



Introduction

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What is today the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry started as a Pharmaceutical Chemistry Section within the Faculty of Medicine's Department of Pharmacy in 1974 with one lecturer and one tutorial fellow. By 1977, the section had 4 lecturers and in 1995, it was elevated to a full department in the newly established Faculty of Pharmacy with [Prof. I. O. Kibwage](#) [8] as the first Chairman. He served in this capacity until 2004 when he was elected Dean, School of Pharmacy. He was succeeded by [Prof. G.N. Thoithi](#) [9] who served upto 2007. The current Chairman, [Dr. K.O. Abuga](#) [10] took over from Prof. G.N. Thoithi.

Currently the department has ten members of academic staff consisting of two Professors, one Associate Professor, four Senior Lecturers and three Lecturers, all Kenyans. The department has six members of highly trained and experienced technical staff and three members of administrative and support staff.

The Department is actively involved in teaching medicinal chemistry and pharmaceutical analysis as well as aspects of good laboratory and manufacturing practices.

The Department is charged with the core functions of training of undergraduate pharmacy students, postgraduate training in relevant specialities, research and provision of consultancy services to both the public and private sector. The Drug Analysis and Research Unit (<http://pharmchem.uonbi.ac.ke/node/806> [11]) within the Department is actively involved in research into the quality of medicines in the Kenyan market.

The Department also houses The East and Central African Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences. This is a premier international, peer reviewed open access journal in the Great Lakes region. The journal is available at <http://www.uonbi.ac.ke/projects/ecajournal/> [12]

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