

**2025 Distinguished Scientist Award
And
2025 Student Achievement Awards
for
Westchester Chemical Society**

**“AIDSfreeAFRICA: Advocating for Local Drug Production in
Sub-Saharan Africa”**

Speaker:

**Rolande R. Hodel, Ph.D.
2025 Distinguished Scientist
Westchester Chemical Society
President and Founder
AIDSfreeAFRICA**



Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025

**Place: Pace University
Steven Friedman Room
Wilcox Hall
861 Bedford Road
Pleasantville, NY**

Cost: \$40 / \$20 Students

RSVP: by Monday, April 21, 2025

to Peter Corfield at pcorfield@fordham.edu



“AIDSfreeAFRICA: Advocating for Local Drug Production in Sub-Saharan Africa”

Abstract:

This talk will dive into several aspects concerning drug production in Sub-Saharan Africa, what is there on the ground, where the gaps are and what can be done to convince companies like Gilead to license their drugs to African companies. Following stellar clinical trials, Gilead signed six licensing agreements to produce Lenacapavir in countries around the world – not one of them is located in Sub-Saharan Africa. The drug prevents HIV/AIDS and is injected subcutaneously twice a year. Treatment in the US cost 42,000USD/patient/year. In developing countries, the cost will be USD100. Estimates are that production in Africa for Africans could be as low as USD40.

There seems to be much confusion concerning the existence and extent of drug production in Africa. It is Dr. Hodel’s experience that language plays a major role even if both sides speak English. Case in point, in the US we understand drug production to entail a seven-step process from the starting material to the final packaged product. In Africa it can mean that imported drugs are repackaged, making it appear as if the drug originated in that country. Information on existing pharmaceutical manufacturing in Africa lacks specificity and verification. AIDSfreeAFRICA has tirelessly advocated for the need to support local manufacturing. Developing countries do not want handouts. In Cameroon, people need and ask for capital and jobs. AIDSfreeAFRICA strongly believes non-profits have to rethink their models on how to deliver aid effectively and sustainably.

EVENT DETAILS

Time:

- 5:15 Registration and Social Hour**
- 6:00 Lecture**
- 7:00 Distinguished Scientist and Student Awards**
- 7:15 Dinner**

ZOOM Option: This event will be available on Zoom
Please contact Peter Corfield at

pcorfield@fordham.edu

about a week before the event for the Zoom link



ACS Local Section
New York
Westchester Chemical Society

“AIDSfreeAFRICA: Advocating for Local Drug Production in Sub-Saharan Africa”

Biography:

Born in Germany, Dr. Hodel is a US citizen and a legal resident of Cameroon. She received her Masters of Science in Inorganic Chemistry from the University of Kansas in 1995 and her PhD in Organic Chemistry from the City University of New York, Queens College in 2005 under Prof. Harry D. Gafney.

Dr. Rolande R. Hodel received the following awards: 2009 Astellas USA Foundation humanitarian award \$30,000 for her work as founder and president of AIDSfreeAFRICA; Harvard University African Law Association, 2015, "Getting to Zero" World AIDS Day award; Rotary Club of Jersey City Service to International Legacy of Service Award, 2014; and Salute to Excellence Award, Westchester Chemical Society, a subsection of the New York Section of the American Chemical Society, 2024.

Dr. Hodel has worked at BASF/Germany, Nanocrystals Technology/NY, Pharmaceutical Discovery Corporation/NY (today Mannkind/CT) and Emisphere Technologies/NY mostly focused on developing inhalable Insulin. She taught Chemistry for eleven years as an adjunct professor at the Westchester Community College.

Dr. Hodel is the President and founder of AIDSfreeAFRICA since 2005. She also represents Servas, an international peace organization at the United Nations, as a member since 1989; and served the Westchester Chemical Society, as Director, treasurer, and chair (1995 – 2025). She was appointed Associate 2009 of the American Chemical Society (ACS) Committee on International Activities. She is a National Tour Speaker for ACS speaker's bureau and serves on the board of directors of Chemists Without Borders since 2005.

With attendance at this event, attendees agree to ACS Volunteer and Participant Code of Conduct Policy (<https://www.acs.org/volunteer/explore/code-of-conduct.html>) and Youth Protection Policy (<https://www.acs.org/content/dam/acsorg/volunteer/documents/acs-youth-protection-policy.pdf>), as applicable

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