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Background:

Grand Challenges African Drug Discovery Accelerator (GC ADDA) is a network of drug discovery researchers; it is not a formal legal entity. There are different types of membership, namely Full Members, Affiliate Members, Affiliate Institution Members, Associate Members and Emerging Researcher Members. The H3D Foundation conducts the administrative activities for the network and an Operational Leadership Team (OLT) oversees its smooth running. The OLT includes key representatives from the GC ADDA member group and is responsible for oversight of all network activities and for representing the needs of the members.

Other governance structures include the GC ADDA Advisory Board and the GC ADDA EXCOM.

This document defines the Membership Requirements for all member types from May 2026.

Types of Membership:

A “Full Member” is a research leader, based in Africa, with a research team who can provide skills, expertise, and facilities towards drug discovery and is actively working in the field of drug discovery. Active participation, collaboration with government and institutions, and maintaining scientific credibility are expected from all Full Members.

An “Affiliate Member” is equally committed to nurturing the African drug discovery ecosystem but may be based on a different continent and/or retired from active research. They may also be academic partners or part of funding bodies. They may be part of the African diaspora. An Affiliate Member signs on to GC ADDA in their personal capacity because they are passionate about supporting the mission of GC ADDA. Affiliate Members are expected to contribute to, and participate in, annual convening meetings, training, and other activities as agreed by the OLT and the Affiliate Member. GC ADDA funding will need to cover any costs incurred for the Affiliate Member to participate (including flights, accommodation, meals, etc) but excluding consultancy fees. The GC ADDA Affiliate Member should be prepared to commit their time and expertise pro bono.

An “Affiliate Institution” is an institution that has a supportive and collaborative relationship with the GC ADDA network but is not a funder. It is represented by 1-2 staff members who represent the institution as GC ADDA Affiliate Institution Members. Affiliate Institutions should have a shared vision to build drug discovery capacity in Africa and should proactively look for ways to link GC ADDA with relevant capacity building programmes that they are involved in. Affiliate Institutions will need to cover the costs of participation in GC ADDA activities, including costs associated with the Affiliate Institution Members attending GC ADDA convening meetings (travel, accommodation, etc). Affiliate Institutions



are also responsible for ensuring that the Affiliate Institution Members have capacity to participate meaningfully in GC ADDA activities.

An “Associate Member” meets most but not all of the requirements of Full Membership but is deemed to be on a trajectory to do so. Typically, an Associate Member will be associated with a Full Member, either by working in the Full Member’s research group, or by sponsorship¹ from a Full Member.

An “Emerging Researcher Member” is a researcher whose membership is through their PI while they work on GC ADDA projects. This includes students and postdoctoral fellows.

GC ADDA Activities:

GC ADDA will conduct and support various activities, including:

- supporting the GC ADDA Member and Flagship Projects to be successful;
- showcasing success through publications, patents, conferences and a consolidated communication strategy;
- increased community engagement and awareness through public engagement;
- supporting drug discovery training of post graduate students and early career researchers and placements in different laboratories, including mentorship, workshops, webinars, etc.;
- establishing a framework to facilitate sharing of compound libraries;
- creating a framework to facilitate data sharing for collaborative projects;
- implementing a framework to facilitate access to specialized biology assays, to DMPK assays and to critical analytical equipment;
- aiding the establishment of regional drug discovery hubs;
- coordinating fundraising and engagement with funding bodies and governments;
- establishing databases of infrastructure, capabilities, and experts;
- investigating solutions to common challenges like procurement, equipment maintenance, etc.

Benefits of Membership:

GC ADDA is a network, and the benefits to members will be proportional to the ongoing network activities. Some of the key benefits for all members include:

- inclusion within the identity & credibility of the network;
- prestige associated with involvement in a pan-African drug discovery network;
- visibility & information sharing opportunities within the network;
- opportunities for healthy scientific exchange & collaboration that help raise the quality of research outputs;
- consideration for invitations to the GC ADDA annual convening meeting & other network engagements;
- access to selected resource-sharing opportunities, mentorship activities, & workshops.

¹ Sponsorship in this context refers to endorsement and, if appropriate, ongoing mentorship by a Full Member.



Certain benefits will apply to different types of membership as follows:

Full Members:

- have ready access to network facilities and expertise;
- have access to collaboration opportunities;
- receive opportunities for resource mobilization and scientific exchange;
- receive opportunities to participate in interdisciplinary teams;
- have access to funder and trainer networks;
- have voting rights on new members
- receive sponsored invitations to the annual convening meeting;
- can host drug discovery training workshops under the “GC ADDA brand”;
- may be invited as lecturers/mentors/hosts for GC ADDA training initiatives;
- will be consulted on available training opportunities and given the opportunity to nominate attendees from their research group for training, mentorship, short-term scientific placements, etc.;
- have access to GC ADDA network resources;
- may serve on the OLT (as per the requirements stipulated in the OLT ToR);
- are required to actively participate in the network, for example, through at least two GC ADDA events or initiatives per annum.

Affiliate Members:

- receive sponsored invitations to the annual convening meeting when funding allows;
- will be invited as lecturers/mentors/hosts for GC ADDA training initiatives;
- can serve on scientific advisory boards for GC ADDA projects;
- are required to actively participate in the network, for example through at least one GC ADDA event/initiative per annum.

Affiliate Institution Members:

- have access to collaboration opportunities;
- receive an invitation to the annual convening meeting; however, the Affiliate Institution will be responsible for funding the Affiliate Institution Member’s costs for participation in GC ADDA events (e.g. travel and accommodation);
- can serve on scientific advisory boards for GC ADDA projects.

Associate Members:

- have ready access to network facilities and expertise;
- receive collaboration opportunities;
- have preferential access to workshops and training opportunities facilitated by other members;
- receive mentorship opportunities;



- have opportunities for resource mobilization and scientific exchange;
- may participate in interdisciplinary teams;
- receive access to funder and trainer networks;
- receive sponsored invitations to the annual convening meeting when funding allows;
- will be invited as lecturers/mentors/hosts for GC ADDA training initiatives;
- have access to GC ADDA network resources;
- are required to actively participate in the network for example through at least one GC ADDA event or initiative per annum.

Emerging Researcher Members:

- have preferential access to workshops and training opportunities facilitated by other members;
- have mentorship opportunities;
- may participate in interdisciplinary teams;
- will be invited to apply for participation in GC ADDA training initiatives (workshops, mentorship, short-term scientific research visits, etc);
- may be nominated by their supervisor to attend GC ADDA convening meetings;
- have access to GC ADDA network resources.

Membership Requirements:

A Full Member

- ☐ is based in Africa
- ☐ has institutional support for this application (i.e. letter of support for the application and expectation that the institution will sign the GC ADDA MoU and the GC ADDA Consortium Agreement)
- ☐ is a recognized drug discovery research leader (i.e. a mid-career or advanced-career scientist with a track record of drug discovery research outputs as per the criteria required by application)
- ☐ has a credible track record of peer-reviewed research
- ☐ has a research team who can provide skills and expertise
- ☐ is actively involved in training and mentorship
- ☐ has a successful research funding track record
- ☐ currently has a minimum of \$50k/annum in funding for drug discovery or related research projects
- ☐ is PI or co-PI on a multidisciplinary translational research project aimed at delivering novel chemical entities to treat diseases and/or on a grant funding a critical capacity currently supporting/enabling translational drug discovery research
- ☐ has a demonstrated track record of collaboration with evidence of meaningful partnership (e.g. joint publications, shared infrastructure, co-led projects)
- ☐ has dedicated access to drug discovery or related research facilities with appropriate research infrastructure pertinent to own discipline



An Affiliate Member

- ☐ is a recognized drug discovery research leader, with a record of accomplishment in funding and publications;
- ☐ has demonstrated long-term commitment to the mission;
- ☐ shows evidence of an ability to collaborate;
- ☐ declares no conflict of interest.

An Affiliate Institution

- ☐ is an established, recognised institution within the field of drug discovery and related sciences; capacity building; African development; or another field that is deemed valuable to the network by the GC ADDA members;
- ☐ has been and is supportive of GC ADDA and its various projects and initiatives;
- ☐ is able and willing to provide support to, and to collaborate with, GC ADDA leadership bodies;
- ☐ has demonstrated synergies with existing programmes/initiatives run by the institution and the GC ADDA initiatives;
- ☐ is prepared to co-operate formally with GC ADDA on joint initiatives.

An Associate Member

- ☐ is involved in drug discovery research;
- ☐ is based in Africa;
- ☐ is deemed on a path to qualifying for Full Membership;
- ☐ has demonstrated commitment to the mission;
- ☐ shows evidence of an ability to collaborate;
- ☐ has sponsorship² from a Full Member, who is prepared to vouch for them, support them and advise them on their drug discovery career trajectory;
- ☐ has support from their institution via the MoU (if their institution has not already signed on to GC ADDA) and, once available, the Consortium Agreement.

An Emerging Researcher Member

- ☐ is part of a research team working on a GC ADDA Member Project;
- ☐ has support from their PI.

Code of Conduct:

All new members will need to sign the network's code of conduct.

Removing Members:

² Sponsorship in this context refers to endorsement and, if appropriate, ongoing mentorship by a Full Member.



Membership will be reviewed annually by the OLT.

Applicable to all Membership types:

Criteria for losing membership includes non-delivery, non-compliance, misuse of funds and non-compliance of the network's code of conduct. Should the focus of the member's work move away from drug discovery, they could also lose their membership. Inactivity for 12 months without a formal reprieve also warrants membership loss.

Applicable to Affiliate Institutional Membership:

Should the activities, values, credibility or status change in such a way that these aspects are misaligned with those of GC ADDA, the Institutional Membership may be removed.

Applicable to Emerging Researcher Members:

If an Emerging Researcher Member stops working on a GC ADDA Member Project, they would lose their Emerging Researcher Membership.

Changing Membership Status:

Should the circumstances of a member that relate to membership requirements change – for example if they emigrate out of Africa, or if their role changes – then the member would be considered for a different type of membership.