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2017 BHEARD Scholar  
**Jean Claude Udahemuka**

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# Profile

<b>Country of Study:</b>	Kenya
<b>University:</b>	University of Nairobi
<b>Department:</b>	Centre for Biotechnology & Bioinformatics
<b>Student Position:</b>	Graduate Research Assistant-Ph.D.
<b>Home Country:</b>	Nyagatare, Rwanda
<b>Home Institution:</b>	University of Rwanda
<b>Home Position:</b>	Lecturer
<b>Mentored By:</b>	

**Research Area:** *Biotechnology-Focus on Foot & Mouth Disease*

**BHEARD PROGRAM START DATE:** August 2017

**UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION:** B.Sc., Cell and Molecular Biology, Chouaib Doukkali University

**GRADUATE EDUCATION:** M.Sc., Neuroscience and Pharmacology, Cadi Ayyad University

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Jean Claude is interested in Biotechnology focusing on the Foot and Mouth Disease Virus. He wishes to identify the molecular strains that are found in Rwanda, especially the Eastern portion neighboring the Akagera National Park. This area has the highest number of cattle population and has been the origin of most of the outbreaks in Rwanda. When the strain circulating in Rwanda can be characterized, this will enable the concerned organizations to administrate (or manufacture) proper/matching vaccines and thus have a better control of the virus.

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:** Once Jean Claude finishes his studies, he intends to go back and work with the University of Rwanda. The university is a young institution but growing very rapidly. His dream is to actively participate in that metamorphosis. The time he spends at the University of Nairobi and other research institutions will be a good opportunity for him to create networks that will be sustainable and instrumental later in his life as a researcher. His hope is that he will work on projects that impact the population and create more jobs for people from all walks of life.

**WHEN I AM NOT WORKING I ENJOY:** Jean Claude enjoys traveling, reading and going to the cinema. He attends church services and enjoys hanging out with friends.