

John Kilama, Ph.D
BIO

John Kilama, Ph.D., founder and president of GBDI, has a broad background in pharmaceuticals, a biotechnology and agro-chemistry. Born in Uganda, Dr. Kilama received his B.S. in Chemistry from Berea College, Berea Kentucky in 1976, B.S. in Pharmacy from the University of Kentucky in 1979, and a Ph.D. in Medicinal Chemistry from the University of Arizona in 1988.

Dr. Kilama was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis working under the direction of Professor Robert Vince. During his tenure, Dr. Kilama provided support to the synthetic development of Cabovir, an HIV reverse transcriptase nucleoside inhibitor. Dr. Kilama joined DuPont Company in 1989. During his 11 years tenure at DuPont, Dr. Kilama rose quickly through the ranks to a Senior Medicinal Research Chemist. He was awarded several patents that cover innovative applications of new class of chemicals in the life sciences and published several scientific peer review articles in internationally recognized journals. While in DuPont, Dr. Kilama developed a natural product team in the Chemical Discovery department. He also helped established several collaborations between DuPont company and other institutions in developing countries.

A frequent speaker on economic development issues related to pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and Intellectual Property, Dr. Kilama has presented expert testimony twice to the U.S. House of Representatives' committees on agriculture and science. He has spoken at such leading conferences as Bangalore Bio; the New Delhi Sustainable Development Conferences, Gordon Research Conferences, and at the Institute of Advanced Studies at the University of São Paulo (Brazil). His articles have appeared in leading publications in Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, China, India, Nigeria, South Africa, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Costa Rica, U.K. and the United States. Dr. Kilama was a board member of the former Initiative on Public-Private-Partnership for Health (IPPPH), Geneva and current Public Interest Intellectual Property Advisors (PIIPA), Washington, DC USA. Dr. Kilama is also a senior scientific advisor for the International Organization for Chemical Sciences in Development, Belgium, an advisor to the Institute for One World Health, and a peer review for the International Cooperative Biodiversity Groups program of the National Institutes for Health. He has recently been appointed as Consultant Managing Director of African Biotherapeutics Institute (ABIT)- a consortium of Universities from USA and eight African Universities.