

# JAMIE I. FORREST

PhD (Population & Public Health) | MPH (Global Health)

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Public health researcher, implementation scientist, and digital health systems leader with over 15 years of experience advancing surveillance capacity, health information systems, and data analytics across low- and middle-income settings. Demonstrated expertise in health data management, training design and delivery, and capacity-building partnerships with Ministries of Health — including direct experience co-leading the Rwanda Health Analytics Platform (RHAP), a DHIS2-integrated national interoperability tool, and applying Rwanda’s national DHIS2 surveillance database to produce peer-reviewed evidence published in *The Lancet HIV*. Implementing monitoring, evaluation, and learning frameworks across 12+ African countries and designing training delivered to health workforce audiences from Ministries of Health to frontline workers. What distinguishes this experience is a rare combination of capabilities that individually are common but rarely found together: analytical rigour and methodological innovation across complex, multi-country datasets; the ability to translate technical findings into clear, actionable insights for audiences ranging from Ministry officials to programme implementers; and a proven track record of doing so across languages and institutional cultures — in Francophone and Anglophone settings alike — while building the partnerships that sustain the work beyond any single engagement. Currently serving as Scientific Director, HERO Lab, and Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of British Columbia.

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## CORE COMPETENCIES

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public health surveillance (IBS, EBS, confirmed case)</li><li>• DHIS2 configuration, modules &amp; analytics</li><li>• Health information systems &amp; interoperability</li><li>• SOPs development &amp; operationalization</li><li>• Training design &amp; facilitation (in-person &amp; virtual)</li><li>• Capacity building with Ministries of Health</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Excel (advanced), Google Sheets &amp; Looker Studio</li><li>• Data visualization &amp; automated reporting</li><li>• IHR (2005) alignment &amp; pandemic preparedness</li><li>• One Health / AMR surveillance frameworks</li><li>• Program management &amp; multi-country coordination</li><li>• AI &amp; digital tools for health analytics</li></ul> |
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## RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Scientific Director** | HERO Lab — UBC School of Nursing, Vancouver, BC 2025 – Present

- Lead interdisciplinary research on trust, equity, and resilience of public health systems.
- Oversee design and implementation of digital health projects integrating HIS analytics and AI-mediated knowledge tools.
- Manage cross-sector partnerships with academic, government, and international health organisations.

**Research & Strategy Lead** | Purpose Africa (Ethiopia, Rwanda, Nigeria — Remote) 2023 – 2025

- Designed and led deployment of a MELSE (Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning & Stakeholder Engagement) framework for clinical research and data science capacity building across 12+ African countries.
- Developed standardised reporting workflows, data flow processes, and analytic frameworks aligned with national HIS and WHO reporting requirements.
- Established institutional partnerships between academic institutions, Ministries of Health, and international funders.

**Managing Director (East Africa)** | MTEK Sciences Inc., Kigali, Rwanda 2017 – 2019

- Co-led development of the Rwanda Health Analytics Platform (RHAP) — a national digital health interoperability platform that directly integrated DHIS2 alongside other national HIS to centralise surveillance data and improve real-time evidence use by the Rwanda Ministry of Health.
- Applied DHIS2 national surveillance data (TRACnet — Rwanda's DHIS2-based HIV programme database covering 500+ health facilities) to conduct the first nationwide analysis of HIV care engagement in Rwanda, producing findings published in *The Lancet HIV* (2015). Personally led on-site EMR data extraction at 10 representative health facilities across all 5 provinces.
- Provided direct scientific and data analytic support to the Rwanda Biomedical Centre (Division of HIV, STIs and Viral Hepatitis), including surveillance indicator configuration, data quality management, and routine reporting workflows.
- Developed a WhatsApp-based Unique Identifier Code (UIC) generator for the Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of Congo — a production-grade FastAPI/Python tool integrating directly with the MoH's DHIS2 Tracker module to enable privacy-preserving patient matching and retention tracking for key populations (SHA-256 hashed deterministic identifiers; PostgreSQL backend; Meta WhatsApp Cloud API deployment).
- Managed \$1M+ in grants from Gates Foundation, Grand Challenges Canada, CIHR, and Gilead Sciences supporting digital health and surveillance capacity.
- Co-led Rwanda's successful bid to host the International Conference on HIV/AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA).

**Executive Director, TOGETHER Trial Consortium** | Platform Life Sciences Inc. / McMaster University 2019 – 2023

- Directed global clinical trial operations across 22 international sites (Brazil, Rwanda, South Africa, Pakistan), overseeing data systems, site surveillance workflows, and multi-country regulatory compliance.
- Built and maintained REDCap-based EDC platforms, automated data quality monitoring workflows, and real-time site performance dashboards.
- Co-authored landmark publications in *The Lancet Global Health* and *New England Journal of Medicine* on COVID-19 treatment outcomes from adaptive platform trials.

**Director of Global Health Strategy** | Cytel Canada Health Inc., Vancouver, BC 2020 – 2021

- Developed web-based decision-support and data visualization tools for policymakers to model COVID-19 impacts and track global clinical trial progress.
- Delivered successful projects for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, UNICEF, and Health Data Research UK.

**Senior Research Scientist — mHealth Research Team** | University of British Columbia, Faculty of Medicine 2016 – 2017

- Led multicountry evaluation of WeTel mobile health technology across Canada, US, South Africa, Kenya, and Rwanda.
- Published first-author review of mHealth technologies supporting HIV treatment and prevention in Africa.

**Research Program Coordinator** | BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS 2011 – 2015

- Coordinated HIV bio-behavioural longitudinal surveillance study using respondent-driven sampling (RDS) across multiple BC sites.
- Managed \$2M+ NIH/NIDA and CIHR-funded Momentum Health Study, including data systems, reporting timelines, and MOH coordination.

**Research Fellow (Field)** | Perinatal HIV Research Unit — Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, Soweto, SA 2009

- Six-month research fellowship conducting HIV and fertility surveillance research among adolescents in a high-burden sub-Saharan African setting.

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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**Postdoctoral Research Fellow** | School of Nursing, Faculty of Applied Science, UBC 2025 – Present

- Investigating AI governance mechanisms in clinical research and digital health equity.

**Adjunct Assistant Professor** | School of Public Health, University of Rwanda, Kigali 2018 – Present

- Mentor graduate students and contribute to research grants and projects in public health and implementation science.

**Senior Research Coordinator** | Health Research Methods, Evidence & Impact, McMaster University 2019 – 2024

## TEACHING, TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING

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**Instructor — Population Health Research Methods | Applied Data Science & Data Visualization | Clinical Research Partnerships in Global Health**

*University of Rwanda, School of Public Health, Kigali | 2017–2019*

- Designed and delivered three graduate-level courses integrating epidemiological methods, health data analytics (Excel, Stata, R), and GIS mapping.
- Led transition of graduate programme from practicum-focused to research-intensive model.

**Guest Lecturer — Principles of Global Health**

*UBC School of Population & Public Health | 2023, 2024*

**Faculty Member — Curriculum Development Committee**

*University of Global Health Equity, Butaro, Rwanda | 2018–2019*

- Led development of accreditation recommendations for research-focused graduate programmes; advised Dean of Health Sciences.

**Graduate Student Co-Supervision (Selected):**

- Diya Jhuti, McMaster University (2021): Interferon therapies for COVID-19
- Assumpta Mukabutera, University of Rwanda (2018–2019): Population health research methods
- Corrine Karema, University of Rwanda (2017–2018): Clinical research implementation

## CONSULTING & STRATEGIC ADVISORY

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**Scientific Director — TAIFA-FIALA Project** | Rwanda/Canada (Remote) 2024 – Present

- Co-founded digital platform tracking AI funding opportunities across African contexts; partnership development with Africa Quantitative Sciences and multiple African research institutions.

**Digital Solutions Consultant** | Fair Price Pharma, Vancouver, BC Mar – Jul 2025

- Designed and implemented two digital solutions for regulatory reporting and relationship management.

**WHO Consultant — 2018 Consolidated Guidelines for HIV Treatment** | Global Evaluative Sciences / WHO 2015 – 2018

- Provided analytic support to WHO guideline development and Rwanda Biomedical Centre for national HIV service delivery programme.

**Project Lead — APMG Health Inc.** | Washington, DC 2016 – 2018

- Led Global Fund in-country assessments for key population HIV investments in Cameroon, Guyana, and Haiti.

## EDUCATION

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**Doctor of Philosophy — Population and Public Health** | University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC 2015 – 2021

- Thesis: Social networking, mental and sexual health — geo-social networking among gay and bisexual men in Canadian urban settings (2013–2018)

**Master of Public Health — Global Health Concentration** | Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC 2007 – 2009

- Practicum: Perceptions of HIV and fertility among adolescents, Soweto, South Africa — conducted at Perinatal HIV Research Unit, Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital

**Bachelor of Science Honours — Microbiology** | University of Guelph, Ontario 2003 – 2007

### Continuing Education:

- Certificate in Leadership, Skills Training & Partnership Development in Global Health — Clinton Global Initiative University (2017)
- Certificate in Health Economic Analytics — University of Alberta (2014)
- Certificate in Health Research Project Management — Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (2011)
- Certificate in New Investigative Research in HIV — CAHR (2010)

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (H-INDEX: 23 | 62 PUBLICATIONS | 4,096 CITATIONS)

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**HIV care continuum in Rwanda: a cross-sectional analysis of the national programme. [Surveillance / DHIS2 data analysis]**

*Nsanzimana S, Kanters S, Remera E, Forrest JI, Binagwaho A, Condo J, Mills EJ. The Lancet HIV, 2(5): e208–215. 2015.*

Applied Rwanda's national DHIS2 surveillance database (TRACnet, 500+ facilities) and electronic medical records to produce the first nationwide HIV care continuum analysis in sub-Saharan Africa. Co-authored with Rwanda's then-Minister of Health; funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Resilient clinical trial infrastructure in response to the COVID-19 pandemic: lessons learned from the TOGETHER randomized platform clinical trial.

*Forrest JI, Rawat A, Duailibe F et al. American Journal of Epidemiology, 191(3), 409–417. 2022.*

Effect of early treatment with fluvoxamine on risk of emergency care and hospitalisation among patients with COVID-19: the TOGETHER randomised, platform clinical trial.

*Reis G, Silva EASM, ... Forrest JI, ... Mills EJ. The Lancet Global Health. 2022.*

Effect of early treatment with ivermectin among patients with Covid-19.

*Reis G, ... Forrest JI, ... New England Journal of Medicine, 386(18), 1721–1731. 2022.*

Full publication list: [scholar.google.com/citations?user=iHagz9UAAAAJ](https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=iHagz9UAAAAJ) | ORCID: 0000-0002-8900-7350

## RESEARCH GRANTS & FUNDING (SELECTED)

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- Scaling TOGETHER Trial Network Infrastructure — Latona Foundation | \$10,000,000 USD | Co-Investigator | 2022–2024
- Building clinical trial infrastructure for COVID-19 repurposed therapies — Rainwater Charitable Foundation | \$500,000 USD | Co-Investigator | 2021–2022
- Strengthening Health Service Delivery using predictive ML & data visualization — Grand Challenges Canada | \$220,000 USD | Co-Investigator | 2018–2020
- Building Rwanda-BC Research Partnership on Key Population Size Estimation — BC Centre for Disease Control Foundation | \$6,700 CAD | Co-Principal Investigator | 2015–2016