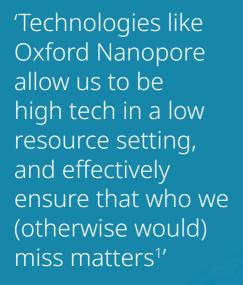


# Lifesaving insights for children with cancer

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.



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 cured<sup>1</sup>. People of African descent are underrepresented in cancer research, so they are the least well served by advances in precision medicine<sup>2</sup>. 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 ancestry<sup>2</sup> 380

children have been recruited to date<sup>3</sup> ~30x

coverage with whole-genome sequencing<sup>1</sup> Double

the survival rate long-term goal<sup>3</sup>

## 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 variants<sup>1</sup>. They plan to use sequencing to assess minimal residual disease and inform treatment decisions in the future<sup>3</sup>. 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<sup>1</sup>'



Read more about Yaw's work improving cancer detection

#### References

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- Bediako, Y. et al. Cancer Res. (2024). DOI: 10.1158/1538-7445. AM2024-LB336
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