

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

ON-GOING RESEARCH

Management of Chronic Conditions in Africa (MOCCA) – We have applied for an ethics extension to continue minimal follow up the MOCCA study participants for another year. Progress with papers is slow because of problems with the database.

META Trial Phase 2 – Anu has been visiting NIMR. The entire team in Tanzania came together for training to go over the research procedures and clinical management protocols.

Enrolment is now at 90 participants, mostly from Amana Hospital. Recruitment at Hindu Mandal Hospital has been slow. A 3rd site – Temeke Hospital - has been prepared over the last months and should start enrolment in the coming days. Temeke is a large hospital, similar in size to Amana and should enrol quickly.



Ministry of Health Official, Dr Mina, addressing stakeholders at an INTE-AFRICA preparation meeting in Uganda on 18 February.

The database is a work of art thanks to Erik – we're able to monitor data and for example get alerts for abnormal values in real-time. Finalised data are available within a day or so.

INTE-AFRICA – Final preparations are in place for Uganda to start the cluster-randomised trial in the next week or so. We are late starting but have prepared sites such that we should be able to scale up rapidly.

MEETINGS

Moffat did a fantastic job, entertaining colleagues from NIHR Headquarters. Here they all are at one of the MOCCA health facilities where chronic care services were integrated.



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Shabbar and Sokoine were in Uganda in mid-February to support Josephine and team with the start of the INTE-AFRICA trial in 16 sites.

This photo shows Shabbar, Sokoine, Josephine and Ivan with Study Coordinators (Faith and Simple) and some of the study nurses who will be working in the INTE-AFRICA trial sites.

Prof Mfinanga, Hazel and Anu visited Uganda at end of February to meet with TASO on the community engagement element of the new NIHR costed extension, to discuss the implementation of INTE-AFRICA to ensure standardisation across Uganda and Tanzania, and to attend the East Africa NCD Congress.



Anu and Josephine presenting the MOCCA study at the East Africa NCD Congress

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UPCOMING EVENTS

We had planned various NIHR-related events in Liverpool during week beginning 11th March, but it looks like these will be disrupted because of coronavirus. We will report what happens in the next newsletter.

We have planned for week commencing 22 June:

- INTE-AFRICA partners meeting
- EDCTP Kick-off meeting (although we are still waiting to sign the contract with EDCTP)
- International Steering Committee meeting
- Senior Policy-makers workshop
- Training in process evaluation
- Training in medical statistics

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Health Economics

Tinevimbo visited Uganda and Tanzania in February to collect MOCCA programme costs and to introduce the Health Economics tool for INTE-AFRICA.



He visited all 10 MOCCA sites in the two countries and went through the economic patient questionnaires for the INTE-AFRICA trial with the study teams.

Tinevimbo and Godfather visited Hindu Mandal hospital to explore diabetic foot costs with Faith Mwacha (statistician at Hindu Mandal). They plan this study with Prof Kaushik to estimate the inpatient and outpatient costs of managing diabetic foot in Tanzania.

STAFF RECRUITMENT



In Uganda, INTE-Africa Study Coordinators Faith and Simple have joined the team, coordinating the 16 sites for INTE-AFRICA in Uganda. To date 11 study nurses have been recruited.

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Usman Muhammed joined the team as Research Associate in Medical Statistics and Epidemiology, based at LSTM, on 2nd March.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As part of our NIHR contract extension we have used the opportunity to formally bring TASO and Hindu Mandal Hospital into our NIHR partnership. Both have experience in community engagement which together with NIMR and MRC/LSHTM we will use to deliver a community engagement strategy. The focus is on community engagement and involvement in research.

Photo taken at TASO where Prof Mfinanga, Hazel and Josephine met Kenneth (TASO Director of Programmes), Collins (behavioural scientist at TASO) and Simple (INTE-AFRICA Study Coordinator) to discuss plans for community engagement.



A reminder to watch and share our film:

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

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