Tom Ogada has over 30-year experience in teaching, research, policy, administration, private sector, IGO and civil service. He is currently the Executive Director of the African Centre for Technology Studies, which is an intergovernmental STI think tank mandated to support African countries and institutions to harness STI for sustainable development.

He is also the immediate former chairman of the Board of the National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation Commission (2017-2020), a former County Minister for Trade, Industrialization, and Investment (2013-2013 and a former Managing Director of the Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (2006-2009).

He has been a consultant of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) since 2000 on issues of intellectual property (IP), technology transfer and commercialization of R&D outputs. On this, he has supported several African countries to put in place National Intellectual Property Policy and Strategies including Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ghana and Nigeria. He has also supported several universities and Research Organizations in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Ghana, Zimbabwe, and Namibia to formulate institutional Intellectual Property Policies, that can foster, amongst others, commercialization of products from these institutions. He has been a key speaker in several international fora on technology transfer and formulating of national IP policies. These include in China, Philippines, South Korea, Malaysia, Vietnam and Iran.

Prof Ogada holds an MBA strategic Planning, Moi University, KENYA (2005), PhD degree in Chemical Engineering, Technical University of Hamburg Harburg, GERMANY (1995); and MSc degree in Mechanical Engineering, BPU, Minsk BELARUSSIAN (1987).
Dr. Jeff Readman is a consultant working in the fields of technology and innovation management, SME development, economic and social policy, and organization and industry research. He has worked with the private sector, national governments, UNIDO, the ILO, and the EU. He has also developed and managed MBA innovations programs in the UK.

He has led and contributed to several projects that investigated research and innovation (R&I) intermediaries’ support systems. He has supported academic and applied research projects in the field of innovation, including sectoral innovation systems and support through research and technology organizations (RTOs) and knowledge-intensive business services (KIBS). He also supported new business start-ups and innovation incubation centres through training, coaching and mentoring activities. He is the author of several publications on R&I intermediaries, including insights on emerging good practices.

He has also worked extensively on organizational and policy support for global value chain programmes in the manufacturing and service sectors. These projects have focused on upgrading practices, skills development, the role of technology and improving the business support environment.

Recently, he was the Manufacturing and Labour Workforce Expert for a Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Workforce Blueprint Project for the Government of Kenya. This project included policy recommendations to advance workforce digitalization and widen participation of women and people with disabilities in manufacturing.
Dr. Ramika Bansi is an Intellectual Property (IP) Specialist at the Durban University of Technology. She has over 20-year experience in the field of IP, teaching, research, policy and administration.

She was the 2014 Howard Bremer Scholarship recipient, presented by AUTM, awarded to professionals who bring creativity and innovation to the commercialization profession.

Her doctoral study concentrated on the Commercialization of Innovation. She is presently conducting research on universities’ efforts in increasing entrepreneurship and generation of 3rd stream income. Her passion for IP & Commercialization has been evident by published articles and conferences presentations. She has conducted in-depth research on the merits of various commercialization models.

Dr. Bansi contributed to nurturing the cooperation of the Triple Helix Model. She believes that low technological capacity in terms of both human capital and infrastructure, and limited awareness on the benefits of R&I in academia, industry and governments require reform for commercialization success to become apparent.

She believes innovation transformation and commercialization efforts cannot make up for inefficient national innovation systems. Hence, government’s investments in R&D have not generated the anticipated return in some countries. Therefore, the execution of funded projects is imperative to increase research competitiveness.

Dr. Bansi advises that focused attention on R&I policies with strong ecosystems provides performance indicators for increased success.
Towards guidelines for enhancing technology transfer/commercialisation and coordination of Innovation hubs

Dr. George Kosimbei is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Economics and the Director of Innovation Incubation and University-Industry Linkages at Kenyatta University, a role he has handled since 2018.

Prior to his current appointment, Dr. Kosimbei served as the Director of Chandaria Business Innovation and Incubation Center since 2014. He is the Project Lead for the Research to Commercialisation for Kenyan Universities and Research Institutes in Kenya, funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. He is also the project manager of the Kenyatta University - University of Rwanda - Neu-Ulm University of Applied Sciences and DAAD project on technology transfer and commercialisation of intellectual property.

He is also an active consultant and researcher with a wide range of experience. He has worked extensively in health economics, innovation incubation, intellectual property management and technology transfer and commercialization of IP.

Dr. Kosimbei has received training in IP commercialization and management from the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and is an active member of the Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM).

Dr. Kosimbei has over 19 years’ experience and has consulted for The World Bank, UNFPA Kenya, UNFPA Zambia, UNFPA South Sudan, USAID HP+, Research Triangle Institute, Unilever Tea, and Kenya Tea Growers Association, among others.

He has also served as a policy analyst at the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPPRA) in Nairobi, Kenya.