

African Diaspora Network Receives \$100,000 in Funding to Strengthen Diaspora-Led Science, Innovation, and Global Research Partnerships

San Jose, CA — The African Diaspora Network (ADN) is proud to announce it has received \$100,000 funding from the [Gates Foundation's Grand Challenges](#) initiative to expand the African Scientific Community Engagement (**ASCE**) program, an innovative initiative transforming African “brain drain” into sustainable “brain circulation” by connecting African scientists on the continent with their peers across the global diaspora.

The award comes at a critical moment when Africa contributes less than 3% of global scientific research while facing rising demand for innovation in health and wellbeing, and emerging technologies. ASCE is designed to bridge that gap by accelerating joint research, technology transfer, co-authorship, and knowledge sharing between African and diaspora researchers across the continent, Europe, the Caribbean, and the Americas.

“This support from the Gates Foundation allows us to build a world-class platform enabling African and diaspora scientists to co-create solutions in priority areas like vaccine research, drug discovery, and biotechnology,” said Almaz Negash, CEO & Founder of ADN. “We are excited to strengthen Africa’s scientific ecosystem and promote collaboration to scale Africa’s R&D ecosystem.”

Tangible Progress Already Underway

Building on momentum from the 10-year anniversary of the African Diaspora Investment Symposium (**ADIS25**) convening last May, ASCE has already facilitated promising collaborations, including a [landmark partnership](#) between U.S.-based **Bio Usawa and Yemaachi Biotech** in Ghana to advance precision medicine and pharmacogenomics across Africa.

Using AI to transform “brain drain”

With the new funding, ADN will launch a secure, AI-enabled collaboration hub that connects senior African scientists with diaspora peers to support:

- Joint research projects
- Co-supervision of Graduate/Undergrad? Students
- Collaborative grant applications
- Technology transfer initiatives

Major Announcements Coming at ADIS26

ADN will unveil the next phase of ASCE during [ADIS26](#), taking place March 25-26, 2026 in Silicon Valley. Key highlights of the upcoming event are:

- Bring together leading African and diaspora scientists

- Launch the Diaspora Engagement Accelerator
- Debut the ASCE Diaspora Scientist Database
- Generate high-level discussions shaping the 2026–2028 ASCE roadmap

ADIS26 will explore how diaspora expertise is driving Africa's innovative economy across Healthcare & Bioscience, Fintech & Investments, Education & Talent, and Ethical AI Innovation & Policy.

This award was funded by the Gates Foundation through Grand Challenges, a global partnership that catalyzes innovation and serves as a platform for partners to collaborate and drive lasting impact.