

## 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)** – Josephine, Sokoine, Levi and Gibson will be in Liverpool from 18 November for 10 days to analyse the MOCCA data and start writing the main paper.

Photo: 1<sup>st</sup> patient being screened for META trial, in Amana Hospital, Tanzania



**META Trial Phase 2** – we have started screening patients in Amana Hospital for enrolment in the trial.

**INTE-AFRICA** – We have various outputs due by end of December across the work packages. Ivan and Josephine are working on a draft capacity development plan, Marie Claire is pulling together the process evaluation strategy, Jeff and Camila are finalising the communications strategy and Walter and colleagues are looking for external experts to join the Delphi panel of experts. A final version of the INTE-AFRICA protocol has been circulated and submitted for ethical approvals.

### MEETINGS

Moffat, Mfinanga and Shabbar met recently in Tanzania to discuss our responses to the upcoming NIHR calls and to mobilise support from Ministry of Health for our future research agenda.

The inaugural meeting of the Uganda Local Steering Committee for INTE-AFRICA was held on 3 November. Chaired by Moffat and with Gerald Mutungi representing NCD Control in the Ministry of Health, the Committee received presentations on MOCCA and plans for INTE-AFRICA; and reviewed its Terms of Reference. Members of the Committee will meet the International Steering Committee in December in Uganda.

Preparations for the December International Steering Committee meeting (2-4 Dec in Uganda) continue with plans for site visits, presentations on our current research studies, health economics and social science.

Photo: Members of the Uganda National Steering Committee who met on 3 November.



### EXPERT PANEL – Can you help?

Our colleagues at University College Dublin (UCD) are establishing an *expert panel* to help identify best practice in integrated service provision for the prevention, identification and treatment of HIV, hypertension and diabetes in sub Saharan Africa. The panel will be asked to participate in an online Delphi survey, during which they will indicate how important they consider a range of measures to better integrate HIV, hypertension and diabetes services. Colleagues who are experienced in clinical care, research, or healthcare policy are especially and who are interested in participating in the panel should email Dr Geoff McCombe ([geoff.mccombe@ucd.ie](mailto:geoff.mccombe@ucd.ie)) to indicate their interest.

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### **FOCUS ON...Socio-behavioural sciences and INTE-AFRICA**

We recognise that outcomes of INTE-AFRICA are very dependent on understanding cultures and contexts surrounding service design and delivery, and the inputs and actions of patients in care seeking practices, study participants, healthcare providers, clinicians, scientists, researchers, communities, policy-makers and funders. The role of social and behavioural science approaches is central to the process evaluation of the trial and aims to garner understanding on the issues permeating the NCD and HIV agendas and service delivery approaches from all perspectives and stakeholders along the scale up process.

It works in tandem with the collection of selected clinical outcomes (e.g. clinical efficacy of different treatments) and health economic data (e.g. costs and benefits of different approaches) to estimate the potential benefits to patients and to health services at clinic and country level. This synergistic approach to evaluate, understand and respond will support scale up, inform surveillance, policy and practice development, and efforts to involve and educate communities in Uganda and Tanzania. It will create a model and a platform of best practices and lessons learnt for other countries implementing integrated and decentralised community health services for HIV and chronic disease.



Photo: Patient waiting room in Kiswa Health Centre, Uganda

A broad social behavioural approach will be applied to answer the following key questions:

- **How is the scale-up being implemented and what are the differences in implementation over time and in different settings?**
- **What are the barriers and facilitators to implementation?**

### **NIHR Group animated film**

We have produced a short, animated film about the work of our NIHR partnership, which we hope will help to communicate the work to a broad audience. The focus is on the NIHR funded work, but we wanted to share it with the wider partnership. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCsC02sk5LY&feature=youtu.be>

We hope you enjoy watching!

### **FUNDING SUCCESS**

We have had confirmation from EDCTP that they will fund our META Phase 3 trial.

### **FUNDING PROPOSALS**

We are in a very busy phase of proposal development, responding to a range of NIHR opportunities.

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### **NIHR Extension**

We have applied for a costed extension (£500k for period up to March 2021). The proposal focuses on three new areas of work:

- Capacity development in data management
- Expansion of clinical research agenda
- Community Engagement

If successful, we will also use this opportunity to formally include The AIDS Support Organisation (TASO Uganda Ltd) in our NIHR partnership.

### **Global health policy and systems research programme (Global HPSR)**

We are developing a proposal for the above which is due for submission on 11 December and offers up to £4m over 4 years. We will focus on NIHRs interest in funding integrated health services - Integrating health services for people living with multiple long-term conditions, taking into consideration scalability, affordability and patient/community engagement relevant to the context.

### **Financial Assistance Fund**

We are working with Kaushik and his finance team to prepare an application to support the production of governance documents and training in research financial management for Shree Hindu Mandal Hospital as it establishes itself as a research centre. The deadline is 19 December.

### **Research and Innovation for Global Health Transformation (RIGHT) – Call 3**

A 2-stage application process, RIGHT Call 3 offers up to £5m over 3-4 years. We need to submit our online 'intent to submit' by 29 November, with closing date for 1<sup>st</sup> stage on 15 January 2020.

We intend to apply for an additional £10,000 Partnership Development Award to support collaboration and preparation of study governance in advance of stage 2 application.

### **EVENTS**

#### **GACD Annual Scientific Meeting**

Shabbar is attending the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases annual scientific meeting in Thailand 12-15 November. He will also attend a side meeting of GACD's multi-morbidity working group.

#### **Public Engagement event**

Shabbar, Hazel and Tinevimbo attended a Royal Society public engagement event at Manchester's Museum of Science & Innovation to highlight how non-communicable diseases will overtake infectious diseases in impact and burden on communities in low to middle income countries.



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## Teaching at LSTM

Anu, Joseph and Tinevimbo met up with Prof Geoff Gill as part of their teaching commitments on the Masters in Tropical and Infectious Diseases.



Photo: Tinevimbo, Anu, Prof Geoff Gill and Joseph at LSTM

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