

## 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)**– the focus is on getting all data cleaned and ready for analysis.

**META Trial Phase 2** – We're delighted to be starting this trial at the end of September. Sokoine, Anu, Joseph and Erik are working tirelessly to ensure everything is ready.

**INTE-AFRICA** – Thank you for contributions. We will submit as draft to the European Commission by end of September. Under Work package 3, University College Dublin have developed a draft report on the scoping review they conducted. This will be circulated for comment.

### VISITS

Given the META trial start date, it is planned that Anu will be in Tanzania from start of October, Joseph from mid-October and Shabbar from end October to support the local team. Josephine and Sokoine are coming to Liverpool in mid-October (along with Levi and Gibson who are statisticians and new to the Group) to work on data analysis and prepare presentations for the December steering committee meeting.

Preparations for the December Steering Committee meeting in Uganda (2-4 Dec) are in-hand and we look forward to using the time together to discuss the findings from our pilot studies and refine our future research agenda.



Photo: Shree Hindu Mandal Hospital, Tanzania

### FOCUS ON...META

The metformin trial is a phase II randomised double-blind placebo-controlled trial to evaluate metformin in HIV-positive persons on antiretroviral treatment (ART) with pre-diabetes.

Eligible patients will be HIV-positive adults on ART and confirmed to be pre-diabetic using the Oral Glucose Tolerance Test (OGTT). They will be randomised 1:1 to the metformin or placebo. The trial will be done at 2 facilities in Tanzania (Amana and Hindu Mandal).

The primary outcome is glycaemia at 12 months as ascertained by the oral glucose tolerance test. Recruitment is for a total of 360 patients (180 to each study arm) with participants followed up for a duration of 12 months after recruitment. We have an application for phase 3 funding with EDCTP that scored high, but a decision appears to have been deferred until after 31 October.



Photo: Amana Hospital, Tanzania

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## COMMUNICATIONS

### Health facility posters and leaflets

Working with INIS Communications, ISGlobal have produced draft text for 3 posters and 1 leaflet for the health care facilities which will be involved in INTE-Africa. Through visits to Uganda and Tanzania, ISGlobal received input from Ministry of Health as well as patients, healthcare workers and social scientists, on how to develop culturally and language appropriate communications material.

ISGlobal have identified the variables to consider while developing communications material for global health projects vary from colour palette, amount of text and illustration style to size and material durability that can withstand extreme temperatures.

The draft text to be used on the posters and leaflet have been circulated for input and we await draft graphics. The intention is that these communications materials will be available for patient sensitisation prior to the RCT start date of 1 January 2020.



### INTE-AFRICA website



The INTE-Africa website is now live! Please check it out at: <http://inteafrica.org/>

Hosted by ISGlobal, the website has information about the project, the partnership and news stories.

Feedback is very welcome!

## FUNDING PROPOSALS

### GCRF global multimorbidity seed-funding

We are applying for this £200k seed-funding to test our ideas and refine the future research agenda on multimorbidity. We would also use this funding to expand in Uganda to include Makerere University and a new country, Botswana, where we wish to partner with the University of Botswana. The application process closes on 9 October. MRC has had almost 200 expressions of interest submitted – only 10-15 will be funded.

### NIHR Extension

We received confirmation from NIHR that our no-cost extension request until 31 March 2021 was approved. We are now applying for a costed extension (£500k) which needs to be submitted by 7 November.

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## EVENTS

### 11<sup>TH</sup> European Congress on Tropical Medicine & International Health

Shabbar made a presentation at this conference on behalf of the partnership, outlining the growing disease burden from NCDs and lessons learned from pilot studies (one of his slides shown here to the right).

During a plenary, he and others argued that tackling NCDs in the face of a continuing burden of infectious diseases was the major challenge of our time.

**The Partnership**

Head, AIDS Control Programme, Uganda

Head, NCDs Control Programme, Uganda

Director of Programmes, TASO, Uganda

Deputy Director of Prevention, Tanzania

Head, NCDs Control Programme, Tanzania

Tanzania Diabetes Association

Professor Sayoki Mfinanga

Professor Moffat Nyirenda

Professor Shabbar Jaffar

### NIHR Training Academy

On 7 October, Anu will attend the NIHR Global Health Research Training Forum. This meeting follows the recent consultation document that they circulated on the NIHR GHR Training Support and Co-ordination Activity Plan, and discussion will include how to create a GHR training community.

### Leadership & Communications Training

Josephine, Sokoine, Anu, Joseph, Tinevimbo and Hazel will take part in leadership and communications training on 15 October in Liverpool. We are discussing also a 7-10-day tailor-made training period somewhere next year to include: proposal writing, study design and interpreting evidence and maybe another dose of communications/leadership.

### GACD Annual Scientific Meeting

The Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases is hosting their annual scientific meeting in Thailand 11-15 November this year. The programme includes a 2-day workshop on implementation research and then 3 days of the main meeting to which about 120 GACD members will attend alongside 50 representatives from funding bodies. There will also likely be a side meeting of GACD's multi-morbidity working group to maybe shape future funding calls.

We are hoping Shabbar and Josephine will attend on behalf of the partnership.

### Meeting to define the Research Agenda on NCDs

There is now interest among several funders and WHO appear keen to engage. We are therefore going to plan a meeting next year to define priority research questions, probably in partnership with WHO and probably in Liverpool.

### Public Engagement event

Shabbar, Tinevimbo and Hazel will attend a public engagement event in Manchester on 22 October. The event, run by the Royal Society, aims to increase knowledge and interest in science amongst children aged 7-13. Shabbar is under strict instructions not to bore the children with a long lecture!!

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