Pemba Summer School 2026

Control and data analysis of neglected tropical diseases

The Public Health Laboratory Ivo de Carneri (PHL-IdC), located on Pemba Island, Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania, is delighted to announce the fourth annual Pemba Summer School 2026. This 2-week course is designed for Master's students and early-career professionals in tropical medicine, public health, laboratory sciences and geostatistical data analysis. Participants will gain unparalleled insights into scientific methodologies, operational challenges and the realities of healthcare delivery in tropical and resource-limited settings.

When:
5 July (Sunday) – 18 July (Saturday) 2026

Where:
Public Health Laboratory – Ivo de Carneri (PHL-IdC)
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Programme overview

Week 1* – *Shared exploration

Gain a comprehensive understanding of the local healthcare landscape and the epidemiology of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). This week offers hands-on training in a tropical parasitological laboratory, where you will practise specimen collection and analysis techniques. Additionally, you will be introduced to the key public health strategies used to combat NTDs, providing a strong foundation for effective intervention and control efforts.

Week 2* – *Tailored learning

Participants can choose one of two specialized tracks, led by experienced professionals in the field:

- **Option 1: Statistics and Epidemiology for One Health**
  Delivered by Dr Gemma Chaters (Lancaster University), this track explores introductory statistics for medical health research, statistical methods to analyse the geographical distribution and dynamics of NTDs in the context of one health and epidemiology of zoonotic diseases. Gain practical skills in cutting-edge tools for statistical analysis, mapping and intervention planning to address different Neglected Tropical and Zoonotic Diseases effectively.

- **Option 2: Health services immersion**
  Delivered by Dr Antonio Montresor (former WHO staff) and Dr Stefan-Alexandru Panaite (Public Health Resident and former nongovernmental organization officer), this track immerses participants in the operational realities of healthcare services in developing countries.
  Highlights include:
  - Observing healthcare delivery at Chake Chake Hospital health centres and dispensaries across Pemba Island.
  - Participating in public health campaigns, such as mass drug administration intervention

- Meeting health officers to understand challenges related to resource constraints and the need for innovative solutions.
- Observing collection of biological samples and analysing them in a laboratory to evaluate the epidemiological situation of the diseases.

Why join?

The Pemba Summer School 2026 offers:

- A unique opportunity to experience real-world public health challenges in a tropical setting.
- Expert instruction from international faculty and practitioners.
- Practical skills in spatial data analysis, health service evaluation and NTD control strategies.
- Networking with peers and professionals passionate about global health.

Application details

Cost: €3000 (includes):

- Tuition fees
- Accommodation in single rooms for the duration of the course
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Local transportation, including return flight between Zanzibar and Pemba, and on-island transfers
- Recreational activities (picnic on the beach) on Saturday 11 July

Not included:

- International return travel to Zanzibar
- Visa costs and health insurance (both compulsory on arrival in Zanzibar)

How to apply:

To apply, please submit the following documents by **30 April 2026** to:
pembasummerschool2026@fondazionedecarneri.it
(Please cc: a.montresor@fondazionedecarneri.it)

- Your curriculum vitae (CV) or résumé
- A motivation letter explaining your interest in the course
- Your selected option for Week 2

Francesca Procaccini Research Award

The award is established by the NGO “Il mondo di Chicca” to cover tuition and travel cost for one participant.

Please check details of the award and how to apply at:
https://fondazioneilmondodichicca.org/en/

Facilitators

	**Dr Said Muhammed Ali (MSc)** is a Tanzanian public health specialist and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Public Health Laboratory Ivo de Carneri (PHL-IdC), a research institute within the Ministry of Health of Zanzibar. Said has vast experience working with local, national and international communities, governments, and civil society organizations and has participated in both the design and implementation of development projects including the US Government, the Global Fund and European Union fund initiatives in Tanzania. In his current role as the CEO of PHL-IdC, he is responsible for management and supervision of all the PHL-IdC areas of work (surveillance, research, training activities, collaboration with international research institutions planning, finance, administration and report writing).
	**Dr Gemma Chaters** is a veterinarian and epidemiologist who specialises in zoonotic disease transmission and control. Her research work uses statistical, mathematical and geospatial models along with concepts from network analysis. She has been working to advance methods used in livestock health economics for the Global Burden of Animal Diseases programme (https://animalhealthmetrics.org/). Gemma's work focuses on the interactions between people and livestock, often in low and middle-income countries including, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Senegal and Tanzania, where people are heavily dependent on livestock for their livelihoods. She assesses how, through more efficient allocation of disease control resources, we can improve livestock health to then improve human and environmental health.
	**Professor Massimilano Fabbricino** is a full professor of sanitary and environmental engineering at the University of Naples Federico II's Department of Civil, Environmental and Environmental Engineering, and the coordinator of the Environmental Section of the Board of Engineers of Naples Province (Italy). He has been working on water sanitation and water disinfection processes for more than 30 years, obtaining a patent for the control of disinfection by-products in drinking water distribution systems. Among other research interests he has been working on waste valorization, remediation of contaminated sites, and waste to energy processes.
	**Dr Albis Francesco Gabrielli** is a medical doctor with a PhD in Public Health. Albis has worked for the World Health Organization (WHO) for more than 20 years, based at Headquarters (Geneva), the Regional Office for the Americas (Washington DC) and the Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (Cairo). He has held different positions including Medical Officer, Regional Adviser, Team Lead and Unit Head, and has supported the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public health programmes on neglected tropical diseases in more than 30 countries.
	**Dr Antonio Montresor** is a medical doctor who has been working for more than 30 years in communicable disease control: he was initially responsible for supporting the 35 primary health care units in Mpwapwa District, Tanzania. He then moved to Hanoi, Viet Nam, where he managed WHO's programme for public health control of helminthiases in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam. He later worked at WHO headquarters in Geneva (Switzerland) where he was responsible for establishing large-scale control programmes for the control of intestinal parasites.

	**Dr Stefan-Alexandru Panaite** is a public health specialist with experience in the Tanzanian health system. He has worked with the Ivo de Carneri Foundation on Pemba Island, supporting laboratory management, training initiatives, and peripheral health services. He previously collaborated with Doctors with Africa CUAMM in the Iringa Region on hospital operations and rural health facility assessments.
	**Professor Laura Rinaldi** is a full professor of parasitology and parasitic diseases and Deputy Dean of the Department of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Production, University of Naples Federico II (Italy). She has over 20 years' experience in the field of parasitic diseases of veterinary and medical importance from a One Health perspective. Laura is the Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Diagnosis of Intestinal Helminths and Protozoa and the President of the Italian Society of Parasitology (SOIPA). Her key research areas include epidemiology (using geospatial tools), diagnosis and control of helminth parasites in both animals and humans.