

## PRESS RELEASE

**The Board of Trustees has appointed Dr. Salim Abdulla to be the Director of the Ifakara Health Institute.**

THE Board of Trustees of Ifakara Health Institute (IHI), which met on December 13, 2008, has appointed Dr. Salim Abdulla to be the Director of the Institute.

Dr. Abdulla obtained his medical training at Muhimbili University College of Health Science. He completed a Master of Science in Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and was awarded his PhD in Epidemiology at the Swiss Tropical Institute, University of Basel. Dr. Abdulla joined the Institute in 1996 and has been managing large-scale malaria intervention evaluation programs, including insecticide-treated nets, antimalarial drugs and vaccines. Dr. Abdulla was the leader and founder of the Bagamoyo Research and Training Centre, the branch of IHI responsible for biomedical and clinical research and training. Dr. Abdulla has published extensively on malaria intervention strategies, including the recent Lancet article on the new dispersible tablet of Coartem, and the New England Journal of Medicine article on the safety of RTS,S candidate malaria vaccines. In 2007 Dr. Abdulla was awarded the centenary medal of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in the United Kingdom. He has been the Acting Director of IHI since October 2008.

Board members are convinced that Dr. Abdulla's experience in scientific research and leadership will guarantee smooth running of the Institute. Dr. Abdulla replaced Dr. Hassan Mshinda, who was appointed as the new Director General of the Tanzanian Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH). Dr. Mshinda will continue to serve as the Chair of IHI's Board of Governors and its Board of Trustees.