

How to run mGenAfrica Sessions

For your very first session reserve a few mins to give learners an introduction to the platform. It is okay if they do not understand some of the terms and concepts. You can ask the mGenAfrica research staff.

What is mGenAfrica?

It's an online and mobile app which allows high school learners to access information about health-related research in Africa:

- learn about career options (Career Spotlight) and opportunities (Training Opportunities)
- interact with researchers and support staff (Live Chat) in these fields
- share their knowledge/thoughts (Have Your Say) and help translate terms (Translation Corner)
- test your knowledge (Quiz)

mGenAfrica is funded through the H3ABioNet Consortium and supported by two Working Groups from the H3Africa Consortium: the H3Africa Education and Coordinated Training (ECTWG) and Community Engagement Working Group (CE).

Genomics and Health-related Research in Africa

All humans originated in Africa and about 100,000 years ago humans migrated out of Africa and settled in different parts of the world. While people from different parts of the world have differences in their genomes, populations found in Africa have more diversity in their genomes than populations living elsewhere on the globe. Studying the genomes of Africans thus offers an opportunity to understand genome variation and how it impacts human health and diseases. Even though Africa has the highest burden of disease in the world and the highest variation of genome variation very few studies have been conducted on African populations.

The lesson will be split into two sections. The basis of this lesson is to guide the learners to go through the entire platform.

First Session - Fun Learning Genomics:

A) Knowledge Corner	Learner Activities	Homework	Suggested time
This section always has a content, audio or a video which explain some concepts in the health research field.	Let the learners listen to the audio tape or video tape in groups -Ask them to write down questions they might have and hang on to them for the live chat session	They can read up more about the concepts they learnt	10 mins
B) Translation Corner	Learners' should pretend you are talking to your grandparents and simplify this weeks' scientific term or translate it into any one of the following languages for them: <i>Afrikaans, Ndebele, Northern Sotho, Sotho, Swazi, Tsonga, Tswana, Venda, Xhosa or Zulu</i>	They can go ask their grandparents and feedback on the mGenAfrica platform or on Facebook when they can.	10 mins
C) Have Your Say!	Pose the question of the month to the students. Let them discuss some answers in groups Each student can capture their answers on the platforms after logging in.	Students can also respond during their free time or even change their minds	10 mins

Second Session: Fun Learning Genomics

A) Career Spotlight	Learner Activities	Homework	Suggested time
B) Career Spotlight	Read through the research staff profiles. As students to discuss what inspires them about the profile if anything? Write these down.	Google other people working the same job titles	10 mins

	Does this career appeal to you and why?		
C) Training Opportunities	Read through this section. Is there an opportunity that appeals to you? Write down a plan of action of what you would need to do to take up this opportunity? Jot down questions for the Live chat	Apply for the opportunities	10 mins
D) Live Chat	Sit in groups of 5. And Text chat to the researchers. Ask questions they might have compiled before.	Continue on Facebook page	30 hours
E) Quiz	Learners can take the quiz during their own free time.	Take the quiz	