Title:

Realising the potential for pathogen genomics in advancing public health in Africa

Abstract:

The COVID-19 pandemic has ushered pathogen genomics and genomic epidemiology from the sidelines of bioinformatics to topics of mainstream attention (if not always understanding). The growth of pathogen genomics has happened alongside pressure to digitise case reporting and build data systems between the clinical, epidemiological and laboratory spaces that offer both potential for public health as well as challenges related to ethics, sustainability and equity. Addressing these challenges will require commitment from governments, donors and practitioners of public health and bioinformatics if their promise for improving surveillance and diagnostics are to translate into better public health outcomes for people on the African continent.