• PANEL DISCUSSION

**Thomas Molony** is Director of the Centre of African Studies at the University of Edinburgh. His geographic focus is mostly on East Africa, where he has written on history, information and communication technology, politics, elections and security. His latest publication is the co-edited *Social Media and Politics in Africa: Democracy, censorship and security* published this month by Zed Books: [https://www.zedbooks.net/shop/book/social-media-and-politics-in-africa/forthcoming/](https://www.zedbooks.net/shop/book/social-media-and-politics-in-africa/forthcoming/).

**Professor Liz Grant**

I am one of the Assistant Principals at the University with a remit for Global Health, and I direct our Global Health Academy, one of the five Global Academies in the University.

For the last 10 years I have been involved in developing and supporting global health partnerships with colleagues in many African Universities. I have responsibility for a suite of online global health MSc programmes, MOOCs and a Global Health PhD programme specifically designed for students from African countries. By studying part time and through online platforms more students can participate in our Edinburgh programmes, especially women and men students with young children. I have supervised a number of African PhD students who are now leading healthcare plans in their home countries.

My own research looks at three areas – how to design and build up palliative care services in contexts of extreme poverty and conflict for example among Sudanese refugee communities in Northern Uganda and supporting the integration of palliative care into health services in rural post conflict Rwanda; the development of “planetary health” projects that brings together research into how illnesses are shaped by environmental factors – e.g. cancers with air pollution, and a programme on Compassion as a core value in how we as a University work with all our partners, care for our students and staff.

I sit on the Scottish Government NHS Global Citizenship Board, as the representative of the Universities in Scotland. This Board is building the strategy to support health workers in Scotland volunteer with partners in African hospitals and Ministries of Health especially in Malawi, Zambia and Rwanda.

Previously I was the Senior Health Advisor to the Scottish Government’s International Development Team working primarily in Malawi, and prior to that I led NHS Lothian’s Public Health Directorate leading an NHS HIV partnership in Zambia. My husband and I lived in Kenya in the 1990s, working in a church Hospital and bringing up our two daughters there.

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**Prof Francisca Mutapi FZAS FAAS**

Professor Francisca Mutapi is committed to improving health on the African continent by generating empirical evidence that drives change in health policy and practise. She conducts innovative research that has been translated into significant health improvements for millions of children in Africa.
She is a Professor in Global Health Infection and Immunity, co-Director of the Global Health Academy and Deputy Director of the NIHR Global Health Research Unit TIBA (Tackling Infections to Benefit Africa) and is Senior Advisor on Africa at the University of Edinburgh. She also hold honorary positions at the University of Oxford’s Nuffield Department of Medicine and University of KwaZulu Natal (South Africa)’s College of Heath Sciences. TIBA aims to harness the expertise and technical capability in biomedical and social sciences at the University of Edinburgh and African partners to reduce the burden and threat of infectious diseases in Africa by informing and influencing health policy and strengthening health systems.

Prof Mutapi currently sits on several international advisory boards including the WHO Africa Regional Director’s Independent Advisory Group, the Wellcome Trust’s Wellcome Global Monitor Advisory Board, the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) Strategic Advisory Group and the African Academy of Sciences’ AESA. She currently chairs the UK Department of Health’s National Institutes of Health Global Research (Groups) Funding committee and is a member of several international funding panels and expert review groups. She was elected a member of the Royal Society of Edinburgh’s Young Academy in 2012, and is a Fellow of both the Zimbabwe Academy of Sciences and the African Academy of Sciences.

- **AFTERNOON PRESENTERS**

**Derek MacLeod** is the Africa Regional Director at the University of Edinburgh – a role leading the University’s engagement at all levels on the continent. This includes supporting partnership development, alumni liaison, sponsor liaison, outreach and recruitment. Prior to this role, Derek has worked since 2008 in a number of roles in the University across Africa, the Middle East and North America. Derek also completed his MSc in Africa and International Development in the Centre of African Studies in 2011.

**Prof. Barry Dwolatzky** is Head of the University of Witwatersrand’s Johannesburg Centre for Software Engineering (JCSE) and founder of the Tshimologong Digital Innovation Precinct. Prof. Dwolatzky’s driving passion is to promote the growth and development of the South African software industry. He set up the Information Engineering option in Electrical Engineering at Wits and developed a course-based Masters programme in Software Engineering, which was registered as a Learnership within the SA Government’s skills development framework. He also played a key role in the founding of the JCSE in 2005. Prof. Dwolatzky has published over 40 research papers in journals and conferences and has supervised 24 MSc students and three PhD’s. He joined Wits in 1989, after working in Britain on software-related research at the Universities of Manchester (UMIST), London (Imperial College) and the GEC-Marconi Research Centre for 10 years.