

## Global Health Research Group on Prevention & Management of Non-Communicable Diseases and HIV infection in Africa.

### RESEARCH STUDIES

**Management of Chronic Conditions in Africa (MOCCA) study** – We are collating the lessons learned for publication. We are on course to complete study follow up at the end of December.

**META Trial Phase 2** – Final arrangements are being made to start the trial. Never have the wise words ‘beware, a pilot can be more work than the real thing’ been more true. Delays have been caused in the manufacture of placebo. Several visits from UK, Uganda and ISGlobal partners to Dar es Salaam are planned for August to ensure everything is in place for a smooth start. In August, we’re also planning 10 days or so on-the-job capacity building in database programming in Dar es Salaam.

**INTE-AFRICA** – We’re 6 months into the project and have recently submitted the following EC deliverables and milestones:

- Formal collaboration Agreement
- Initial Data Management Plan
- Data Protection assurances
- Work Package 3 (System preparedness and sustainability) Expert Panel was established and met on 20 June

The next deliverable due by end of September is:

- Submission of Study Proposal

**VISITS** Shabbar, Hazel, Jeff and Camila (ISGlobal) visited Uganda from 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> June. The visit provided the opportunity to see some of the current MOCCA health facilities, engage with health care workers, review progress and meet key partners including Ministry of Health, TASO and UVRI/MRC/LSHTM.



*The photos above show (from Left to Right) Mr Kato William, Nurse in Charge of NCD clinic reviewing case records with Jeff, Shabbar and Josephine; and the MOCCA STUDY team in Kiswa health care centre.*

Time was spent reviewing current promotional information available in Uganda around diabetes and hypertension and we had excellent discussions with Dr Joshua Musinguisi and Dr Gerald Mutungi in Ministry of Health – a million thanks for their time and efforts.

June 2019

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*The photo above shows Jeff, Hazel, Josephine, Ivan and Shabbar visiting Joshua and Gerald at MoH in Kampala.*

Shabbar and Josephine went on to visit Tanzania from 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June. Huge thanks to the teams in Uganda and Tanzania for facilitating these visits!

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

INTE-AFRICA Posters: ISGlobal is working with a communications agency to design and produce posters and leaflets for use in Uganda and Tanzania.

- Three pictorial posters that will be hung in the waiting rooms, hallways, and consultation rooms of the clinics included in the study across Tanzania and Uganda. (Target audience: patients)
  - o One poster on diabetes management
  - o One poster on hypertension management
  - o One poster on the INTE-AFRICA project
- Three brochures that further explain each poster (Target audience: patients, HCWs)
  - o One brochure explaining diabetes management (exercise, healthy eating habits, regular doctor check-ups and adherence to pills)
  - o One brochure explaining hypertension management (exercise, health eating habits, regular doctor check-ups and adherence to pills)
  - o One brochure explaining the INTE-AFRICA project

We need your help in shaping the final designs and plan to have consultation with Ministry of Health, health care workers, patients and researchers in Uganda and Tanzania. In order to have the material ready for sensitisation of patients by November 2018, we will request your inputs at various stages of development.

In addition to above we will provide templates for signage with INTE-AFRICA logo to all health facilities within the project.

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### NEW STAFF



An experienced database developer, **Erik Van Widenfelt**, will be joining the partnership to develop and manage the databases for META and INTE-AFRICA and to train staff in python programming. Erik will be in Tanzania end of August to work with Ayoub from Uganda and Ayubu and Amani from Tanzania.

### FUNDING PROPOSALS

The Tanzanian team are leading the submission of a concept note on addressing NCDs risks in adolescents. This is in response to a joint initiative between the Medical Research Council (MRC), the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Department for International Development. The call seeks to provide the research evidence needed to effect real and practical changes to improve adolescent health in LMICs.



*The photo above shows Prof Mfnanga (centre) with, from left to right: Ms Happy Nchimbi (from the NCDs Alliance and Diabetic Association), Mr Gibson Kagaruki (NIMR), Dr Boniface Richard (from the Ministry of State in the President's Office Regional Administration, Local Government), Prof Godfrey Mfinanga (NIMR Muhimbili Centre Director), Ms Teresia Kuiu (from the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training), Dr Elizabeth Shayo (from NIMR) and Dr Godfather Kimaro (from NIMR Muhimbili Centre). Sokoine Kivuyo is not in the photo as he is the one taking it.*

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NIHR has announced Health Policy & Systems Research (HPSR) Development awards. Closing end of July, the award is for up to £100k. The aims of the grant are to build equitable partnerships between UK and LMIC, to carry out research needs assessment, engage stakeholders and support knowledge exchange. We are applying to expand our current partnership to include University of Botswana and University of Addis Ababa.

### MEETINGS

Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD) is hosting a 5-day Implementation Science School for early- and mid-career researchers, in Bangkok from 5-9 November 2019. The application process closes 10 July.

Josephine and Sokoine will be in Liverpool from 8-15 October to start data analysis of MOCCA data. They will be joined for part of the time by Prof Mfinanga. This is ahead of the NIHR steering committee meeting, which will be held in Uganda from 2-4 Dec. This will focus on reviewing progress to date, our research strategy moving forwards and reviewing any current/upcoming funding proposals.

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