

Nelson K. Sewankambo, MBChB, MMed, MSc—an internationally recognized researcher and educator—is Principal of the Makerere University College of Health Sciences and Dean Emeritus of the School of Medicine in Uganda. He is co-founder and co-Principal Investigator of the Rakai Health Sciences Program (RHSP), which since 1987 has conducted some of the most important HIV/AIDS research since the epidemic's discovery. Dr. Sewankambo and his colleagues were among the first medical researchers to recognize the spread of HIV in Uganda and in 1985 published the first paper on “Slim Disease” in East Africa. Dr. Sewankambo has also dedicated his efforts to improving medical education both internationally and at Makerere University and was responsible for innovations such as student-centered education grounded in problem-based learning and community-based education and services. He has also pioneered multi-disciplinary student education teams and use of information technologies.

Dr. Sewankambo received his medical training at Makerere University in Uganda and a Master of Science degree from McMaster University in Canada. He has also received multiple honors, including awards for bioethics; the N'Galy-Mann Award from the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections; Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa from McMaster University; Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, London and an award as a pioneer in behavioral-based HIV prevention from Harvard University.