and clinical specialists.
- Supported structured mentorship programs for emerging researchers and medical students, fostering a new generation of lung health champions.

Trainings/ capacity building sessions conducted over the years



5,450

Trainings over the years

3. Research Administration and Infrastructure

At the heart of the Institute's excellence lies a dedicated Research Administration support team which includes finance, administration, grants, operations, internal audit, communications among others. This team supports day to day research operations.

Finance Management Unit

The Institute has an independent financial management unit providing critical financial oversight and support to the Institute's wide range of research, clinical, and administrative functions.

Grants Management

Over the years, the Grants Unit has been instrumental managing numerous national and international grants that have driven our research, innovation, and service delivery.

Through effective grants management, we've attracted a wide range of impactful funding opportunities, enabling us to build research capacity, strengthen health systems, and improve lung health outcomes across Uganda and beyond. Below is summary of grants conducted since inception.

MLI Grants trend (2015 – 2025)

Year	Number of Grants	Money Equivalent in USD
2016	2	1,068,629
2017	1	330,194
2018	11	10,716,246
2019	10	2,724,384
2020	6	1,496,633
2021	5	1,216,435
2022	13	5,259,014
2023	8	2,568,546
2024	18	2,038,961
2025	3	1,080,586
Total		28,499,627



**MLI grants
2015-2025**

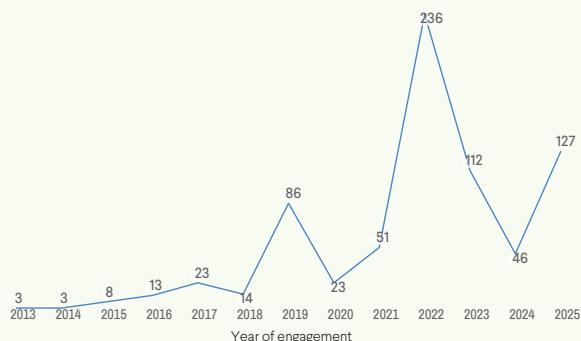
28,499,627



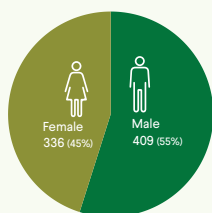
Human Resources

The Institute has contributed to Uganda's knowledge economy through health sector workforce development. From a meagre team of 10, the human resource capacity has expanded to 745 over time and these are employed through the different projects. The team includes a diverse range of cadres that is to say researchers, clinical staff, administrative personnel, communications officers, operations officers among others that support the Institute's expanding portfolio in respiratory health research, clinical care, and policy engagement.

Number of Staff employed over the years



MLI Staff by Gender



745

Total of Staff employed
MLI over the years

Facilities

The institute is currently hosted in the Makerere University College of Health Sciences, Mulago Hospital Complex with three different operation sites. Each site houses a number of facilities as listed below;

- A 17-project office and clinic block situated at the heart of Makerere University College of Health Sciences/Mulago Hospital compound.
- Vaccine house with 11 research offices
- 2 Meeting/ Training rooms
- Biorepository
- A Pulmonary Rehabilitation Centre (KUPUMUA)
- Clinical Trials Centre – with a dedicated **state-of-the-art clinical trials ward** at Mulago Hospital to support clinical trials
- Research pharmacy
- Biosafety Laboratory Level 1
- Clinical Laboratory Level 3
- Large patient pool within the district clinical departments
- 2 Automatic generators
- Several research labs with in College of Health Sciences and other Institutes including, Immunology lab, Molecular lab, Mycobacteriology lab, Biorepository, Chemistry and hematology labs

Makerere University Lung Institute Expansion Project (MEP)



Scan the
QR code
for more
details



The Institute has embarked on a five-year expansion project aimed at transforming the Institute into a state-of-the-art center of excellence for lung health in Uganda and the region. The project seeks to address the growing burden of lung diseases such as tuberculosis, asthma, COPD, and lung cancer by establishing three key centers: the Centre for Advanced

Pulmonary and Intensive Care (CAPIC), the Centre for Clinical Investigation (CCI), and the Centre for Capacity Enhancement (CCE); and aligns with Uganda's Vision 2040 and National Development Plan IV to strengthen the health system, reduce overseas referrals, and improve public access to high-quality respiratory care.



Looking Ahead

As MLI celebrates a decade of impactful service, the Institute is poised to further its vision of a healthier future through:

- Expanding strategic partnerships with academic, governmental, and private sector actors.
- Strengthening community engagement to increase reach, relevance and impact.
- Advancing innovation in respiratory research, care and training

Join Us

We invite you to celebrate 10 years of excellence with the Makerere University Lung Institute, a journey marked by resilience, discovery, and transformative impact in lung health.

Together, let us breathe life into the next decade of Research, Clinical Care, and Training.

Partners & Collaborations

View our partnerships page: <https://mli.mak.ac.ug/tag/partnerships/>