



Editorial

Dear Reader,

In this issue of *THRiVE* News, there are reports that illustrate how *THRiVE* work has greatly benefited from partnerships between academic institutions of both types namely; universities and research institutes. This issue gives us opportunity to reflect on how to make partnerships succeed. Partnerships allow diverse knowledge and partners to be brought together to learn from each other. In general, partnerships have potential benefits and can be transformative to institutions through mutual learning- from both successes and failures. Important lessons can be drawn from acknowledging failures and having candid discussions of failed partnerships and why institutions have not engaged fully in consortium activities.

Satisfactory functioning of partnerships requires effective communications across the entire partnership, availability of resources and guidelines for effective and/or equitable collaborations. Evaluation provides insights on the whole grant cycle to determine what is going well and not so well. The evaluation should focus on many different components including governance of partnerships, how partners are selected

[Continue to page 2](#)

We have come a long way and we have made it... pg 2

Official Opening of Institute of Public Health Building (Block C) at KCMUCo



New IPH Building (Block C) opened on the 16th of August 2019 at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University

Exciting Visits by *THRiVE* Fellows to Cambridge University *pg 5*



THRiVE-2 Enhances Qualitative Research Skills of Researchers at Gulu University *pg 5*



DON'T MISS

Can VHTs link older people with chronic conditions to health care facilities?

The number of older persons living with chronic non-communicable diseases is increasing rapidly globally and indeed in Uganda.

9

Community & Public Engagement: The Liasamis Experience

THRiVE Secretariat conducted a technical site visit to ICIPE in Nairobi Kenya between 24th July to 28th July 2019.

4

THRiVE-2 Fellows graduate as founder fellows of ECSACOG

We acknowledge *THRiVE*-2 that has ably equipped us to engage with stakeholders at local, regional and international levels...

7

7 MakCHS Graduate Interns Expectations & Experiences

Catch a glimpse into Seven (7) Students' experiences and expectation in view of *THRiVE*.. (a short catchy phrase needed)

10

and managed, agenda-setting and the quality and depth of engagement by partners themselves.

Good communication that benefits partners is central to the success of premierships and the interpersonal relations in the consortium. Several reviews reveal that the quality of communication may lead to a range of positive and negative experiences including feelings of empowerment, friendship, sense of belonging, excitement, alienation, anxiety, jealousy,

guilt and exploitation. Good communication should also pay attention to the context or ecosystem within which the partnership exists in time and space; social relations, material environments and many more. A partnership need not be continued if it is not serving its intended purpose. It is always good to ask why a partnership exists and have a common goal to which the partners work towards. Periodic partnership review meetings are therefore important to examine relevance and direction of the partnership.

Official Opening of Institute of Public Health Building (Block C) at KCMUCo

By Sia E. Msuya

“We have come a long way and we have made it”. These were words heard on the official opening of the new IPH Building (Block C) on the 16th of August 2019 at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College grounds. The dream of building the Institute of Public Health started during THRIVE 1, when the Wellcome Trust set aside about 40,000 Pounds as contribution to this aim. In June 2016, construction of the IPH building started with a plan to build two storeys accommodating offices and classrooms. The Provost at that time (Prof. Egbert Kessy) managed to secure additional fund from other sources and combined this with the Wellcome Trust funds to construct a four-storey building with additional space for labs and more classrooms.

But with problems of space and the need to expand the laboratory facilities as required by the Tanzania Commission for Universities, the College had to speed up its plans and by July 2018 the laboratories were completed and students had started to use them. The building has a total of 4 classrooms with a capacity of 100 students each, 5 modern laboratories (Anatomy, Histology, Microbiology & Parasitology, Physiology, Pharmacology) and the Institute of Public Health. The laboratories and classrooms started to be used in the 2018/2019 academic year, while finishing touches continued. The official opening of the building was on 16th August 2019 by the presiding Bishop, Dr Fredrick Onaeli Shoo who is also the Chairman of KCMUCo Governing Board and the Chancellor of Tumaini University - Makumira.

It was a poignant moment for me as THRIVE-2 Co –PI at KCMUCo. The journey from initial negotiations with then Prof Egbert Kessy on the site where the building should be constructed, through the marathon run to beat the deadline for site visits to check if the foundation was completed. Then the slow process of construction and challenges along the way, to the official opening with the new Provost, Prof Ephata Kaaya. What started as a site for 2 lecture halls and some offices, has ended up hosting some of the most modern laboratories in the whole of East Africa. When I think about the students who will pass through these classrooms and laboratories in the years to come, and the skills that they will gain through the teaching; I see a brighter future with Leading African scientists going on to innovate and alleviate the ailments of our communities. This will be a legacy and an everlasting footprint for THRIVE-2.



The Chancellor of Tumaini University and Chairman of KCMUCo Governing Board, Bishop Dr Fredrick Onaeli Shoo opening the new building



A long-shot view of the new IPH building whose construction was partly financed through THRiVE



August 16th, 2016

Passion Pushes Me to a Laboratory at the University of Cambridge

Agnes Nyabigambo, BScN, MSc.HSR - THRiVE-2 Career Development Awardee

Cervical cancer (CC) is the 2nd most common cancer and 119, 284 new cases occur every year in Sub Saharan Africa. Seventy percent of CC is caused by high risk Human Papillomavirus (hrHPV). In Uganda, the incidence of CC is at 54.8 /100,000, one of the highest in the world. Annually, 6413 women are diagnosed with CC and 67% of these women die. This is because women present with late advanced incurable disease due to lack of access to CC screening services in the rural areas, and where services are available, health workers often miss the symptoms. Women also fear screening because of the fear of finding the disease and the horror of staring death in the face. However, if a national prevention and control program is designed and implemented, the incidence will drop from 54.8 to 45.0/100,000. Currently CC screening is being conducted in sub national or pilot programs.

My vision is to contribute to saving lives of women in Sub Saharan Africa who would otherwise die from cervical cancer. I have a passion to understand the behaviour of hrHPV, how it interferes with the cervical cell division and how and where it could be shed from the cervix among women with repeated infections. Therefore, I hypothesized that hrHPV DNA self-collection using urine was feasible compared to Nurse collected samples (visual inspection with acetic acid (VIA), patch approach and oncoE6) among women living with HIV. This will further help us understand the molecular diagnostic approaches for disease stratification, which will provide us with insight into the merits and limitations of the current approaches for the diagnosis of cervical disease.

As a Health Services Researcher, I had spent most of my time at my desk or in the field where I supervised and collected samples to be sent to the lab for analysis and then I waited for the results to be returned. In order to grow and thrive you need a guide by your side who watches you while you try things and corrects your mistakes while supporting you. I am grateful to the University of Cambridge and its work with the THRiVE-2 consortium through Cambridge-Africa that supported me to identify Professor John Doorbar, globally called the "HPV Man". I was supervised by Dr. Mohamed Aslam Shiraz. During my visit to the University of Cambridge in Prof. John Doorbar's lab, I extracted HPV DNA from urine using high-tech equipment. I was able to understand the process of HPV DNA extraction using the QIAamp DNA mini kit. I can now do the pre PCR using the Liferiver HPV typing and digital PCR using the Quant-Studio Real time PCR. I have been able to understand the patch approach (cervical cell lifts), immuno staining of the patch, interpretation of the McM and P16 staining as well as the cervical heat maps.



Reviewing urine HPV DNA results on Quant-Studio Real time PCR

I believe we are able to scale greater heights if we work in teams and form collaborations. I am really thankful to the Cambridge- Africa team and my mentor and supervisor who supported me to create links with Cancer Research UK and Kings College London – Guys Hospital. This was more than a worthwhile visit and stay at the University of Cambridge. I am returning to Africa to be the "HPV woman of Africa" to save women's lives from cervical cancer.



Review meeting with Prof. John Doorbar



After a collaborative meeting at Kings College, London

Community & Public Engagement: The Liasamis Experience

By Immaculate Nakityo



The THRiVE visiting team is served breakfast upon arrival at one of the villages



Blood samples being drawn from one of the camels

THRiVE Secretariat conducted a technical site visit to icipe in Nairobi Kenya between 24th July to 28th July 2019. The five-day visit included activities and meetings to share progress reports by the institution and research fellows, review of the icipe's operations and assess compliancy to donor requirements and CPE field activities. A special field visit was organised for the visiting team to observe and experience CPE integration within research by the institute. The field activity was organised by Joel Bargul who is conducting a post-doctoral research investigating transmission of trypanosomiasis in camels in Liasamis in Northern Kenya; a community that is approximately 400km from Nairobi.

Joel and his team created a makeshift laboratory to facilitate their research, in a community near where the site visit team had their accommodations. We were introduced to some of his community assistants and research assistants and eventually taken through the process of transferring infected blood from infected animals into their research specimen. This process is tedious and involves collection of flies that feeds off camels at night and bringing them to the lab so that they can feed off mice and rabbits whose blood is later tested for the presence of the trypanosomiasis. During our conversation, it was clear that Joel and his team worked all day and almost all night collecting and analysing samples.

The following day we headed out to the research community, which is more than 20 kms outside the town. The team travelled early so that we could reach the community before the camels were taken out to graze. The community assistants expertly lowered and controlled the huge animals as the research assistants collected blood. This required enormous energy, skill and sometimes patience as the animals resisted

and fought back throughout the whole process. The sample collection lasted about four hours and the research team started the blood analysis process. The blood analysis continued with participation of the community assistant and Joel held a dissemination meeting and shared results from the blood analysis with the community members. Joel later distributed medicine among households whose animals were found to be infected with the diseases.

The research team started the fly collection process at about 8:00pm, as this can only be carried out at night because the flies come out to feed in the night. The community recognised The THRiVE Director, Prof. Nelson Sewankambo for his role in protecting their animals through the project.

It is important to note that this is a pastoralist community and families only come here during the dry season to find pasture for their animals. Consequently, there are no permanent structures in this community except a few temporally structures that house their babies and their young animals that are vulnerable to wild animals. The community has no access to water and people spend days or sometimes weeks without having a proper bath. The community has no access to sanitary structures like latrines and bathrooms, and healthcare and education services are non-existing. However, community participation is integral to the research project and community members understand the value of this research in relation to their livelihood and are happy to participate in community mobilisation, sample collection and management of the disease. Participation of women in such activities is limited to chasing a wondering animal given the clear division of labour, high levels of illiteracy and child marriages, which tilts power relations in favour of men.

Exciting Visits by THRiVE Fellows to Cambridge University

By Corinna Alberg and David Dunne

The summer period is a bit of an oasis of calm with much of the university operating at a less frenetic pace. It is a great time to catch up with all those things that have dropped to the end of the 'to do' list, partly because they are the things you are not so keen to do. But then October arrives and the pace changes dramatically. The University is now in full swing with a new set of under-graduate and post-graduate students. Your inbox rapidly fills up with both the responses to previously unanswered emails sent during the summer and new initiatives.

The last of the peaceful times was enlivened with the visit of THRiVE fellow Peace Bagasha, who was in Cambridge during the latter part of August until the end of September. On this visit, she was based with us in Cambridge-Africa rather than in the Department of Public Health, so we saw much more of her than on her previous visit. She was busy here writing journal articles and discussing her research with her mentor. We very much enjoyed spending time with Peace and she got to know our full team. Our next THRiVE Fellow to visit is scheduled for November when Angelina Kakooza will spend time in Cambridge, returning to Uganda at

the end of the year. The Department of Pathology, where Cambridge-Africa is based, is split between two sites – partly at Addenbrookes Hospital where Angelina will spend some time in the laboratories there and partly in the city centre site where we are based, where she will have a base for the rest of her visit.



Peace with Corinna and Parinaz, the ALBORADA research fund coordinator

Over the last few days we have been reviewing the ALBORADA applications as part of the panel that is convened to do this. The call was open over the Summer and closed in September. A number of THRiVE-related applications were received although this time not from THRiVE fellows. The ALBORADA fund is certainly worth keeping in mind

for THRiVE post-doctoral fellows and THRiVE alumni, whom we look forward to having as PhDs are concluded. ALBORADA funding can be applied for jointly by post-doctoral level and above researchers based at Cambridge University and post-doctoral and above researchers based in Africa. Joint research can be on any topic from archaeology to zoology and can be between researchers in Cambridge and any African university. The idea is that it provides seed money for new research collaborations and from that, the researchers will be in a position to apply for larger grants. Up to £20,000 is available to fund science research projects with a lesser amount for social science research projects. Funds are also available to support workshops to be held in Africa involving Cambridge researchers and African researchers and for travel to initiate and plan these research collaborations. The next call will open in the early summer of 2020 and we hope there will be many THRiVE applicants. So THRiVE alumni and post-doctoral fellows, start planning for this with the Cambridge colleagues you have met as mentors or during your THRiVE visits to Cambridge.

THRiVE-2 Enhances Qualitative Research Skills of Researchers at Gulu University

By Onen Walter Yagos, Gulu University

THRiVE-2 through her continuous efforts to strengthen research quality at Gulu University has once more organized training for Graduate students and Researchers in qualitative methods. The soft skills training which took place on 25th and 26th September 2019 was exceptional. The trainers were home-grown, participants' enrollments overshot the projected number of 15 by 3 and total commitment of the trainers was displayed by their presence throughout the 2-day exercise. The Vice Chancellor, Professor George Ladaah Openjuru, the Director Institute of Graduate Studies Dr. Daniel Komakech attended the training. The topics covered were qualitative research philosophy, qualitative research strategies/approaches, sampling in qualitative research paradigm, research techniques and instruments in

qualitative research, qualitative data collection and analysis and validity and reliability in qualitative research.



Gulu Qualitative methods Dr Komakech

"Overall, the details of the training impressed me. I have always paid attention to qualitative methodology in an abstract form";

"I learned that scientists should think beyond data to solve practical issues which requires an insight to qualitative approaches and their applications";

"I learned the background to and relevance of qualitative research philosophies, determinants in sampling – justifications of research design".

The immediate benefits of the training voiced by participants were:

"I shall be better prepared to write and defend my proposal and report";

"I shall review the way I analyze and report qualitative data and move away from merely doing content analysis";

"The knowledge I have acquired will help me understand better my current research work, but more importantly it will help me to progress well with my PhD work".

A participant who was also a Graduate student Supervisor had this to say:

"I will use the skills acquired in my research write-up, apply it in supervising students' research and in teaching. Definitely, thinking above data will be part of my research, as the skills provide avenue to clearly derive scientific meaning from observations I had previously not considered important".



Training participants pose for a group photo after the training

Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene East African Research In Progress Meeting at KCMC

By David Mabey, Jenny Renju, Tara Mtuy and Jim Todd, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

The Royal Society for Tropical Medicine & Hygiene (RSTMH) hosted its third East African Research in Progress Meeting at KCMC in September. This has become an annual event in association with the East African Diploma in Tropical Medicine & Hygiene (EA DTM&H), which is currently running its ninth course. The two-day research meeting was attended by 100 people and included presentations from young African scientists from Botswana, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and the UK; keynote lectures from global leaders in the field; and one-on-one mentoring sessions for young researchers.

The joint winners of the prize for the best presentation were Naomi Rithi from ICIPE, who spoke about "Prospects of fabric panels impregnated with *Metarhizium anisopliae* against vectors of sleeping sickness," and Sarah Matuja from Muhimbili University of Health and Applied Sciences, who spoke about "Stroke in young adults admitted at a tertiary hospital in Tanzania: comparison with older adults."

Keynote lectures were given by Grahame Cooke, NIHR Professor of Global Health at Imperial College, who spoke on "Accelerating the elimination of viral hepatitis";

Henry Mwandumba, Professor of Medicine at the College of Medicine, Blantyre, Malawi, who spoke on "Exploiting HIV infection to understand pathogen-specific immune



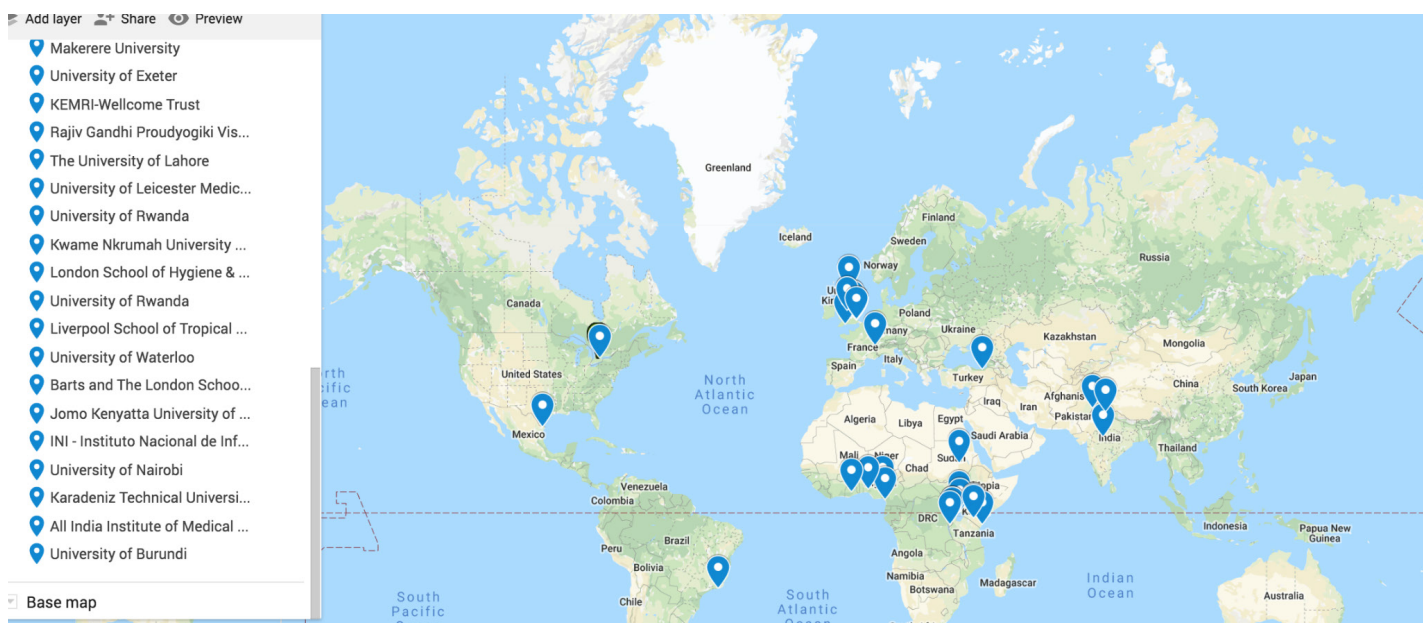
Some of the conference participants pose for a group photo

responses"; - Diana Lockwood, Professor of Tropical Medicine, LSHTM and Saba Lambert ALERT Hospital, Addis

Ababa, who spoke on the “New face of leprosy Project”; Koya Ariyoshi, Professor of Tropical Medicine, Nagasaki University, Japan, who spoke on “Some interesting findings from infectious diseases research in Asia”; and SweetC Alipon, Independent Consultant, WHO & Ministry of Health, Philippines, who spoke on “Vaccine-preventable diseases: why are they returning? ”

David Mabey, who was recently elected President of RSTMH, and Jenny Renju gave talks on “Building a Career in Research,” covering the efforts and accomplishments of THRiVE in supporting many African researchers. An important point was raised by a female Doctor from Uganda, whose questions referred to the career path for women in science. Both David and Jenny recounted some of the experiences of THIRVE’s excellent female research fellows and gave examples of how it is possible to juggle different aspects of life.

RSTMH was established in 1907, dedicated to improving tropical medicine and global health by providing knowledge and networks that drive impact. The Society publishes two journals, Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and International Health, provides small grants for early career researchers and hosts events and conferences. The Society is currently recruiting members and student ambassadors to help disseminate announcements to relevant students and staff in their university on an ongoing basis, and to provide feedback and ideas, thoughts or comments concerning Society’s activities. We currently have 45 Student Ambassadors in post at universities across 17 countries, as shown on the map. If you are a full- or part-time student in a subject related to global health and tropical medicine and would like to apply, please contact the Society at www.rstmh.org.



THRiVE-2 Fellows graduate as founder fellows of ECSACOG

By Dr. Susan Atuhairwe and Dr. Imelda Namagembe, THRiVE-2 PhD Fellows

We were privileged to attend the Joint AGOTA & ECSACOG Scientific Conference in Tanzania from 22nd to 24th September 2019 at the Julius Nyerere International Conference Centre, Dar es Salaam. AGOTA is Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Tanzania while ECSACOG is ‘East Central and Southern Africa College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists’. Our trip was partly sponsored by the Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Uganda (AOGU) where Imelda was the president and Susan the treasurer.

The conference theme was “Universal access to quality, comprehensive and integrated maternal, sexual and

reproductive health in the era of industrialization of Africa”. Over 150 delegates; doctors, midwives, researchers and other stakeholders from 14 countries in the ECSA region attended.

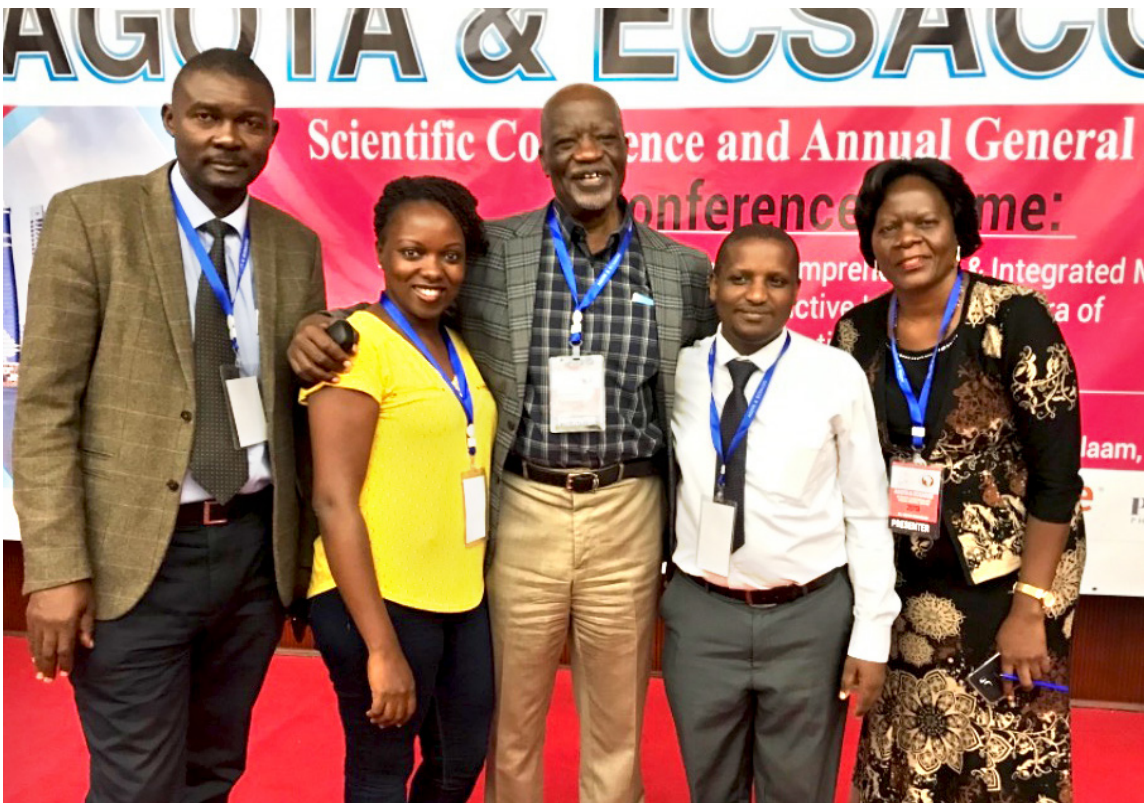
Day One started with the ECSACOG Annual General Meeting (AGM) where new office bearers were elected. The Charter President (Immediate past President) of ECSACOG is Assoc. Prof. J.K Byamugisha. Dr. Eugene Ngoga (from Rwanda) and Assoc. Prof. Annetee Nakimuli (Uganda) were voted as president and vice president respectively. Founder members, all Obstetricians and Gynaecologists were awarded certificates as Fellows/members of ECSACOG by Dr. Faustin



Dr. Susan Atuhairwe and Dr. Imelda Namagembe with the Ugandan team at the ECSACOG Conference

Riley, the Tanzania Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children. The key note address, delivered by Prof. Khama Rogo (a renowned maternal health researcher), focused on the need to disrupt the health care system status quo for us to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). THRiVE-2 PhD Fellows Dr. Susan Atuhairwe and Dr. Imelda Namagembe were among those who received Founding – Fellow Awards of ECSACOG.

There were over 50 scientific presentations made over the two days with some parallel sessions under the following themes: use of data in tracking progress; maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality; emergency obstetrics and neonatal care; NCDs & urogynaecology; infertility & contraception and family planning.



Ugandan team with Prof. Khama Rogo, key note speaker at the ECSACOG Conference

In addition, Imelda Namagembe participated in a panel discussion on how to strengthen maternal/ perinatal death surveillance and response (MPDSR) to reduce maternal/ perinatal deaths.

We acknowledge THRiVE-2 that has ably equipped us to engage with stakeholders at local, regional and international levels to advance maternal health and contribute to improving survival of our women.

Professional space for Research Administrators to Network is Critical for their Continued Development

By Dickson Muyomba, THRiVE IT Officer

In a complex research environment and the ever-changing processes in management, dedicated, competent and professional research administrators and managers (RAMs) are becoming more and more relevant in research management. Low- and middle-income countries are experiencing fast-growing knowledge economies, which calls for aligning with the research processes to drive future technological advancements. One way to address this challenge is for RAMs to create or join networks that foster information sharing, provide continuing education and share best practices. THRiVE being a network of excellence for research capacity building, it has supported RAMs within partner institutions to actively participate in RAMs networks both nationally and internationally. The participation and interactions of members within these networks has created new collaborations and generated important topics for discussion in research administration. Fairly new or young institutions in the area of research administration and management (RAM) have used such networks to accelerate their learning about RAM and setup grants management offices where they have not been in existence. These networks also act as platforms for funding agencies to share updates and learn of any existing challenges faced by the grantees during the annual RAM conferences. Research administrators' networks offer the opportunity of professionalising the research administrators' careers distinguishing them from the usual none research-related administration. A lot of emphasis is placed on the

following as some of the main qualities and skills that RAMs should possess:

- Capacity and interest to generate and/or interpret RAM-related information, and find meaning in textual or numeric data
- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively at all levels, i.e. communication between researchers and research administrators, between research administrators, researchers-in-training, upcoming researchers, leaders of research institutions, research regulators, funders, and users of research.
- Problem-solving competences, with ability to exercise high levels of honesty, integrity, and ethics.
- Ability to derive enjoyment from the work and responsibilities of being a research administrator or manager, contributing to solving problems and challenges, facilitating research efforts and not creating problems.

The presence of dedicated, competent and professional RAMs makes research enjoyable and a rewarding activity that contributes enormously in building research institutions that are relevant both nationally and internationally. In order to participate effectively in RAM networks there needs to be commitment by institutional leadership through provision of moral and budgetary support, among other factors.



Members of THRiVE (Dickson and Harriet) present their abstracts at the 2019 Society of Research Administrators International Annual Conference in San Francisco

Can Village Health Teams (VHTs) link older people with chronic conditions to health care facilities?

By Mugisha OJ , Seeley J, Kayondo J and Nyanzi E

About the authors: The article authors work MRC/UVRI and LSHTM -Uganda Research Unit and Uganda Virus Research Institute, respectively.

The number of older persons living with chronic non-communicable diseases is increasing rapidly globally and indeed in Uganda. Most of the interventions on chronic non-communicable diseases in Uganda do not target older people who are disproportionately affected by these conditions. As a result, older people have been left behind on interventions for treatment and control of chronic non-communicable diseases.

It is not clear if Village Health Teams, (VHTs) can be empowered to participate in interventions to prevent and control hypertension and diabetes in older adults in Uganda. We conducted a study whose overall objective was to establish the experiences of VHTs in dealing with old adults with health problems, their knowledge of hypertension and diabetes, their understanding of referral systems, their experiences with smart phones and to establish if VHTs could be effectively

trained to use a future planned smart phone-guided intervention to link older adults with hypertension and diabetes mellitus to care.

The methods we used for the study included in-depth interviews with study participants and trained 20 VHTs randomly selected from Bukulula Sub County in Kalungu district in Uganda from October 2017-December 2018. We used interview guides to explore topics relevant to our study objectives. VHTs were trained to measure blood sugar and blood pressure using digital machines. VHTs were trained on identifying symptoms of diabetes mellitus. Data from IDI were analysed using thematic content analysis. Competence tests were used to evaluate the training.

Preliminary results of the study showed that most (75%) of the VHTs were females. All VHTs had some knowledge on hypertension and diabetes and other chronic diseases

common in older adults. They did not have any experience in treating older adults since they had been trained to deal with children. Half of the VHTs owned smart phones. All were willing to participate in an intervention using a smart phone to link older adults with hypertension and diabetes mellitus to care. By the end of the training, all could comprehend the symptoms of diabetes and measure blood sugar and blood pressure.

Village Health Teams in rural southwest Uganda need training in managing the health needs of older adults before they get involved in an intervention using smart phones to link older adults with diabetes mellitus and hypertension to care.

I would like to thank the THRiVE Director, the THRiVE Secretariat and the implementing partners at the Uganda Virus Research Institute for their support and technical guidance received while conducting this research



Dr. Joseph Mugisha (right side second row) after a meeting with older people with chronic conditions within the study setting where he is undertaking his fellowship project.

MakCHS Graduate Interns expectations and experiences

Nandudu Gloria Mercy



In the world today, there is a need for capacity building in all fields and as a graduate from Makerere University, I am privileged to have been taken on as a graduate intern at the THRiVE-2 Secretariat for a three-month period from 1st July 2019 to 30th September 2019. THRiVE (Training Health

Researchers into Vocational Excellence) is a research capacity-building consortium engaged in a series of activities aimed at developing a conducive environment for research in East Africa.

During this time, I have had the opportunity to learn more about some aspects of research administration, for example, monitoring and evaluation and participated in generating a mid-year report of the project activities in the eight THRiVE institutions. Together with other graduate interns, I have been in a position to collect data for the Good Finance Grant Practice survey, I had sessions on generating data entry tools and been able to create one using epi-data which has further increased my knowledge in the field of research. Currently, we are working on a research proposal and we hope to publish the findings of the study once it's complete. I extend my sincere gratitude to the THRiVE Secretariat for their continued mentorship, training, and support during this period.

Moses Ntayi



Working with THRiVE for this last month has been a period of learning and reflection. Right from the day I started as a Graduate Intern to-date, I have added a number of skills under my belt – tool designing in EpiData, proposal writing and the all-important one, public relations. I have purposed

to have a research career, and I find these to be life skills. Proposal writing, analysis are the staple of a researcher and my development as a researcher depends on, as one writer said, "solid logic, a talent for comparison and a mind so steeped in a discipline that it can recognize an unexpected clue for what it's worth." I believe am on the right track to achieving this with THRiVE given the expectations the Director has of the graduate Interns, and the ever-increasing



THRiVE interns in a brainstorming session on Good Finance Grants Practice Data collection exercise

milestones I've reached since joining THRiVE. Whereas proposal writing and EpiData wouldn't raise a lot of dust given the nature of THRiVE as a research capacity building consortium, one would or wouldn't definitely wonder how I'd have learned much about public relations when I haven't worked in HR or communications (at least not yet), I have good news for the one in awe - fret no more.

Much of my work last month though satisfying, was equally frustrating. I don't and have never identified myself as a shy person (and I don't intend to do so in the near future), however, the process of data collection is full of the complexities of dealing with humans whose behavior and dealings are as unpredictable as the mutations of GP 120. I have however learned to adapt to situations as they arise, and these skills have come in handy as work continues. I now understand why the English say that experience is the best teacher.

Mugume Raymond



As Professor Nelson Sewakambo usually quotes Steven Spielberg, 'the delicate balance of mentoring someone is not creating them in your own image but giving them an opportunity to create themselves.' THRiVE consortium, a very familiar name around the College of Health

Sciences doesn't go without mentioning the brilliance of the research being carried out and so is the Executive Director, principled, humble, welcoming and so forth. When I completed my Academic year 2018/2019 at MAKCHS, all I

could wish for is gain a new skill far for clinical experience and that was research, voluntary work, conferences; and there it was the THRiVE AGM held from 6th to 7th June 2019. I applied to attend and was accepted even when I had no experience to attend and it was during the AGM that I met with my inner reality which is innovating, innovate, innovate and repetitively this phrase was said many times.

At the AGM, the presenters showcased their brilliance in research as I nodded and told myself that I would be like them and that experience brought me close to meeting and networking with THRiVE fellows, academicians, my former lecturers. Since then I am now an intern with this formidable consortium to excel at 'creating myself'. So far, I have gained skills in epi-data tool and proposal development. I want to explore the horizon of research at a bigger podium and I hope to publish too. My days ahead at THRiVE are bright and the climax of this journey is creating, innovating and publishing under the consortium. Aluta continua!

Gloria Nakiboneka



I was privileged to have attended the THRiVE AGM that was held at Africana Hotel from 6th to 7th June 2019. I learned a lot about research and the science that is out there, including concepts I had never encountered before. On the last day of the meeting, my colleagues and I approached the

Director THRiVE and asked for internship opportunities as we were blown away by the science and research THRiVE is supporting. We were lucky enough to be given opportunity to be graduate interns. This graduate internship has taught me a lot. We have been able to collect data for the Good Financial Grants Practices (GFGP) study and enter the data using Epidata. We have also been able to interface with the THRiVE Monitoring and Evaluation Portal. In addition, we are working on a research proposal. It's an all-round internship, and I am privileged to have been granted this opportunity. I would like to thank the THRiVE Secretariat for being instrumental in this successful and educational experience for me.

Simon Lubowa



Having tried to develop a research idea with colleagues from the interesting experiences we encountered during COBERS (Community-based Education and Research Services) without much success due to lack of guidance and motivation from the right people; call them mentors, and the less emphasis

on undergraduate research, my zeal to do research was slowly fading. When I got to know about the THRiVE internship program, I saw this as a golden opportunity to revive my dream of doing research. As an intern with THRiVE consortium I expect to get mentorship in the field of research from the reputable mentors within the consortium, the relevant training on how to develop a research idea, come up with a research proposal and a publication and acquire the skills required to carry out research. With the right guidance, motivation, mentorship, and resources from the consortium, I can develop into a competent clinical researcher. And with these skills, I hope that one day I will also be able to guide a colleague in the profession or an ambitious student along the path of doing research. I thank THRiVE for giving me this opportunity to train with them.

Semulimi Andrew Weil



I am a graduate of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery at Makerere University and a graduate intern at THRiVE. Being an Intern at THRiVE consortium has exposed me to numerous researchers and research projects. Therefore, I believe this is an opportunity to learn and understand various key aspects of the research

process from proposal development to the publication of the manuscript. It will also enable me acquire skills that I can use in writing other papers like case reports and also apply evidence from research studies in patient care and management. I also hope that I will be able to put into practice what I learned in my undergraduate and also form a basis for my Master's degree and Ph.D. This is a stepping stone to enable me to evolve into a good independent researcher in my field and also mentor my colleagues in research. THRiVE will provide an avenue for me to network with established researchers.



For More Information about THRiVE

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