

## GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH GROUP ON PREVENTION & MANAGEMENT OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND HIV INFECTION IN AFRICA.

We wish everyone the very best for 2020 and we look forward to our interactions with all of you.

### ON-GOING RESEARCH

**Management of Chronic Conditions in Africa (MOCCA)** – main paper is now being written, led by Josephine, Sokoine, and Anu. Participants have been asked to return to their original clinics but many want to continue in integrated care. We are exploring with health services and with ethics (and looking at budgets) to see how we can do this, at least until INTE-AFRICA provides the evidence.



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

**META Trial Phase 2** – we have now enrolled over 20 patients and have been deliberately going slow. To date, everything is running smoothly.

We're finding lots of people in the pre-diabetes range. Data system is wonderful. We are able to analyse data within about an hour of collection.

Recruitment will be accelerated soon.

**INTE-AFRICA** – We are delayed in starting the randomised control trial. The protocol has now been approved by LSTM ethics and we're just waiting for MRC and NIMR. We are still hoping to start the study at the end of this month in Uganda.

### MEETINGS AND FUNDING APPLICATIONS.

National steering committees are now meeting 3-monthly. The investigators and international steering committee met in Dec 2019 in Entebbe. It included representation from patients as well policy makers, senior programme managers and other partners. On Day 1, we visited MOCCA clinics.

Prior to that, Moffat, Mfinanga, Kaushik, Shabbar and colleagues from MoH and other partner met in Tanzania and then in Uganda to plan for the NIHR calls to extend our NIHR activity.

Submissions were made to the **NIHR Global Health Policy & Systems Research** to expand to evaluating community care and to the **NIHR RIGHT Call 3** to optimise the integrated model to include depression.



Photo: Members of the International Steering Committee visiting Wakiso Health Centre in Entebbe, Dec 2019

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## NEW FUNDING

**NIHR** have provided us with a costed extension for the Group until March 2021 to develop the Group's capacity further. This includes substantial capacity building in data management, increasing community engagement and systematic screening of MOCCA study patients to determine frequency of undiagnosed multimorbidity.

**EDCTP** has agreed to fund a phase 3 trial of metformin in Tanzania. Merck have agreed to supply the products again.



Photo: Ministry of Health, research partners and patient representatives at the International Steering Committee meeting in Entebbe, Dec 2019

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Shabbar, Joseph, Erik and Amani (data manager from NIMR in Tanzania) are in Uganda from Jan 20<sup>th</sup> for final preparations and the start of INTE-AFRICA. Shabbar will go on to Tanzania 29-31<sup>st</sup> Jan.

We are planning a series of meetings for 2020 which will include a steering committee meeting, a meeting for the EDCTP metformin grant and a meeting to define the research agenda around NCDs control. We will circulate dates as soon as we can.

## RECRUITMENT

We are in the process of appointing a new statistician, based at LSTM, who will start 1<sup>st</sup> March.

Together with the excellent data systems, outputs should now be supersonic.



Photo: Marie Claire and Elizabeth outside TASO Uganda, Dec 2019



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## COMMUNICATIONS

### Public Engagement

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.

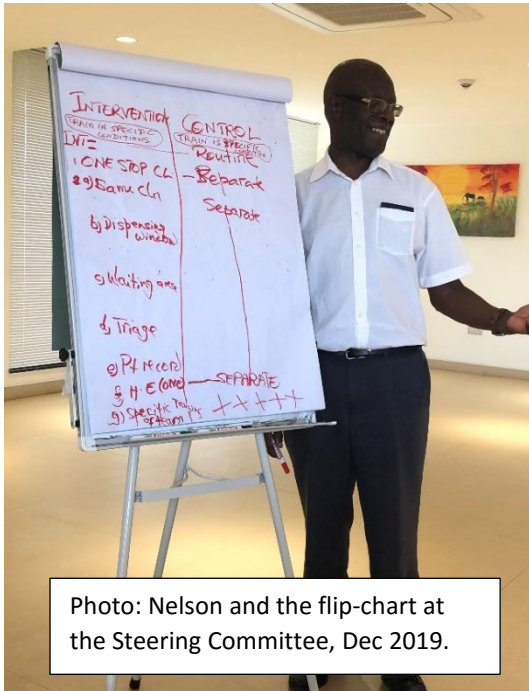


Photo: Nelson and the flip-chart at the Steering Committee, Dec 2019.

### Teaching at LSTM

Anu, Joseph and Tinevimbo met up with Prof Geoff Gill and taught a session on NCDs on the Masters in Tropical and Infectious Diseases.



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

A reminder to watch and share our film:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCsC02sk5LY&feature=youtu.be>

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