

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Uganda Society for Health Scientists (USHS) is a research society, whose mission is to advance knowledge and seek scientific discoveries that will lead to the improved health of Ugandans. It was initially conceived by former graduate trainees of the AIDS International Training Research Program at Case Western Reserve University (AITRP/CWRU) in 1999. The Society has a Chairperson, Vice chairperson and an executive committee who develop the society's annual activities and evaluate its progress.

The AITRP at CWRU supports the Society thus providing continuous development of former AITRP trainees and all interested Ugandan researchers.

Membership to USHS is open to both health and non-health professionals involved in health research. Since 1999, membership has grown steadily and today the society has a total number of 512 registered members (full and associate).

1.1 SOCIETY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR 2007/2008:

The Society carries out the following activities every year, research methodology workshops, monthly scientific lectures, monthly journal clubs, annual scientific conference, research dissemination workshop for postgraduate students and also supports members to attend international conferences.

1.1.1 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY WORKSHOPS.

The annual research methodology workshops are a core activity of the society. The objective of the workshops is to provide a forum for research training to assist young and upcoming health researchers who have concept papers that they wish to develop into full proposals.

a) The Research Proposal Writing Workshop

A Research Proposal Writing workshop was held at the Makerere University John Hopkins University Research Collaboration (MUJHU) conference hall from 28th to 30th November 2007. The workshop attracted a total of 25 participants. Participants consisted mainly of post graduate public health and clinical medical students.

Dr. Pauline Byakika-Kibwika, the Chairperson of the society welcomed participants and informed them that the society aimed to equip members with skills to carry out quality research through the research methodology workshops. She also encouraged those who were not society members to join the society because they were a lot of benefits to get from the society. Dr. Achilles Katamba and Dr. Simon Luzige organized and coordinated the workshop.

Objective of the workshop

- To equip participants with skills to write research proposals.

Participants' expectations

- The workshop would enhance my research career.
- Such workshops help get better remedies to upcoming diseases.
- To have skills and knowledge of writing research proposals.
- To be in position to write a good proposal and carry out research and even publish it.
- To get to know people to assist in correcting my research proposal.
- Be able to teach other scientists research methodology i.e. a facilitator in a similar workshop.
- Attain skills that enable one to write a good research proposal that can attract funding.
- Net work with colleagues in fields related to research and statistics / Biostatistics clinical trials.
- To be able to develop a research proposal.

The workshop covered the following areas.

- Introduction to research methods & format of a research proposal by **Prof. Joseph Konde-Lule**
- Problem analysis by **Dr. David Mafigiri Kaawa**
- Research objectives & hypothesis by **Prof. Elly Katabira**

- Study designs by **Prof. Moses Kamya**
- Sampling procedure & Sample size determination by **Mr. Albert Maganda**
- Study setting, Study population, Selection criteria, Variables, Measurement by **Dr. Roy Mayega**
- Data collection methods by **Dr. Fred Nuwaha**
- Questionnaire design by **Dr. Fred Nuwaha**
- Data management, data analysis plan, management and quality control by **Dr. Achilles Katamba**
- Ethical issues in health research by **Mr. Paul Kutwabami**
- Planning and budgeting by **Mr. David Mukanga**
- Qualitative research methods by **Dr. David Mafigiri Kaawa**
- Reference manager by **Dr. Daniel Kyabayinze**

Some comments made by the participants

- Encourage the participants to write a proposal and present it to the society.
- The timing of the workshop should be two weeks before university examinations.
- Timekeeping by some facilitators was not observed.
- Increase the duration of the workshop from 3-5 days.
- Make the evaluation questionnaire is more coded, this will help in analysis.
- Program was well conducted.
- Advertise the presence of the society in other places apart from Kampala.
- The content was relevant.
- There should be more examples of social research as opposed to only clinical trials.
- The referencing we learnt was relevant to medicine only yet we also do social research. Otherwise it was good.
- Venue- walking up MUJHU was a difficult task, because of the hill. Yes it was a good exercise.
- Presenters need to avail presentations early enough before they start to teach.
- Very good but too much to learn in one day.
- Encourage participants to write a research proposal at the end of the training.

b) Data Analysis Workshop

Uganda Society for Health Scientists held a data analysis workshop from the 24th to 27th June 2008 at the Physiology lecture theatre medical school Mulago. This is the second series of the research methodology workshop. We received 85 applications for the workshop, however due to financial constraints and limited space 55 applicants were short listed.

The workshop had 54 persons in attendance comprising of 39 participants 22 female, 11 facilitators, 2 staff members and 2 volunteers. The participants were drawn from Makerere medical school, Nsambya Hospital, Infectious Diseases Institute, Mulago Hospital, Mildmay International center, Ministry of Education and Sports, MUJHU, PIDC, Gulu University among others. The Chairperson of USHS welcomed participants to the workshop and encouraged non society members to join the society. The lead committee members of the workshop were Dr. Carol Onyango, Dr. Pauline Byakika- Kibwika and Dr. Kenneth Kintu.

Objectives of Participants

- Some participants had the following workshop objectives:
- Hands on data analysis
- Improve qualitative and quantitative data skills
- Learn statistical packages
- Participants should be able to have basic data analysis
- To know the different types of data
- To have data management skills

The following topics were taught during the workshop:

- Type of data analysis software package (SPSS) by **Mr. Albert Maganda**
- Data management prior to analysis by **Dr. Danstan Bagenda**
- Methods of data presentation by **Dr. Roy Mayega**

- Methods of data location and dispersion by **Dr. Nazarius Mbona**
- Bivariate analysis and ANOVA by **Ms. Joan Nakayaga**
- Multivariable analysis by **Dr. Fredrick Makumbi**
- Logistic regression by **Dr. Fredrick Makumbi**
- Linear regression by **Dr. Nazarius Mbona**
- Introduction to survival analysis **Dr. Fredrick Makumbi**
- Non Parametric tests by **Dr. Nazarius Mbona**
- Qualitative analysis by **Dr. Stella Neema**

Evaluation analysis

Particulars	Below Average	Average	Good	Very Good	Excellent
Venue	3%	19%	52%	21%	5%
Meals	3%	12%	42%	30%	13%
Administrative support			29%	50%	21%
Topics taught					
Types of data software packages a demonstration of SPSS & STATA		22%	45%	22%	11%
Data management prior to analysis	11%	11%	45%	22%	11%
Methods of data presentation			11%	56%	33%
Methods of data location & dispersion			30%	60%	10%
Bivariate analysis	4%	5%	45%	41%	5%
Multivariate analysis Logistic regression	4%	14%	43%	26%	13%
Linear regression		9%	39%	39%	13%
Introduction to survival analysis			29%	50%	21%
Non parametric tests	5%	19%	52%	24%	
Qualitative analysis			43%	43%	14%
One to one with statisticians for personal problems		18%	18%	55%	9%

Comments made by participants:

- The workshop should be for at least 5 days so as not to congest the program
- Some presenters are too fast
- Clinical examples used are too complex for some participants
- 8:00am is too early to start the sessions
- Time management of some facilitators is still lacking
- More time for practicals
- All topics selected were very relevant
- Soft wares should be availed on CDs even if at cost to save time and avoid transmission of virus to our laptops.
- We need to know when to use STATA and SPSS
- Facilitators concentrate too much on STATA which some of us don't need
- Have the workshop four times a year
- We need also writing academic skills
- Participants should pay some amount to assist in facilitating
- Such workshops at regional level and up country
- We gained a lot thanks USHS
- Every society member should have a certificate of registration and registration number.

c). Manuscript Writing Workshop

The manuscript writing workshop is the last of the series of annual research methodology workshops that are conducted by the Uganda Society for Health Scientists after the proposal preparation and the data analysis workshops.

On September 24th -26th 2008, USHS held a manuscript writing skills workshop at the Infectious Diseases Institute. The Chairperson of the Society welcomed participants to the workshop and discussed with the participants the objectives of the workshop.

The workshop attracted a total of 23 participants comprising of 13 females, majority were medical personnel, who all had a manuscript they had started working on or a dissertation they hoped to

work on in the near future and develop into a manuscript for publication. Dr. Achilles Katamba and Dr. Andrew Kambu organized and coordinated the workshop.

Participants Expectations

- Knowledge of vetting proposals
- Tips and guidelines to publish
- Be able to critique manuscripts
- Improve skills of writing Manuscripts
- Know how to summarize a dissertation into a manuscript
- How to present findings of a paper
- Knowledge of different elements of a manuscript and how to write them.
- To know the different components of a manuscript and how they differ from a concept paper.
- Reasons for rejecting manuscripts

The following topics were handled by these facilitators during the workshop:

- Manuscript mapping and language skill by **Prof. James Tumwine**
- Overview Title, Introduction/background, Objectives Sentence structure **Prof. James Tumwine**
- Methodology by **Dr. Pauline Byakika-Kibwika**
- Data analysis overview (Results, Tables & Figures) by **Mr. Albert Maganda**
- Discussion, Conclusion, Recommendation, Acknowledgement by **Prof. Moses Kamyia**
- Abstract, submission, manuscript submission, correspondence with the editor by **Prof James Tumwine**
- Personal experiences in writing manuscripts by **Dr. Damalie Nakanjako & Dr. Andrew Kiboneka**
- End note demonstration by **Dr. Daniel Kyabayinze**

General comments

- Facilitators should refer to specific readings and websites for each topic
- Time management is still a problem on the organizers and facilitators side.
- Facilitators should try also to use not only specific clinical examples but also general examples.
- More practicals and interactions are required.
- Better to form groups for the practical session so that facilitators can work on several draft manuscripts so that each draft is commented on.
- We need more samples of journals
- Well organized workshop
- Most of expectations covered.
- We gained a lot of skills
- Thank you, USHS

All sessions had a practical component during which participants were able to present and discuss the relevant aspects of their manuscripts.

Evaluation

Activity/Item	Below Average	Average	Good	Very Good	Excellent
Manuscript mapping and language skill			15%	33%	50%
Overview Title, introduction/background, Objectives, Sentence structure			8%	69%	23%
Methodology			14%	57%	29%
Overview of data analysis		10%	10%	50%	30%
Discussion, Conclusion, recommendations, Acknowledgments			30%	30%	40%
Overview on abstract, submission, editor correspondence			10%	40%	50%
Personal experiences by successful young professionals		9%	9%	45%	36%

End note demonstration		13%	36%	50%	
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d). Grant writing workshop

This was held jointly by Uganda Fogarty Alumni Association (UFAA) and USHS on the 21st and 22nd February 2008 at the Infectious Diseases institute training room. We received 70 applications for the workshop, however due to financial constraints and limited space 55 applicants were selected.

The workshop had 59 persons in attendance comprising of 45 participants (23 females), 19 facilitators, 2 staff members and 1 volunteer. The participants were drawn from Makerere medical School, Nsambya Hospital, Infectious Diseases Institute, Mulago Hospital, Mildmay International center, Ministry of Education and Sports, MUJHU, Paediatrics Infectious Diseases Clinic, Gulu University among others.

The Chairperson of USHS welcomed participants to the workshop and non society members to join the society she then invited the Chairperson of Uganda Fogarty Alumni Association Dr. Damalie Nakanjako to address the participants. She thanked Fogarty International for sponsoring the Alumni in implementing their activities and also thanked the USHS chairperson for the cordial collaboration and assistance from the secretariat.

The following papers were taught during the workshop:

- Types of Grants, Eligibility and Collaboration by **Dr. Cissy Kityo**
- Format of grant proposal (research questions/aims) by **Prof. Yuka Manabe & Prof. Paul Bohjanen**
- Submission of proposals (How are grants reviewed/scored?) **Dr. Miriam Nanyunja**
- Correspondences with reviewers (How to maximize chances of having a successful application) by **Dr. Edith Nakku Joloba**
- Why grant proposals are rejected by **Dr. Concepta Merry**

- Funding opportunities and how to look for them by **Prof. Harriet Mayanja – Kizza**
- Budgeting by **Mr. David Mukanga**
- Implementation of grants by **Dr. Julius Lutwama & Mr. Tom Kakaire**
- Accountability and report writing by **Dr. Heidi Hopkins**
- Personal experiences in grant writing (panel discussion) by **Prof. Moses Kamyia, Prof. Yuka Manabe, Prof. Paul Bohjanen, Dr. Phillipa Musoke & Dr. Concepta Merry**

Evaluation analysis

Particulars	Below average	Average	Good	Very good	Excellent
Venue		13%	42%	42%	38%
Meals		7%	37%	53%	14%
Administrative support		13%	23%	52%	16%
Topics taught					
Types of grants			25%	75%	
Format of grant proposals	7%	20%	47%	27%	
Submission of grant proposals	7%		40%	53%	
Correspondences with reviewers		7%	7%	13%	33%
Why grants are rejected		7%	7%	64%	21%
Funding opportunities			12%	63%	25%
Budgeting			12%	88%	
Implementation of grants			20%	73%	7%
Accountability & report writing			14%	86%	
Personnel experiences in grant writing				57%	43%

Comments made by participants:

- There is need for some facilitators to improve on time keeping.
- Handouts should be given out before the lecture especially day one.

- Need energizers during long lectures.
- More use of the microphone by some facilitators.
- Need samples of successful grants written by the facilitators.
- Maintain the standard of the workshop.
- Good workshop

1.2 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE USHS 9th ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

This year's 9th Annual Scientific Conference was held on July 24th & 25th 2008 at Hotel Africana, Kampala.

The theme of the Conference was “**Multidisciplinary approach to improved health care in the era of HIV/AIDS**”. The Conference was attended by 175 participants (73 females).

The chairperson of the USHS thanked the organizers especially the organizing committee and the USHS secretariat for their time and effort put in to plan for the conference.

She wished the participants fruitful deliberations and also encouraged more people to join the society. The guest of Honour of the 9th Annual Scientific Conference was the Minister of Health, who was represented by Hon. Emmanuel Otaala, Minister of state for Primary Health Care who officially opened the two-day meeting. Below is his speech:

It gives me great pleasure to join you this morning on behalf of the Ministry of Health. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organizers of the 9th Uganda Society for Health Scientists Annual Scientific Conference, for inviting me to officiate at the opening of this meeting.

Scientific research is important in informing policy decisions and therefore a community that does not engage in research is like a ship sailing without a rudder. I am therefore pleased to know that the Uganda Society for Health Scientists has been at the forefront of promoting scientific research which allows sharing of experiences, dissemination of findings and capacity building among its membership. A functional linkage between research, policy and practice is key in driving the delivery of quality services to the population. Quite often sound research

findings gather dust on the shelves, while the policy makers are struggling to find cost-effective interventions that can improve the quality of life of Ugandans.

I hope that Uganda Society for Health Scientists will provide an opportunity to complete this fundamental relationship. Dissemination of research findings remains a challenge in this country, thereby hindering the utilization of such findings in influencing and improving policies and guidelines that are developed to improve programs.

I am glad to note that the Uganda Society for Health Scientists is providing a platform for researchers to share their findings both at international and national meetings such as this. Furthermore, I would like to propose that as researchers you take a step further and engage in dialogue with policy makers at the Ministry of Health and implementers at the district level.

We, at the Ministry of Health would therefore like to commend the Uganda Society for Health Scientists for inviting policy makers to participate in this conference. This should help ensure that innovative research findings are used to support program implementation, policy formulation and change, hence benefiting the population especially at grass-root level. Let me take this opportunity to encourage program implementers to always integrate basic and operational research in planning to enable them guide the choice of cost-effective interventions. Both central and local governments are encouraged to support and fund studies that will promote this vital link between research, policy and practice.

The choice of the theme: “Multi disciplinary Approach to Improved Health Care in the Era of HIV/AIDS” is both appropriate and timely given that we are beginning to see rising trends of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Uganda’s earlier success was based on a multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral and multi-cultural approach to combat the epidemic. It is possible that the current surge in the trends is linked to a disconnect in the response to the epidemic. It is imperative that we adopt strategies that bring together multiple stakeholders and proven interventions in order to reverse the current trend that the epidemic is taking.

I would like to conclude by once again thanking the organizers of this conference, the facilitators and presenters for putting in valuable time in preparing the scientific papers and the delegates for their participation.

I now declare the 9th Annual Scientific Conference of The Uganda Society for Health Scientists officially open and wish you fruitful deliberations.

The Keynote addresses given at the conference included:

- HIV/AIDS Statistics. **Dr. Grace Mulindwa, Institutional development planner, Uganda AIDS Commission**
- Translation of research evidence into policy. **Dr. Sam Okuonzi, Director MU-RCQHC**

The following were invited lecturers:

- Research policies and monitoring as a member of UNCST. **Mr. Julius Ecuru, Assistant Executive Secretary, Uganda National Council of Science and Technology.**
- Assessing and Managing Malaria Vector Resistance to insecticides used for Indoor Residual Spraying in Uganda. **Dr. James Tibenderana, Head malaria research centre, MOH.**
- Surgery and HIV/AIDS. **Dr. Sam Kaggwa, Head Department of Surgery**

The following papers were presented during the conference:

- Outreach clinics: An effective approach to scale up services to PHS: A TASO Mbale experience. **Dr. Kenneth Mugabe.**
- Using lay providers to scale up HIV/AIDS access for PLWAs in Uganda. **Dr. Kenneth Mugisha.**
- Assessment of adequacy of community pharmacies to refill antiretroviral prescriptions. **Mr. Evans Kariuki.**
- Use of community drug distribution points: A basic approach in Art scale up in resource limited settings. **Ms. Joyce Babirye**

- The role of liver enzyme in monitoring ARV associated hepatotoxicity in adult patients in Mulago Hospital AIDS clinics. **Dr. Robert Kalyesubula**
- Steady-state pharmacokinetic comparison of generic and branded formulations of stavudine, lamivudine, & nevirapine in HIV infected Ugandan adults. **Dr. Pauline Byakika-Kibwika**
- Toxicity of fixed dose stavudine, lamivudine & nevirapine regimen among HIV infected adults at the infectious Diseases Institute. **Dr. Fred Semitala**
- Clinical significance of sub optimal CD4 reconstitution despite viral suppression in an urban cohort initiating antiretroviral therapy in sub Saharan Africa. **Dr. Damalie Nakanjako**
- Comparison of IFN gamma responses induced in peripheral blood mononuclear cells & in whole blood cultures to 85B peptide Mycobacterium tuberculosis antigens at different points. **Ms. Helen Buteme**
- Early diagnosis of HIV infection in children with dry blood spot in Nsambya. **Dr. Josephine Mbidde Tabaro**
- Hepatitis C seroprevalence among HIV positive & HIV negative patients in Kampala. **Dr. Ponsiano Ocama**
- Paediatric HIV outcomes across a nation wide cohort in Uganda. **Dr. Andrew Kiboneka**
- Factors associated with mortality among HIV patients on HAART in a Ugandan program. **Dr. Gloria Sebikaari**
- Health provider initiated HIV counseling & testing reduces number of TB patients completing TB therapy without a confirmed status. **Dr. Denis Nansera**
- Plumpynut in the management of malnutrition among children with HIV/AIDS. **Ms. Juliet Aweko**
- Blood request form at the University teaching hospital: Evaluating design & Clinician. **Prof. Gabriel Bimenya**
- Perioperative exposure to blood & body fluids in Uganda: An urgent need for research to protect operating theater personnel in Uganda. **Dr. Timothy Kimuli**
- HIV/AIDS in a holistic care: The road to sustainable program & community development. **Dr. Stella Alamo**

- Pregnancy decisions & contraceptive use among HIV positive women. **Dr. Justine Walusimbi**
- HIV among the elderly: a sociodemographic survey at an HIV/AIDS clinic in Kampala. **Dr. Noeline Nakasujja**
- PMTCT program uptake at St. Joseph's Hospital Kitgum by **Dr. Luciana Bassani**
- Youth involvement in fighting stigma & discrimination among PLWA in Uganda. **Mr. Geoffrey Kinaalwa**
- Factors associated with HIV status of babies born to HIV positive mothers attending PMTCT. **Mr. Ahmed Katumba**
- Quality of integrated family planning /HIV/AIDS in Uganda: Health care improvement project. **Dr. Ibrahim Kirunda.**

The following were poster presentations:

- Evaluation of TB treatment outcomes among HIV positive clients at reachout Mbuya Uganda. **Dr. Charles Namisi**
- Immune response to antiretroviral therapy and psychosocial wellbeing of HIV infected children at the TASO Masaka. **Dr. Andrew Kiboneka**
- Strategies for preventing HIV in population most at risk: Discordance couple counseling in TASO. **Ms. Muzaki Margaret**
- The strength of aromatherapy in caring for PLWA at TASO Mbale. **Mr. Ali Nabugusi**
- Validation of the quality of data collection in a large observational clinic database in Uganda using a nested research cohort. **Ms. Agnes Kiragga**
- Improvement of patient flow in a large urban clinic with high HIV seroprevalence. **Ms. Barbara Castelnovo**
- Patient retention in an ART program in Uganda: Need for innovative delivery strategies. **Mr. Joseph Ouma**
- Lactate measurement of patients with suspected lactic acidosis with a hand held analyzer in a large outpatient HIV clinic in Kampala

- The workforce and cost implications of substituting nurses and pharmacists for doctors in the follow up of patients with AIDS on antiretroviral therapy in Uganda

The Annual General Meeting

At the end of day during the annual conference, members of the society held an annual general meeting and elected one new executive board member to replace Dr. David Meya who resigned from the board. Dr. Fred Semitala was elected unopposed.

As another means of increasing the income of the society, society members increased annual subscription fee from 10,000 to 20,000 and this took effect by 1st October 2008.

1.3 SCIENTIFIC LECTURES

The society conducts monthly scientific lectures or journal clubs where researchers present their research findings. This is held at the Medical School Davies Lecture Theatre.

- In November 2007, Dr. Charles Namisi presented **“HAART outcomes in a low cost setting at Reach out Mbuya”**.
- In February 2008, Dr. Achilles Katamba presented **“Efficiency of a third serial sputum examination in the diagnosis of Tuberculosis in Moldova and Uganda”**.
- In July 2008, Dr. Edith Nakku-Joloba presented a paper entitled **“The prevalence and incidence of Herpes Simplex type 1 & 2 in Kampala”**.
- In August 2008, Dr. Carol Onyango presented **“Efficacy and safety of HIV Immune Globulin in infants born to HIV-1 infected women in Uganda.**

1.4 UGANDA FOGARTY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Since the inception of the Uganda Alumni Association in June 2005, we have been able to register 147 alumni (39 females) in our data base. The activities which the alumni have engaged in included:

a). Second annual meeting

The second UFAA annual meeting was held at Hotel Africana on the 24th July 2008. A total of 15 alumni (5 females). Due to lack of quorum, new committee members were not elected. Dr. Cissy Kityo was the keynote speaker at the meeting and she presented a paper entitled **“Challenges of brain drain in Uganda versus local opportunities for scientists”**.

Members noted that it was very important for the association to seek more funds to support the activities of the association. Dr. Robert Kalyesubula, Dr. Pauline Byakika-Kibwika and Dr. Fred Semitala were selected to spearhead this grant writing.

b). Seminars

UFAA conducts monthly Continuous Medical Education Seminars (CMEs) to provide an opportunity for dissemination of research findings and continuous medical education. UFAA members have done this in 5 hospitals in Kampala. The overall goal is to improve patient care. This year the association will support similar activities in various district hospitals in Uganda starting with Mbarara and Gulu University hospitals.

The following sessions were conducted:

- On 9th April 2008 at Kibuli Islamic Hospital, Dr. Ponsiano Ocama presented a paper entitled **“Hepatitis B”**. A total of 34 participants (19 females) attended.
- On 3rd July 2008 at Mulago Hospital, Dr. Concepta Merry presented a paper entitled **“Career Management”**. A total of 100 participants (49 females) attended.
- On September 2008 at Nsambya Hospital, Dr. Emmanuel Othieno presented a paper on ***“The value of a mobile fine needle aspiration cytology clinic in rural Uganda”***. A total of 45 participants (22 females) attended.

c). Career guidance meeting for intern doctors at Mulago hospital

A meeting on career guidance and mentorship for Mulago hospital intern doctors was held on the 11th January 2008 at Mulago Hospital Lecture Theatre. A total of 27 participants attended (10 females). Dr. Damalie Nakanjako the chairperson of the Fogarty Alumni informed the participants about the formation of the alumni and its overall goal of bringing the alumni together to formulate the way forward and share ideas.

Dr. Pauline Byakika the Chairperson of USHS, gave a presentation about USHS and its various activities that include research activities, research methodology workshops, data analysis and writing skills workshops, research findings dissemination and mentorship.

Dr. Edward Kigonya, a senior consultant physician at Mulago hospital was the guest speaker and he gave a talk entitled “*Ethics and Professionalism*”.

d). Collaboration between USHS, UFAA and Uganda National Council of Science and Technology.

We have established a collaboration where the Fogarty alumni will provide expertise and be involved in activities of the Uganda National Council of Science and Technology (UNCST). A memorandum of understanding was signed between USHS and UNCST to allow the joint activity of research monitoring in Uganda.

The UFAA formed an ethics working group which consists of all members that have received the Fogarty training in bioethics.

The first meeting was held on 14th February 2008 at the UNCST offices to formally launch the activity by the Deputy Executive Secretary, Chairperson of USHS and the Chairperson of UFAA. This meeting was attended by 12 persons (4 females).

c). Research monitoring activity

UNCST and USHS signed a memorandum of understanding to undertake post approval monitoring of research for compliance with national ethical standards and norms.

The Fogarty alumni bioethics working group conducts this activity on behalf of the alumni.

The following sites have been monitored:

i). Epicenter Mbarara; on the 9th April 2008.

ii). Centers for Diseases Control, Tororo Hospital; on the 11th April 2008.

iii). Makerere University-University California San Francisco Malaria Research Collaboration project; on the 29th March 2008.

- Pharmacovigilance and antimalarial treatment in Uganda: A pilot surveillance system.

iv). Uganda Cancer Institute on 29th July 2008 for the following two studies.

- Etiology, risk factors, clinical features of childhood non-Hodgkin's lymphomas in Uganda.
- HHV-8 replication and progression to Kaposi's sarcoma in Africa.

v). Makerere University-Johns Hopkins University research collaboration on 27th July 2008 at Mulago.

- Do peers counselors promote adherence to ARVs?
- HPTH 027, A phase 1 study to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of ALVAC HIV in infants born to HIV-1 infected women in Uganda version 2.0
- A pilot study to determine human papillomavirus seroprevalence and associated dysplasia & neoplasias in women at high risk for HIV infection in Kampala.

vi). MRC/UVRI Masaka on 24th September 2008.

- An international multicentre randomised double blind, placebo controlled trial to evaluate the efficacy and safety of 0.5% & 2% PRO 2000/5 gels for prevention of vaginally acquired HIV infection MDP301.

vii) Rakai Health Services on 25th September 2008.

- A randomised double blind, placebo controlled trial of acyclovir prophylaxis vs placebo among HIV- 1/HSV -2 co-infected individuals.

d). Community outreach

A community outreach activity was carried out on 11th April 2008 at Nkozi Hospital and Mpigi health center IV. The aim of the outreach was to complement the functioning of the health unit/community by providing technical expertise related to the activities carried out in the respective sites. The outreach team consisted of seven doctors, three doctors (Dr. Betty Kamira, Dr. Damalie Nakanjako and Dr. Kenneth Kintu and Isabella Achokotho the society administrator visited Mpigi health IV. Four doctors (Dr. Simon Luzige, Dr. Opio Kenneth and two visiting doctors from Yale University, and Richard Senvewo visited Nkozi hospital.

Nkozi Hospital activities included the following:

- The Meeting with the hospital management to forge the way forward to conduct the community activity.
- Clinical care was conducted by two doctors participating in the general outpatient clinic. Most patients had been referred by clinical officers and the following diagnoses were made; tuberculosis, diabetes, renal disease, asthma, joint disease. The other two doctors participated in an HIV clinic supported by Uganda Cares. Over 100 patients are reported to attend this clinic on a daily basis. Clinical officers and nurses with orientation training in HIV/AIDS run this clinic and they refer more complicated cases to the doctors.

Mpigi health center IV was involved the following activities:

- A ward round was conducted with an enrolled nurse and nursing aide students. The children's ward had cases of malaria and marasmus with bronchopneumonia. One boy had never received UNEPI immunization and was transferred to Mulago

Hospital. The male ward had cases of malaria and liver disease, the patient with liver disease was transferred to Mulago. The female ward had patients with PCP, disseminated Kaposi sarcoma, malaria and anxiety.

- The outpatient clinic had cases of malaria, diarrhea, urinary tract infections and two cases of alleged defilement.
- The HIV outreach clinic was based at Ggoli and this clinic is supported by JCRC. The ARVs and laboratory test for HIV are provided by JCRC. Two ARV defaulters were reviewed and counseled.

Challenges

- The units have limited drug and sundry supplies, inadequate laboratory facilities, lack of radiology facilities and very poor patients who can not afford transportation fees upon being referred.
- There were no medical doctors at Mpigi.

e). Fogarty member's participation

We have encouraged members of UFAA to participate actively in USHS activities.

- Dr. Henry Luzze on 2nd August 2007 presented a paper entitled **“Use of prednisolone as an adjunct to anti-tuberculosis therapy in HIV associated pleural T.B in Uganda”**.
- Mr. Julius Ecuru on 20th September 2007 presented **“New guidelines for research involving humans as research participants”**.
- Dr. Achilles Katamba on 28th February 2008 presented **“Efficiency of a third serial sputum smear examination in the diagnosis of Tuberculosis in Moldova and Uganda”**.
- Dr. Edith Nakku-Joloba on 17th July 2008 presented a paper entitled **“The prevalence and incidence of Herpes Simplex type 1 & 2 in Kampala”**.
- Dr. Carol Onyango on 28th August 2008 presented **“Efficacy and safety of HIV Immune Globulin in infants born to HIV-1 infected women in Uganda.**

Six alumni facilitators participated in the Data analysis workshop (25th -27th April 2007, 7 in the manuscript writing workshop (12th – 14th September 2007) and 8 in the proposal development workshop (28th – 30th November 2007), 6 in the data analysis workshop (24th - 27th July 2008) and five participated in the manuscript writing workshop (24th – 26th September 2008).

Eleven presented their findings at the USHS Annual Scientific Conference in July 2007 and four presented their findings at this conference.

1.5 PUBLICITY

This year, the Society got increased publicity by potential members through its activities like workshops, journal clubs, scientific lecturers, and annual scientific meetings, publications like the newsletter and brochure, UFAA and through the sale of T-shirts. We were able to attend the Uganda AIDS Commission in March 2008 where the society exhibited her work.

1.6 COLLABORATION AND LINKAGES

a). The primary source of funding for USHS activities is AITRIP at CWRU. USHS needs to diversify its funding source and aim at gradually becoming self-sufficient so that it can expand on its activities.

USHS has continued to seek both in-country and international assistance from developmental individuals, donor agencies and institutions to further the Society's goals.

b) The secondary sources of funding are:

- Collection of annual subscription fees from society members.
- A registration fee was charged during the Annual Scientific Conference as another means of raising funds for the society.
- An attendance fee was charged during the Research training workshops for non society members.

- The society has also embarked on grant proposal writing to source for funds.

1.7 SECRETARIAT

The secretariat is housed at the Department of Anatomy, 2nd floor room C14. The Secretariat staff comprise of the Administrator and administrative Assistant. The office is furnished with 2 computer sets, internet services, fax, photocopier, library, and laptop.

The secretariat staff work in collaboration with the Executive Board Committee, which comprises of 10 members headed by the Chairperson.

1.8 OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

- AITRP funding has been renewed for the next five years.
- Membership has grown to 512 people.
- Continued operation of the society.
- Reliable internet access.
- Reliable electricity (Inverter).

1.9 CHALLENGES

- Limited source of funding
- Limited resources to support young scientists.
- Inadequate space for USHS secretariat and resource centre.
- Strengthening linkages and collaborations.
- Unpaid membership fees.

We have planned to address the above issues through the following:

- Writing grants for alternative funding
- Organise more workshops and conferences at national and international standards.

2.0 CONCLUSION

USHS has continued to grow. There are challenges to overcome and opportunities to seize. We thank all members of the society for the commitment to the objectives of the society. Our special thanks go to Dr. Chris Whalen for his technical advice and financial support. We look forward to the future with confidence as we work together for better health of all Ugandans.

LIST OF ADVISORY BOARD & EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS 2007- 2009

Dr. Chris Whalen	- Technical Advisor
Prof. Raphael Owor	- Patron

Prof. Moses Kanya - Advisory board member
Prof. Jerome Kabakyenga - Advisory board member
Dr. Pauline Byakika Kibwika - Chairperson
Dr. Achilles Katamba - Vice chairperson
Dr. Kenneth Kintu - Secretary
Dr. Carol Onyango Makumbi - Treasurer
Prof. Harriet Mayanja Kizza - Executive board member
Dr. Andrew Kambugu - Executive board member
Dr. Irene Andia - Executive board member
Dr. Samuel Biraro - Executive board member
Dr. Simon Luzige - Executive board member
Dr. Fred Semitala - Executive board member