

**GEORGE ISANDA OMWENGA**  
**C/O Nduko O'Matigere**  
**P.O. Box 1128-00606**  
**Sarit, Nairobi, Kenya**  
**Cell phone: 011-254-705-304774**  
**e-mail: george.omwenga@yahoo.com**

## Education

- 2004** Ph.D.  
Department of Biological Sciences  
University of North Texas, Denton, Texas, USA  
Dissertation: Callus Development and Organogenesis in diverse explants of Cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp.)
- 1995** M.S.  
Department of Crop Sciences  
University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya  
Thesis: *Phaseolus vulgaris* cv. Rosecoco-GLP-2 seed contamination and infection by *Colletotrichum lindemuthianum* (Sacc and Magn) Bri & Cav., and implications on disease incidence and severity.
- 1990** BS  
Faculty of Agriculture,  
University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya

## Experience

- 2006-2012** **Assistant Professor,**  
Somerset Community College, Somerset Campus  
808 Monticello Street,  
Somerset, Kentucky, 42501

Courses taught include Anatomy and Physiology I &II with Laboratory, Essentials of Anatomy and Physiology (one semester anatomy) with Laboratory, Medical Microbiology with Laboratory, Microbes and Society, Introduction to Biology, Principles of Biology I laboratory and Human Ecology. I have web-enhanced my courses since spring 2007 semester. I have taught course overload since 2008 and also summer courses. Supervised research projects on isolation of natural products from plants and fungi for Principles of Biology I and Organic chemistry students.

I was a master faculty academic advisor. Member of several committees at SCC including the Curriculum Development Committee, College Diversity committee, member Student Academic Progress Committee, chair of the division Biology section in the Mathematics and Natural sciences division, Student Orientation Committee, and Student Activities Committee.

I was proctor/grader for the annual Math Counts (math competition for middle school students) and facilitator for the annual Science Olympiad (middle/high school science competition) and a

presenter at SCC Earth Day. I also served on internal division committees as required including two position hiring search committees for biology (2) faculty.

**1998-2004 Teaching Assistant**  
Department of Biological Sciences  
University of North Texas, Denton, Texas, USA

Taught Plant Biology and Plants and Society Laboratories. Developed assignments, taught laboratory curriculum and techniques, graded assignments and exams.

**1996-2004 Ph.D. Student**  
Department of Biological Sciences  
University of North Texas, Denton, Texas, USA

Biotechnology research directed toward the tissue culture and transformation of cowpeas (*Vigna unguicula*) in a laboratory with direction toward studying plant tissue culture and effect of phytoestrogens on modulation of the estrogen receptor. Investigated tissue culture and regeneration protocols for selected cowpea genotypes. Initiated callus development and root organogenesis. Learned techniques of transformation vector construction and delivery to produce transgenic plants.

Supervised high school students with the upward bound maths and science program during the summer semesters for three years on plant tissue culture. While in the laboratory, gained experience in research directed toward transformation of plants with genetically engineered *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* for the introduction of new genes into the plant genome. Conducted *in vitro* culture of cowpea explants. Evaluated selectable marker genes and foreign gene expression in transformed tissues utilizing paper and gel electrophoresis techniques. Analyzed DNA using restriction enzyme digests and Southern blot analysis.

**1993-1996 Divisional Agricultural Extension Officer**

Ministry of Agriculture,  
Kitale, Kenya

Performed agricultural extension services at the divisional level. Interpreted agricultural information to be passed to farmers, collected data on agricultural activities at the division and wrote reports for the district agricultural office. Supervised and coordinated training for agricultural staff under my supervision and performed any other duties as assigned by the district agricultural officer.

### **Awards**

Recipient of an University of North Texas internal Research Award for *in vitro* culture of cowpeas (\$3,500.00).

*Dr. George Isanda Omwenga*

### **Presentations**

Callus Development and Somatic Embryogenesis in diverse explants of cowpea [*Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp]. George Omwenga and Don W. Smith . Presented at the Spring 2004 meeting of the Texas Society for Microscopy, Houston, Texas, April 22-24, 2004.

*In vitro* Callus and Root Formation from Diverse Explants of Cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp. George Omwenga and Don W. Smith. Presented at the Spring meeting of the Texas Society for Microscopy, Houston, Texas, October 28-30, 2002

Rapid *in vitro* propagation of *Albizia falcataria*, a leguminous tree. Ghosh, N., George I. Omwenga, and Don W. Smith. Presented at the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southwestern and Rocky Mountain region of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Denton, Texas March 25-28 2001.

### **Professional Affiliations**

The Society of the Sigma Xi  
Texas Society for Microscopy  
Kentucky Academy of Sciences  
The Kentucky Native Plant Society

*Dr. George Isanda Ommwenga*

## **REFERENCES**

Loris Sherman  
Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences  
Somerset Community College,  
808 Monticello Street,  
Somerset, KY 42501  
Tel.(606)451-6855  
[loris.sherman@kctcs.edu](mailto:loris.sherman@kctcs.edu)

Dr. Raymond E. McDonnell  
Department of Mathematics & Natural Sciences  
Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College  
700 College Road  
Cumberland, KY 40823  
Tel (606)451-4762  
[ray.mcdonnell@kctcs.edu](mailto:ray.mcdonnell@kctcs.edu)

Clint Hayes,  
Associate Dean,  
Department of Mathematics & Natural Sciences  
Somerset Community College,  
808 Monticello Street  
Tel (606) 451-6874  
[clint.hayes@kctcs.edu](mailto:clint.hayes@kctcs.edu)

Dr. Don W. Smith (Retired),  
University of North Texas  
Department of Biological Sciences,  
P.O. Box 305220  
Denton, Texas 76203-5220  
Tel. (940)-565-3597  
[dsmith@unt.edu](mailto:dsmith@unt.edu)