



Oxford Nanopore
Technologies

Lifesaving insights for children with cancer

Yaw Bediako co-founded Yemaachi Biotechnology to improve outcomes for people living with cancer. Discover how he contributes to the growing African research ecosystem, using Oxford Nanopore technology to support his vision.

'Technologies like Oxford Nanopore allow us to be high tech in a low resource setting, and effectively ensure that who we (otherwise would) miss matters'¹

Yaw Bediako

Yemaachi Biotech, Ghana



More. Better. With less.

Ask bolder questions

Leukaemia is a highly treatable cancer, but in Africa, fewer than 30% of children with leukaemia are cured¹. People of African descent are underrepresented in cancer research, so they are the least well served by advances in precision medicine². There is an unmet need for genetic data representing this group, which could supply the insights needed to provide better care.

Ultra-rich data

<3%

of global genetic data represents African ancestry²

380

children have been recruited to date³

~30x

coverage with whole-genome sequencing¹

Double

the survival rate — long-term goal³

Reveal more biology

At Yemaachi, the team are using Oxford Nanopore whole-genome sequencing on samples from children with leukaemia, in Ghana, to identify pathogenic structural variants¹. They plan to use sequencing to assess minimal residual disease and inform treatment decisions in the future³. This work provides a toolkit that could be replicated in multiple countries, potentially improving survival across Africa.

'With Oxford Nanopore Technologies we can go beyond just doing phenotyping, and identify mutations that are relevant'¹



Read more about Yaw's work improving cancer detection

References

1. Bediako, Y. Presentation. Available at: <https://nanoporetech.com/resource-centre/precision-genomics-requires-a-diverse-reference> [Accessed 12 Aug 2025]
2. Bediako, Y. et al. *Cancer Res.* (2024). DOI: 10.1158/1538-7445.AM2024-LB336
3. Bediako, Y. Personal communication with Oxford Nanopore. August 2025.



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