

## Donald Mukolwe Lubembe



### **My professional experience acquired at WAAVP**

First, I wish to express my gratitude to the WAAVP Africa Foundation for enabling me realize my dream. Being an aspiring researcher in veterinary parasitology, it was my greatest desire to attend the WAAVP 27th International Conference, and this being my first ever WAAVP and international conference, I must affirm that it was an exceptional experience beyond my expectation. It was an ideal opportunity to present my research findings and hold discussions with experts in veterinary parasitology. I did not only get valuable technical inputs on my work but also received constructive criticism on how to improve on my scientific communication. I also learned valuable scientific communication attributes, and current advances in veterinary parasitology research from the experienced keynote speakers as well as other presenters. This indeed bolstered my knowledge and skills for career improvement. The networking opportunities during the conference were amazing. I was able to meet and network with young and re-known researchers in veterinary parasitology for future research collaborations and mentorship. For instance, I was privileged to meet the parasitology technocrat Prof. Patricia Conrad from the School of Veterinary Medicine, UC Davis who promised to offer mentorship to the young researchers from Africa. From the networking fora, we initiated a research collaboration group “Young Researchers Forum” under which we are exploring opportunities of initiating research and mentorship activities for career development and making an impact in disease control in Africa at large. Congratulations to the organizers of the WAAVP 27th conference, they made it a complete package for learning, networking and fun. I look forward to attending the WAAVP 28th International Conference in Ireland. I wish to sincerely thank Prof. Rosina “Tammi” Krecek, and my supervisor Dr. Kgomotso Sibeko.