

UGANDA FOGARTY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REPORT FROM JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER 2008

1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS.

a). Second annual meeting

The second annual meeting was held at Hotel Africana on the 24th July 2008. A total of 15 alumni (10 male and 5 females). Due to lack of quorum, the new committee members were not elected. Members suggested that 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”*.

The meeting decided to write grants as another for sourcing for funds and the following persons were selected to spearhead this activity, Dr. Robert Kalyesubula, Dr. Pauline Byakika and Dr. Fred Semitala.

2. CREATING AND MAINTAINING A DATABASE

Since its conception the alumni association has identified former Fogarty trainees and developed a Ugandan Fogarty Alumni database which is being continuously updated. The database has 155 alumni with 38 females and 92 males. We use this database to communicate to the alumni about activities of the association and to know their career progress following the Fogarty training.

We have created a link to Fogarty alumni association and activities through the USHS website.

3. SEMINARS

Continuous Medical Education Seminars (CMEs) were carried at 5 hospitals in Kampala by former Fogarty trainees facilitated by the Alumni Association. The aim is to give an opportunity to Fogarty alumni to disseminate findings of their research papers and impact patient care practices in Uganda. This year the association will support alumni in Mbarara and Gulu Universities to offer these seminars.

To date 3 CME's have been carried out:

- On 9th April 2008 at Kibuli Islamic Hospital, Dr. Ponsiano Ocama presented a paper entitled “Hepatitis B”. A total of 34 participants attended the talk 15 males and 19 females.
- On 3rd July 2008 at Mulago Hospital, Dr. Ceppie Merry presented a paper entitled “*Career Management*”. A total of 100 participants attended the talk 51 males and 49 females.
- 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 of which 23 were males and 22 females.

4. CAREER GUIDANCE MEETING FOR INTERNS AT MULAGO HOSPITAL

A meeting on career guidance and mentorship meeting for Mulago interns was held on the 11th January 2008 at Mulago Hospital Lecture Theatre. A total of 27 participants attended this meeting comprising of 10 females and 17 males. 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 away forward and share ideas.

Dr. Pauline Byakika the Chairperson of USHS, who also talked about the foundation of the society and its various activities that include research activities, share research experience and mentor other researchers.

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

5. COLLABORATION BETWEEN USHS, FOGARTY ALUMNI AND WITH UGANDA NATIONAL COUNCIL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

We have established the above collaboration where the Fogarty alumni will provide expertise and be involved in activities of the Uganda National Council of Science and Technology (UNCST).

The memorandum was signed between USHS and UNCST to allow joint activity of research monitoring in Uganda.

The Fogarty alumni association 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 Fogarty Alumni Association.

This meeting was attended by 12 persons comprising of 4 females and 8 males.

6. GRANT WRITING REPORT

Uganda Fogarty alumni Association and Uganda Society for Health Scientists held a grant writing workshop on the 21st and 22nd February 2008 at the Infectious Diseases Institute training room, Mulago Hospital. We received 70 applications for the workshop and 55 eligible applicants were short listed and invited to attend the workshop.

A total of 45 participants (23 females and 22 males) both Fogarty alumni and non alumni including junior and senior researchers attended the workshop. 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. Seven out of the 19 facilitators were alumni.

The following papers were taught during the workshop:

1. Types of Grants, Eligibility and Collaboration by Dr. Cissy Kityo
2. Format of grant proposal (research questions/aims) by Prof. Yuka Manabe & Prof. Paul Bohjanen
3. Submission of proposals (How are grants reviewed/scored?) Dr. Miriam Nanyunja
4. Correspondences with reviewers (How to maximize chances of having a successful application) by Dr. Edith Nakku Joloba
5. Why grant proposals are rejected by Dr. Concepta Merry
6. Funding opportunities and how to look for them by Prof. Harriet Mayanja – Kizza
7. Budgeting by Mr. David Mukanga
8. Implementation of grants by Dr. Julius Lutwama & Mr. Tom Kakaire
9. Accountability and report writing by Dr. Heidi Hopkins
10. Personal experiences in grant writing (panel discussion) by Prof. Moses Kanya, Prof. Yuka Manabe, Prof. Paul Bohjanen, Dr. Phillipa Musoke & Dr. Concepta Merry

8. RESEARCH MONITORING ACTIVITY

Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) and the Uganda Society for Health Scientists on behalf of the Fogarty alumni 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 on behalf of the alumni. The following sites are as follows:

- i). Epicenter Mbarara on the 9th April 2008.
- ii). Centers for Diseases Control Tororo Hospital on the 11th April 2008.
- iii). Makerere University-California San Francisco Research Collaboration research project on the 29th March 2008 in Jinja.
 - 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). MUJHU research collaboration on 29th 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 and neoplasias in women at high risk for HIV infection in Kampala.
- vi). MRC /UVRI Masaka on 24th September 2008.
 - An international multi centre randomised double blind, placebo controlled trail 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 randomized double blind, placebo-controlled trail of acyclovir prophylaxis vs placebo among HIV-1/HSV-2 co-infected individuals.

9. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

A community outreach 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 with some 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. For Nkozi hospital, the team which visited included four doctors (Dr. Simon Luzige, Dr. Opiio Kenneth and two visiting doctors from Yale University who volunteered to participate in the and Richard Senvewo society's administrative assistant.

Nkozi Hospital activities included the following:

- i. The Meeting with the hospital management to forge away forward to conduct the community activity by following its objectives.
- ii. Clinical care was conducted by two doctors participating in the general outpatient clinic. Most patients had been referred by clinical officers and most adults were suffering from Tuberculosis, diabetes, renal disease, asthma, joint disease and children severed mostly from fever.

The other two doctors participated in an HIV clinic supported by Uganda Cares. Over 100 patients are reported to have attended this clinic on a daily basis. Clinical officers and nurses with orientation training in HIV/AIDS run this clinic and they refer rather complex cases to the doctors when they are around.

Mpigi health center IV was involved the following activities:

- i. 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. This particular bay had never received UNEPI immunization and was transferred to Mulago Hospital. The male ward had cases of malaria and liver disease the man with liver disease was transferred to Mulago. The female ward had cases of PCP, disseminated Kaposi Sarcoma, Malaria and anxiety.

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

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.
- No presence of medical doctor at Mpigi though interviews were conducted to replace the one on study leave.

10. FOGARTY MEMBER'S PARTICIPATION

We have encouraged Fogarty alumni members to participate 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.
- Dr. Fred Nakwagala on 28th January 2009 presented a paper entitled " Overview on Diabetes Mellitus"
- Dr. Irene Andia on 27th February 2009 presented a paper entitled "HAART associated with increased use of barrier contraception during rapid scale up of HAART access in Mbarara Uganda".
- Six alumni facilitators participated in the Data analysis workshop (25th -27th April 2007, seven in the Manuscript writing workshop (12th – 14th September 2007), eight in the Proposal development workshop (28th – 30th November 2007), six in the Data analysis workshop (24th -27th July 2008), five participated in the Manuscript writing workshop (24th – 26th September 2008) and seven participated in the Proposal development workshop (14th to 16th January 2009).
- Eleven presented their findings at the USHS Annual Scientific Conference in July 2007 and four presented their findings at this conference in July 2008.