SESSION CONCEPT NOTE

MedEdAfrica 2026 | July 6–8, 2026 | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

SESSION INFORMATION

Session Title	*Beyond the Stethoscope: Preparing Africa's Future Health Workforce for Leadership, Innovation, and Digital Literacy*
Session Type	*Breakout (Panel Discussion)*
Theme Track	*Transformative technologies, AI, innovation, and simulation-based education in medical education*
Date & Time	*Day 1 | Monday, July 6, 2026 | 11:30-1:00 PM*
Duration	*90 minutes (75 minutes + 15 minutes wrap up/transition)*
Room / Venue	*TBC*

Session Overview

Africa's health challenges are evolving rapidly, shaped by demographic shifts, technological advancement, climate change, and complex health system demands. While medical and health sciences training traditionally focuses on clinical competence, the continent now requires professionals who can do more than diagnose and treat.

Future health workers must be leaders, innovators, digitally literate professionals, and systems thinkers capable of transforming healthcare delivery in resource-constrained settings. However, gaps remain in leadership training, governance exposure, digital health competencies, AI literacy, and structured student engagement in decision-making spaces.

This panel seeks to move the conversation beyond clinical skills and explore how African institutions can intentionally prepare students for leadership, innovation, and digital transformation in healthcare.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Critically examine whether current health professions training in Africa adequately prepares students beyond clinical practice.
- Identify gaps in leadership development, innovation ecosystems, and digital literacy within medical education.
- Generate practical, student-driven recommendations for curriculum reform and institutional transformation.

Session Breakdown

This 90-minute interactive session will be highly participatory and learner-centered.

TIME	ACTIVITY / DESCRIPTION	FACILITATOR / NOTES
11:30 - 11:40	**Opening Framing**	[Moderator/Faith Agan]
11:40-12:00	**Student Voices Panel**	[Moderator/Faith Agan]
12:00 - 12:30	**Audience Q&A**	[Moderator/Faith Agan]
12:30 - 12:45	**Action Planning & Closing**	[Moderator/Faith Agan]

Panel Discussion Questions

- **Opening (set the tone)**

1. "In one sentence—what is one skill African medical schools are still undertraining that will matter most in the next 10 years?"

- **Leadership (move beyond theory)**

2. Student leadership is often limited to associations and advocacy. What does clinical leadership look like for a young doctor in your context and where are we failing to prepare for it?

3. Can you share a moment where being 'just a student' either limited your impact or gave you unexpected power to lead change?"

- **Innovation (ground it in Africa)**

4. "We talk a lot about innovation, but most ideas don't scale. What's one student-led innovation from your region that actually worked and why?"

5. "Are we over-romanticizing innovation? In resource-limited settings, is the priority innovation—or fixing broken systems?"

- **Digital literacy & AI (very current)**

6. "AI tools like clinical decision support and diagnostic apps are already here. Are African medical schools preparing students to *use them critically—or just ignoring them?"

7. "What's one digital tool you've personally used in your training that genuinely improved patient care or learning?"

8. "There's a risk of digital colonialism where Africa adopts tools built elsewhere. How do we ensure African students are not just users, but creators?"

- **Systems & inequity (important for LMIC framing)**

9. "Across your regions, what's the biggest mismatch between what you're taught in medical school and the realities of your health system?"

10. "Do you think our curricula are preparing us to stay and build within African systems or to leave and adapt elsewhere?"

- **Cross-regional perspective (use the diversity)**

11. "What's one thing your region is doing well in medical education that the rest of Africa should copy?"

12. "And what's one thing your region is getting wrong?"

- **Future-focused close**

13. "If you could redesign African medical education from scratch, what is one thing you would remove and one thing you would add?"

14. "In 2035, what will define a 'competent African doctor' beyond clinical skills?"

- **Optional audience engagement (if time allows only)**

15."For the students in this room - what is one skill you think you'll need that your school is not teaching you?"

Technical Requirements & Setup

List audio-visual, equipment, and logistical needs for this session:

- Projector and screen: Yes
- Microphone: Required , On table or handheld or Lapel
- Internet access: Required
- Special equipment: None

Speaker / Facilitator Bios

Complete one block per speaker or facilitator. Add or remove blocks as needed.

Speaker Diversity and Inclusion: *Session organizers should ensure that speakers represent diverse backgrounds, gender balance, geographic regions, linguistic backgrounds, and expertise.*

Moderator - Stacey Akinyi

Student | Kenya Methodist university | Kenya

Stacey Akinyi is currently a Final year medical student at Kenya Methodist University with a vast experience in leadership and research. She is not only an IFMSA National Officer for Research Exchange but has also served as the co chairperson of the Kenya Methodist University Research and Innovation Center. Currently , she sits in the WHO Youth Council Working Group for Accessibility and Equity where she represents the Young Professionals Chronic Disease Network , Coordinates the Research exchange programme as the Exchanges Assistant in Medical Students Associations of Kenya (MSAKE) and is an active member of the Kenya Medical Association as a student volunteer.

Speaker 1 — Namakau Chipoya

Member | Copperbelt university school of medicine | Zambia

Namakau Chipoya is a 5th year medical student from Zambia President of the School of Medicine Union and currently serves as Guild Judicial Secretary, Secretary General for COBUMEDSA, Publicity Secretary for MedTalk Zambia, and co-founder of Mitanda Fitness Club. Passionate about creating change in healthcare, her main interest is Obstetrics and Gynecology, where she is conducting research.

Speaker 2 - Grace Chika

Member | University of Nairobi | Kenya

Grace Chika is a medical student driven by a deep passion for medicine, research, and health systems transformation. Her work reflects her commitment to advancing impactful healthcare solutions in Kenya and across Africa. Her interests lie at the intersection of global health particularly global surgery, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), medical education, youth engagement, and evidence-based advocacy.

Speaker 3 — Aguigwe Godwin Obinna

President | University of Abuja Medical Students Association| Nigeria

Aguigwe Godwin Obinna is the President of the University of Abuja Medical Students Association and a passionate advocate for leadership, innovation, and student development in healthcare. Through his leadership roles in NiMSA, FAMSA and several health related associations, he has contributed to initiatives focused on collaboration, academic growth, and community engagement among medical students. He has a strong interest in healthcare innovation and the integration of digital technologies to improve healthcare delivery and education. His work reflects a commitment to empowering young professionals and promoting impactful solutions within the medical community.

Speaker 4 - Sayuran Pillay

Medical Student | University of Cape Town | South Africa

Sayuran Pillay is a fifth-year medical student at the University of Cape Town. He serves on the Editorial Board of the British Student Doctor Journal and coordinates the Student Task Force of the International Association for Health Professions Education. He founded the Student Curriculum Lekgotla, a student-led movement advancing student agency in curriculum transformation across South Africa and beyound. A Global Surgery RAI Fellow, his work focuses on disability-inclusive surgical care, epistemic justice, and health professions education. He has received the South African Health Excellence Rising Star Award and the Patil Teaching Innovation Award, and is committed to strengthening meaningful student participation in curriculum reform

Speaker 5 - Ekemini Wisdom Itek

Medical Student | University of Buea | Cameroon

EKEMINI WISDOM is a second year medical student from the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Buea, Cameroon and medical researcher in the making with strong interests in global health, research, and improving healthcare systems for underserved populations. He serves as a science tutor at Model Initiative

Africa (MIA), contributing to education and mentorship. He is also the director of public relations and communications for the Light And Healing Initiative (LAHI). Ekemini also holds leadership roles as a BBC Cell Leader and Research Competition Team Leader for the UBaMSA Research Competition 2026. In addition, he has published an article on global health and the future generation with The European Sting.