AfCNP
African College of Neuropsychopharmacology

ADVANCING PRECISION NEUROPSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY AND BRAIN HEALTH IN AFRICA

AfCNP Early Career Researcher School 2026 | 7–12 June 2026 | Nairobi, Kenya



Participants, and faculty at the third AfCNP Early Career Researcher School.

The African College of Neuropsychopharmacology (AfCNP), in partnership with the Aga Khan University Brain and Mind Institute, hosted the third AfCNP Early Career Researcher School from 7–12 June 2026 at Aga Khan University in Nairobi. Under the theme ***"Precision Neuropsychopharmacology and Brain Health,"*** the six-day school brought together 20 early-career researchers from 15 African countries for advanced scientific training, mentorship, and professional networking.

529	**20**	**15**	**6**
complete applications	researchers selected	African countries	days of training

Objectives:

- To strengthen the scientific knowledge and research skills of early-career African researchers in precision neuropsychopharmacology and brain health.
- To promote interdisciplinary learning through engagement with leading international and African experts.
- To foster mentorship, collaboration, and professional networking that support future research partnerships.
- To enhance participants' capacity to apply emerging scientific approaches and innovative research methodologies to brain health challenges in African settings.

Engagement and Growth:

The 2026 School attracted 529 applications from across Africa, sustaining the strong continental demand established during the previous two editions. Since its launch in 2024, the school has received more than 1,300 applications and trained 68 early-career researchers from across the continent. Following a competitive selection process, 20 researchers representing 15 African countries were selected. The selected cohort was interdisciplinary, drawing doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows, medical residents, junior faculty, and research scientists from psychiatry, psychology, neuroscience, pharmacology, neurology, public health, and related biomedical fields. The interdisciplinary cohort worked closely with an international faculty from Africa, North America, South America, and Asia, providing participants with diverse scientific perspectives and mentorship.

Key Features:

- **Expert Lectures:** Distinguished faculty shared innovative insights on precision approaches to brain health, spanning genetics, biomarkers, neuroimaging, and translational research.
- **Panel Discussions:** Faculty and participants explored emerging trends, challenges, and breakthroughs in neuropsychopharmacology and brain health.
- **Participant Presentations:** Early-career researchers presented their ongoing work and received constructive feedback from faculty and peers.
- **Mentorship Sessions:** Structured small-group and one-on-one mentorship provided guidance on research planning, publication strategy, grant writing, and scientific leadership.
- **Networking Activities:** Shared meals, informal discussions, and a Closing Dinner and Certificate Ceremony strengthened professional relationships and future collaboration.

Immediate impacts reported by participants

Evaluation data collected through online questionnaires administered before and after the school. Eighteen of the 20 participants completed the pre-school survey, while all 20 completed the post-school survey. The results below describe immediate, self-reported outcomes at the conclusion of the programme.

90%	**95%**	**100%**	**95%**
Reported improved knowledge	Reported increased research confidence	Established new professional connections	Were highly likely to apply learning within 12 months

Partnerships that made the 2026 School possible

The American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP) provided the primary financial support for the 2026 School. The International College of Neuropsychopharmacology (CINP) supported the participation of one faculty member. Two invited faculty members made donations to support the school, reflecting their commitment to strengthening neuropsychopharmacology education and research in Africa. Aga Khan University, through the Brain and Mind Institute, provided the venue, technical infrastructure, and logistical support.

Building on the achievements of its first two editions, the 2026 AfCNP School further advanced the College's commitment to developing the next generation of African neuroscience researchers and clinicians. With continued partnership and investment, AfCNP looks forward to expanding the reach and impact of this initiative in future editions, and to tracking the longer-term outcomes of this year's cohort through its longitudinal alumni follow-up programme.

- **Watch the school Highlights** here.