Message from the Director

Research, science, technology and innovations are key pillars to improvement of health and well-being. While many nations across the globe have made significant improvements in the health of their people African nations in general lag far behind. In his book “Leadership Wisdom from the Monk who sold his Ferrari” Robin Sharma quoted the words of Albert Einstein; ‘Doing the same things everyday cannot deliver new results. To change the results you are getting, you need to change the things you are doing. You must transform the way you are leading.” These statements have important implications on how we approach research capacity enhancement for Africa. The landmark announcement in 2009 by the Wellcome Trust to support capacity enhancement for African Universities and research institutes was a welcome contribution to change in direction.

According to the Director Mark Walport “the Trust views the African Institutions Initiative as an innovative funding program to allow African universities and research institutes to build their research management support so that they can act as vibrant research hubs for bright young African scientists.” THRIVE is one of seven

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Professor Nelson K Sewankambo
consortia award winners that is receiving support from Wellcome Trust as part of the above Initiative. Winning an award is one thing. Transforming that award into meaningful activities that change the course of events in our African partner institutions is another and even more importantly impacting improvements of peoples’ health is a grander challenge. It requires the input and contribution of visionary men and women. It is our collective responsibility as a community of scholars to ensure that we move together and contribute to the achievement of that goal. We need to understand whether and how our efforts are impacting the health research landscape in Africa and therefore Evaluation and Learning as we implement the THRiVE activities becomes critical to our existence.

We have increasingly recognized that a more collaborative approach to research for health on the continent and globally across institutions and disciplines is needed to address priority health challenges. Such collaborations will only work when there a commitment of partners to contributing to the realization of a shared vision and also work toward alignment of their own strategies and activities towards the defined goal. There are many opportunities that we can tap into as a consortium and benefit from our cooperation thus complementing the capacity efforts of our individual institutions. We need to use existing resources efficiently through increased sharing of capacity and expertise.

In recent years health research and research for health are making tangible progress in Africa. We are therefore at an exciting moment and there is light at the end of the tunnel but the end of the road is still far from sight.

The challenge is to transform the ideas and aspirations of the THRiVE proposal into concrete and tangible actions built on strong and sustainable institutional systems that will drive progress.

THRiVE is on the right path and promises to deliver in ways we had not imagined before. We should, however, not be complacent. We need more of new ways of collaboration and new ideas if we are to exceed way beyond the set targets. For example as we educate our PhDs and Post docs trainees we need to pay attention to and implement the principles of strategic quality management in health research to prevent failure, maximize the utilization of available resources and ensure credibility of results.

THRiVE provides a great opportunity for a regional cooperation supported by our UK partner institutions (Cambridge University and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) that can develop research-based mechanisms and solutions to solve regional needs. We add our voice to the campaign for health research capacity strengthening as espoused by the Initiative for Strengthening Research capacity in Africa (ISH-ReCA). It is our responsibility to ensure that the fruits of increased investments in capacity building in Africa feed into better and more relevant research from African universities and research institutes and translate into health gains.

Professor Nelson K Ssewankambo
Director THRiVE & Principle College of health Sciences Makerere University
Training Health Researchers into Vocational Excellence in East Africa (THRiVE) Making a Difference in Africa

By Nelson Sewankambo

THRiVE is one of 7 African capacity building initiatives funded by the Wellcome Trust. The others are:

  Ivory Coast, Chad, Senegal, Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda, UK, Switzerland & Norway
  Director: Professor Bassirou Bonfoh, Centre Suisse de Recherche Scientifique en Cote d’Ivoire

- Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA)
  Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, USA, Australia, Switzerland, UK
  Director: Dr Alex Ezeh, African Population and Health Research Centre, Nairobi, Kenya

- One Medicine Africa-UK Research Capacity Development Partnership Programme for Infectious Diseases in Southern Africa (SACIDS consortium)
  Tanzania, Mozambique, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, South Africa, Kenya, UK
  Director: Professor Mark Rweyemamu, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania

- Research Institute for Infectious Diseases of Poverty (IIDP)
  Ghana, Ivory Coast, Mali, Nigeria, UK, Switzerland
  Director: Dr Margaret Gyapong, Dodowa Health Research Centre, Ghana Health Service

- Southern Africa Consortium for Research Excellence (SACORE)
  Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, South Africa, UK
  Director: Dr Newton Kumwenda, Malawi College of Medicine

- Strengthening research capacity in environmental health (SNOWS)
  Kenya, Ghana, Uganda, South Africa, Sudan, Denmark, UK
  Director: Professor Esi Awuah, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology, Ghana

THRiVE was established in 2009, with a goal to develop and empower academic institutions for full effective participation in the march of science, by building a critical mass of indigenous well trained scientists/researchers and future research leaders through research and developing health innovations while enhancing evidence-based health care practices or policies in East Africa.

THRiVE is a consortium that brings together 9 institutions (4 African universities and 3 research institutes together
with two UK universities: the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) in Kenya, the National University of Rwanda (NUR) in Rwanda, Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College (KCMC), and the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) in Tanzania, Makerere University (Mak), Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) and Gulu University (GU) in Uganda AND the University of Cambridge (UC) and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) in the United Kingdom, to build capacity in East Africa for health science research.

THRiVE objectives are:

1. Develop and sustain a consortium functioning as a strong network

2. Empower institutions to build a critical mass of well-trained research scientists capable of winning highly competitive national and international grants

3. Augment the development of a conducive environment for high quality research

4. Support systems for improved governance and management of research activities.

THRiVE comes at a time when African institutions are taking a major thrust in spearheading efforts for research capacity strengthening through a young indigenous continent-wide network called “Initiative to Strengthen Health Research Capacity in Africa” (ISHReCA). THRiVE will partner with and augment the efforts of many other capacity building initiatives and organizations on the continent including the Initiative for Strengthening Health Research Capacity in Africa (ISHReCA).

ISHReCA is an indigenous Africa-wide organization that promotes research capacity enhancement for health on the continent with a view to create self-sustaining pools of excellence capable of initiating and carrying out high quality health research in Africa, and translate research results into policy and practice through better integrated approaches of capacity building at individual, institutional and system levels”. ISHReCA has the following strategic objectives:

1. Provide a platform for African health researchers to discuss needs and models to build sustain-able capacity for health research in Africa.

2. Promote an African-led agenda for health research capacity building and negotiate with funders and partners, concerning support and harmonization of initiatives.

3. Advocate for increased commitment of national governments and civil society towards building local capacity to conduct and translate research into policy and practice.

4. Raise regional and international awareness of the need to network and build health research capacity in Africa.

THRiVE will also collaborate with other research capacity enhancing networks in which THRiVE Consortium members participate. This program has the potential to contribute to reaching the tipping point in East Africa where long term, mutually beneficial, south-south collaborations become entrenched and more firmly established over the long term.
As part of its activities to function as a strong network, THRiVE holds one Annual General Meeting (AGM) each year at an African partner institution. The first such meeting was held in Arusha, Tanzania on 9th and 10th October 2009. The second AGM took place in Kigali, Rwanda from 24th to 25th June 2010.

The AGM is an information exchange meeting between consortium leaders, researchers, scientists, research administrators/managers, finance officers, information technology officers and trainees. The main focus of the meeting is sharing experiences, addressing challenges and evaluating the activities of the consortium.

The Kigali meeting was distinctive and special in that it was preceded by an Evaluation and Learning workshop which was facilitated by the RAND Europe from 21st to 23rd June 2010.

The 28 members who attended the AGM included representatives from all the nine institutions comprising THRiVE. Dr. Alice Norton represented the Wellcome Trust.

The meeting was opened with a summary of the activities undertaken by the consortium in its first year of existence delivered by Prof. Nelson Sewankambo, its Executive Director. He emphasized the efforts made to ensure that institutions and their members work together as a consortium that will continue beyond the life of Wellcome Trust funding. He also drew attention to the THRiVE objectives which go beyond developing individual scientists but encompass developing institutions with conducive environments that support high quality research and innovations. He challenged members to keep a broad focus of
capacity development and examine the activities of the previous year and those of the years to come from that viewpoint.

THRiVE Annual General Meeting to Showcase Work of PhD and Postdoctoral Trainees and also Mount a PhD Supervisors’ Training Workshop
By Milly Nattimba, Makerere University

The Training Health Researchers into Vocational Excellence in East Africa (THRiVE) Initiative will hold its third Annual General Meeting at Makerere University, School of Food Technology, Nutrition and Bioengineering. The meeting will be held between 13th and 15th June 2011.

One of the objectives of THRiVE is to empower institutions to build a critical mass of well-trained research scientists. To this end, THRiVE is supporting 14 PhD and 5 postdoctoral fellows to train at THRiVE African Universities as they conduct research in their selected projects. A key feature of the 2011 Annual Meeting will be poster and power-point presentations by the fellows supported by THRiVE Initiative, Malaria Development Capacity Development Consortium (MCDC) and Makerere University/UVRI Infection and Immunity (MUII) Research Training program. Some of the topics the students and fellows will make presentations on include:

1. Immunopathogenesis of Immune Reconstitution Inflammatory Syndrome
2. Breast Cancer among Ugandan Women
3. Epidemiology of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV-1) and Schistosoma Mansoni Co-infection
4. Anthelminthic Treatment of Malaria in School Children
5. Rotaviruses in Uganda
6. Health-related Quality of Life of HIV Patients
7. Access to Cancer Care in Uganda
8. The Effectiveness and Safety of Misoprotol for Prevention of Post-Partum Haemorrhage
9. Assessment and Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Interventions aimed at Preventing Medication Errors and Adverse Drug Reactions
10. Stalling High Fertility Rates in Uganda
12. Alcohol Intervention on HIV Transmission: a Randomised Trial
13. The Etiology, Clinical Features and Predictors of Acute Respiratory Infection
14. Screening the Plasmodium Genome using Antimerozoite Surface Coat Antibodies
15. The Influence of Co-infections on Latent Tuberculosis
17. Viral Dynamics of HIV Amidst Possible Emergence of HIV Drug-resistant Strains
18. Prediction of HIV Outcomes from Routine Observational Data
19. School based Malaria Control
20. Immunoregulatory Mechanisms in Schistosoma Mansoni Infection
21. Emergence of Nevirapine Resistance arising after Treatment Cessation and/or during Successive Structured Treatment Interruption
22. Trends in Chloroquine and Sulphadoxin-pyrimethamine Resistance following Drug Policy Change in East Africa
23. The Optimal Timing of Primaquine to Prevent Malaria Transmission after Artemisinin-Combination Therapy
24. War Affected Youth in Northern Uganda
25. Exploiting Mosquito Phytoceuticals for Malaria Control
26. Antiretroviral Drug Resistance in Sentinel Sites in Uganda and Dry Blood Spots as Surrogates for Serum Samples in Analysis of Molecular Resistance

Each THRiVE participating institution will share experiences with workshop participants regarding either active or completed research or provide a spectrum of on-going research in that particular institution. Another significant activity of the 2011 annual meeting will be the participation of the THRiVE Advisory Board members who will have their face-to-face meeting on the 15th June 2011.

From 16th-18th June, a PhD Supervisors’ workshop will be held and will be facilitated by Prof. Chris Kapp from South Africa. This workshop will be supported by THRiVE and MCDC. The latter is also funded by Wellcome Trust. The training will be attended by supervisors of both THRiVE and MCDC-funded PhD/Post-doc trainees along with other supervisors from all participating African institutions.

Selection of PhD and Post-doc fellows to be supported followed a rigorous two-stage process with the first phase ending on August 11th 2010. The response to the advertisements that appeared in the press, institutional websites and notice boards was very good as it yielded 211 applications of whom 197 were eligible. Two-hundred eleven (88.7%) and 27 (11.3%) were PhD and Post-Doc applicants respectively. In the spirit of collaborative effort and equal participation in the decision making process each of the THRiVE partner institution was represented on the nine member shortlisting committee.

To provide an objective and independent evaluation of the applications, a standard criterion that had been tested in another Wellcome Trust-funded Capacity building Program, MUII, was used. The areas of assessment for each application included: academic achievements; relevant previous experience; publications and conferences; intended career pathway; idea of potential research project; referees letters; and any other addition points that were noted about the application.

The applications were reviewed by three members drawn from a short-listing committee and scored. Based on the mean score, applicants were ranked which led to 28 (13.3%) and 10 (37.0%) of the PhD and Post-Doc applications being shortlisted recommended to produce full proposals. The tentative shortlisted applicants were invited to participate in the final competitive stage of selection. Successful candidates were approved by the THRiVE Steering Committee. Their portraits are presented on the last pages of this newsletter.

PhD Selection Process for THRiVE Support

By Dr. Achilles Katamba, Makerere University
THRiVE- funded Masters Degree Fellowship at National University of Rwanda (NUR)

By Isaac Ntahobaku-lira, National University of Rwanda

Vedaste Kagisha and Thomas Bizimana from the National University of Rwanda, Faculty of Medicine have received THRiVE Fellowships to pursue Masters in Pharmaceutical Sciences at NUR. They will spend six months at Muhimbili School of Pharmacy Laboratory of Pharmaceutical Teaching Research and Development carrying out laboratory work. Angele Musabyamana and JMV Mbonyintwari have also received fellowships to pursue Masters in Public Health at National University of Rwanda.

Gulu University gets Senior Lecturer to Support the Research Capacity Building Efforts

Emilio Ovuga, Gulu University

Assoc. Prof. M. Odida, MB-ChB M.Med (Path), PhD was appointed as a visiting Senior Lecturer at Gulu University. He is a pathologist and brings research skills which he will use for mentoring both staffs and students. ``He has attended a number of academic and professional courses, gained diagnostic expertise from other pathology laboratories in U.K and Germany. He is also a member of various professional associations in Uganda and internationally.

THRiVE has adopted the use of free online VOIP (voice over IP) technologies such as Elluminate Live and skype to enhance its collaboration with other THRiVE partner institutions. Several conference calls for various THRiVE committee meetings have been held over skype. This has indeed proved to be a cheap and effective way of collaboration and communication between partner institutions.

IT Infrastructure Development

As one way of embracing ICTs, THRiVE has undertaken the initiative of developing a dynamic website (http://www.thrive.or.ug) as one of the ways of achieving efficient information dissemination to THRiVE partner institutions and the general public. The website was developed with interactive modules such as on-line PhD and post-doc application forms, online review and scoring of applications. The site is further being redesigned to include other interactive modules such as social networking, forum and tracking the progress of THRiVE fellows. These modules are intended to bridge the gap between fellows in THRiVE institutions and their local and overseas supervisors.
was tailored towards identifying the bottlenecks in ICT and research capacity building with in African institutions. The most highlighted issues in the assessment were the low bandwidth capacity and the technology on which the network backbone was built. However it should be noted that a mere increase of the bandwidth to higher capacities may not necessary solve the issue. There is also need to ensure that the right users are utilizing the bandwidth.

**Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College Computer Lab Upgraded**

THRiVE has carried out a computer lab refurbishment to a state of the art computer lab at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College Tanzania with the aim of enhancing research capacity building through Information and communication Technology (ICT).

**Makerere computer lab maintenance**

THRiVE has taken up the initiative to carry out a computer laboratory maintenance (both hardware and software) for the Mak-
Laboratory Capacity Building
By Gerry Hillary Mshana (NIMR) and Ann Njui (ICIPE)

THRIVE funding has made possible the refurbishment of NIMR Mwanza laboratories to enhance their capacity to undertake high quality research. With partial funding support from THRIVE, NIMR Mwanza purchased a genetic analyser. The analyser is used to analyse samples from an ongoing HIV genome study undertaken by NIMR in Mwanza and Moshi research sites.

The Applied Bio-systems 3500 genetic analyser is a fluorescence based DNA analysis system that uses proven capillary electrophoresis technology with 8 capillaries designed for a wide range of sequencing and fragment analysis applications. It is fully automated, from sample loading to primary data analysis for sequencing fragment analysis and Human Identification (HID) analysis. The software generates an electropherogram (intensity plot) for each dye based on the migration of DNA fragments over the run and generates primary analysis results. For sequencing applications, the electropherogram is adjusted to compensate for slight mobility differences due to the dyes, then base calling is performed and a quality values are designed. For fragment and HID analysis, the software uses the internal size standard to assign a fragment size and a sizing quality value to each peak.

At the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), the major item of equipment purchased for ICIPE using THRIVE funds is the LC-MS. Having this equipment available will improve ICIPE’s capacity to analyse and resolve both small and large organic molecules (such as odours and small peptides) and to accurately determine their masses, fragmentation and quantities. It will also allow...
the Centre to accurately identify metabolites in biological samples, impurities in authentic synthetic or commercial samples, and to assist in screening for pesticides and toxicants.

Other items purchased for the insectary are a water distillation/purification system (picture below) that will enable better conditions for rearing mosquito vectors of malaria and other pathogens. The Centre has also improved the insectary at ICIPE by purchasing a humidifier and heater for mosquito rearing laboratory.

Fried-freezer, a water distillation/purification system

Research Administration

By Harriet Nambooze

THRiVE has identified research management as a bottleneck to enhancing research capacity in East Africa. For better returns on investment THRiVE consortium cannot work alone but must collaborate with existing initiatives and harness synergies of efforts. THRiVE reached out to ARAA which serves as a professional forum for health Research Administrators in Africa for discussions, training, analysis, and benchmarking best practices as well as providing solutions to global health research and development challenges. ARAA hosted its 2nd annual meeting at Speke Resort Munyoyo, Kampala Uganda from November 3rd to 5th 2010 under the theme, “institutionalizing Research Administration in Africa”
THRiVE supported research administrators from the African partner institutions including Annah Njui (ICIPE), Amina Farah (KCMC), Mshillah Maghanga (Gulu University), Agnes Musariraba (NUR), Godfrey Mukalazi (UVRI) and Harriet Nambooze (MUK) to attend the meeting. Dr. Achilles Katamba the THRiVE Evaluation & Learning Officer made a presentation about THRiVE in which he highlighted the various activities undertaken by THRiVE and emphasized THRiVE’s interest and efforts to strengthen research administration and management in African Universities and research institutes.

At this meeting THRiVE took note of the challenges facing research administrators and managers. Of particular note was the perception that capacity building initiatives tend to focus largely on the researchers/scientists and pay little attention to the needs of research administrators/managers. THRiVE also facilitated four workshops on the following topics:

- Basic research administration principles by Mr. Ronald Kiguba
- E-submission of NIH grants by Dr. Mahnaz Motevalli and Ms. Stella Mirembe
- IRB approvals in Resource Limited Settings by Mrs. Margaret Mayiga and Mrs. Catherine Tugaineyo
- Human Resources challenges in research management (within a context of resource-limited settings) by Mrs. Margaret Mayiga and Mrs. Catherine Tugaineyo

THRiVE Financial Management

By Paul Teefe, THRiVE

We have had several financial management meeting with Wellcome Trust and also with Finance officers of sub awardees. The meetings we have had have included; the meeting in Rwanda, the meeting in London, the meeting in South Africa and the meeting in Arusha all aimed at establishing strong Financial Management Tools.

There was a delay of release of funds from Wellcome Trust initially. Currently funds are released the moment we fulfill the conditions which include submission of the Profile Spend Report (PSR) and performance reports from sub awardees. Of late, Wellcome trust has changed the format of the PSR and the new format requires us to include the figures of receipts and payments for sub awardees.

Funds are released to sub awardees when they submit their accounts for the quarter in question. The items required from sub awardees include Cash books, Bank statements, Bank reconciliation statements, assets registers, and Trial Balances.

The challenge in completing the PSR has been the delay in response by sub awardees to send their quarterly accounts to the Lead institution. We shall keep sensitizing the concerned Sub awardees to respond fully and timely in submitting Financial Documents.

Some Courses Undertaken at Partner Institutions

ICIPE Conducts Hand-on GIS Training

By Dan Masiga, ICIPE

A hands-on training course in the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS) based data sampling and mapping was held from December
6-10 2010 at ICIPE. It was organized and hosted by Klaus Mithoefer, a GIS specialist and member of the Institutional Implementation Committee at ICIPE. Participants were drawn from THRiVE institutions (ICIPE, KCMC, NIMR & UVRI), and other institutions. There were a total of 13 participants, from 4 different countries. The feedback indicated that the course was well appreciated and the participants gained a good understanding of the science and applications of GIS in health services and research. The course also incorporated a half-day digital photography course by Fabian Haas of ICIPE’s biosystematics unit.

There are plans for Klaus Mithoefer to host another course in 2011 and an announcement of training dates will be made in good time to allow wide dissemination.

Introduction to Research Methods Course
By Jim Todd, NIMR

The three week course was delivered at National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) from Monday 7th to Friday 25th February 2011. The participants were drawn from LSHTM, Mwanza Intervention Trials Unit (MITU) and NIMR. The objectives of the course were to introduce different research methods to the participants and to enable them to select the right methods for their own research and to develop some expertise in those methods.

Thirty three participants attended the course, including 13 THRiVE PhD fellows and 2 THRiVE post-docs. Other participants included staff from NIMR, and staff and students from Bugando Medical Centre and University.

The course content included: Epidemiology, Public
Health, Statistics, Qualitative research, Laboratory and Field research methods, and Introduction to Clinical Trials. The course also included sessions on personal development plans (PDP), delivered by Hazel McCullogh from LSHTM. The participants rated the PDP as very useful and timely especially for those who were just beginning their doctoral training.

In the evaluation of the course, many (participants, and lecturers) showed enthusiasm for the course, and encouraged it to be continued in the future; probably better divided into separate courses. It was also suggested that some of the more specialist sessions would be better delivered in more concrete, discrete, specialist courses.

But the enthusiasm for the course and the interaction among participants that the course generated ensures that the course will be run again next year, perhaps in conjunction with Bugando University. “I would like to come back in 10 years time and see how the course participants have progressed. I am sure they will find some of the materials useful in their research and will pass on the ideas to others they work with. These are building blocks of the capacity to do research in East Africa”, said Jim Todd, the course co-organiser.

Cambridge University’s Contribution to Improvement of Health Care in Developing Countries

By Pauline Essah, University of Cambridge

The Cambridge University THRiVE team has managed to secure the ‘Wolfson College Fellowships’ for all the THRiVE fellows matched to Cambridge mentors. The THRiVE fellows received letters about this honorary fellowship on 4th March 2011 informing them that they can hold Wolfson College Fellowship in conjunction with their THRiVE fellowships, until their THRiVE fellowships end. This basically means that unlike other visiting students or lecturers in Cambridge who are not associated with any of the 31 Colleges in the University of Cambridge, THRiVE...
fellows will be recognised as members of Wolfson College (the youngest College to be set up, but also the most international and with a large graduate/mature student population). Wolfson College will provide accommodation (if available), and access to computing and internet facilities, laundrette, library, dining hall/canteen, entertainment for THRiVE fellows when they visit Cambridge. Every student at the University of Cambridge belongs to a College, and they pay £2300 a year at the moment (in addition to University fees) to become members. THRiVE fellows will not be charged this College membership fee, which is great news. This status is also something that Fellows can add to their CVs.

Dr. Pauline Essah, Coordinator, THRiVE (CU) also attended a networking event in Cambridge on Thursday 10th March 2011. The event focused on how people living and/or working in the city of Cambridge are/can be involved in ‘Health and International Development’. Dr. Essah who represented THRiVE for the University of Cambridge had the following to say “it was a very interesting evening, with people from a variety of sectors and disciplines (including medical doctors, midwives, consultants, journal publishers, research scientists, charities, volunteers, business executives) having serious discussions in one room. It was a great opportunity for us to start shaping the activities and partnerships that we can develop over the course of the next 18 months to ensure that Cambridge, which has an immense amount of talent and resources, can contribute the best it can to improve healthcare in developing countries”.

**THRiVE Evaluation and Learning**

*By Achilles Katamba, Makerere University*

Since May 2010, the THRiVE consortium has been engaged with RAND Europe in developing a framework for evaluation and learning about THRiVE’s experience over time. The framework consists of both quantitative and qualitative indicators and an associated narrative report through which THRiVE’s progress can be reflected on and learnt from. “To evaluate and reflect on our progress we need to know where we are coming from, and thus a baseline survey of THRiVE African Institutions was conducted and yearly indicator targets set for: 1) strengthening scientific skills and career prospects, 2) strengthening research governance, management, and administration capacities, and 3) strengthening physical and Information, Communication Technology (ICT). During the first year of THRiVE implementation, a number of activities have been implemented and have informed our learning. For example, the THRiVE merit based selection process for Post doctoral and PhD fellows made unearthed a tension between merit and equity which poses challenges of maintaining a network. This tension requires careful attention and discussion so as not to cause cracks in the consortium’s cohesiveness.

The need to focus on research governance, management and administration (RGMA) and the communication challenges due to low internet speed, lack of capacity to initiate telephone meetings from African THRiVE institutions are overtly clear. Although evaluation and learning is quite demanding and time consuming, requiring quarterly qualitative, and bi-annual or annual quantitative reports, it is very helpful as the program continues to develop and make progress towards strengthening capacity for health sciences research in East Africa.
THRiVE PhD and Postdoctoral Fellows

**PhD Fellows**

**Dr. David Meya,** Lecturer, Department of Medicine, School of Medicine, College of Health Sciences, Makerere University

- Immunopathogenesis of Immune Reconstitution Inflammatory Syndrome (IRIS) related to central nervous system infections with a specific focus on Cryptococcal Meningitis

**Ms Stella Kepha,** Lecturer Kenya Medical Training College in Nairobi, Kenya

- Immuno-epidemiology of parasitic diseases, with a focus on understanding the immunological mechanisms underlying helminth-malaria co-infection

**Dr. Josephine Bwogi,** Research Officer and Head EPI Division at Uganda Virus Research Institute

- Rotaviruses in Uganda: Molecular Epidemiology and potential of zoonotic transmission

**Ms Florida Joseph Muro,** Senior Medical Officer, Internal Medicine Department and Assistant Lecturer, KCMC, Tumaini University

- The Etiology, Clinical features and predictors of Acute Respiratory Infection among Tanzanian Children across varying Malaria Transmission Intensity

**Dr. Moses Galukande,** Lecturer at Makerere, Department of Surgery, School of Medicine Makerere University College of Health Sciences

- Characterizing breast cancer by molecular sub-typing, exploring risk factors and survival among Ugandan women.

**Dr. Sam Ononge,** Lecturer Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, School of Medicine, Makerere University College of Health Sciences

- Effectiveness and safety of Self-administered Misoprotol for prevention of post partum haemorrhage
HUMPHREY D.L. MAZIGO, Assistant Lecturer, Medical Parasitology and Entomology at the Faculty of Medicine, Department of Medical Parasitology and Entomology, Weill-Bugando University

MR. RONALD KIGUBA, Lecturer Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, School of Biomedical Sciences Makerere University

MS ALLEN KABAGENYI, Assistant Lecturer, Department of Population, Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics Makerere University

Dr. Doris Mwesigire, Programe Manager Capacity Building, Mulago Mbarara Teaching Hospitals Joint AIDS Program

Dr. Bonnie Wandera, Coordinator cross-sectional and longitudinal Household randomized trial evaluating acceptability of HIV counselling and testing

DR. AMOS DEOGMATIUS MWAKA, Lecturer, Department of Medicine, School of Medicine, Makerere University College of Health Sciences

Epidemiology of HIV - 1 and Schistosoma Mansoni Co-infection and impact on Anthelminthic Treatment

Assessment and cost-effective Analysis of Intervention aimed at Preventing Medication Errors and Adverse Drug Reaction

Stalling High Fertility Rates in Uganda: is low Contraceptive prevalence Responsible?

Health Related Quality of Life of HIV patients attending an urban clinic in Uganda

Effects of an Alcohol Reduction intervention on HIV Transmission Risks Acts among HIV Infected Persons

Access to Cancer care in Uganda
Dr. Kennedy Amone-P’olak, Senior Lecturer in the departments of Psychology and Mental Health at Gulu University. He has been a lecturer at university level for over 14 years.

Dr. Sabina Wangui Wachira, Research Officer at Kenya Medical Research Institute, Centre for Traditional Medicines and Drug Research

Dr. Hakim Sendagire, Lecturer in the Department of Microbiology, School of Biomedical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, Makerere University

Ms. Clare Aguttu, Teaching Assistant at Makerere University School of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Beatrice Olack, International Emerging Infections Program (IEIP) Study Coordinator Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Dr. Seif Abdallah Shekalahge, Ifakara Health Institute

Post-doctoral Fellows

Non-communicable diseases in population-based surveillance: Control and Prevention

Screening the Plasmodium Genome using Anti-merozoite Surface Coat Antibodies

Trends in Chloroquine and Sulphadoxine-pyrimethamine Resistance following Drug Policy Change in East Africa

Exploiting Mosquito Phytoceutical for Malaria Control

The Optimal Timing of Primaquine to Prevent Malaria Transmission after Artemisinin-combination Therapy

Antiretroviral Drug Resistance in Sentinel Sites in Uganda and dry blood spot as Surrogate for Serum samples in Analysis of Molecular Resistance

War Affected youth in Northern Uganda

Dr. Kennedy Amone-P’olak, Senior Lecturer in the departments of Psychology and Mental Health at Gulu University. He has been a lecturer at university level for over 14 years.
Obituary

We are saddened by the death of Dr. Nicholas Joseph Stephen Lwambo, PhD, Chief Research Scientist Parasitic Disease Program, National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), Mwanza Center, Tanzania that occurred on April 9th 2011. He was one of the nominated supervisors for the THRiVE PhD fellow Dr. Humphrey D. Mazigo, an assistant lecturer of Medical Parasitology and Entomology at the Faculty of Medicine Weill-Bugando University College of Health Sciences-Bugando. Members of the THRiVE community convey their heartfelt condolences to the family, Dr. Humphrey D Mazigo, Deputy Director of THRiVE, staff of NIMR and friends for the loss of a great scientist most so at the critical time when we are beginning to mentor the next generation of health scientists for the East African region. May his soul rest in eternal peace!

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THRiVE Partner Institutions Contacts

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