

Research Dissemination

Over the last few months the DELTA LRP team have been actively disseminating their research findings to a variety of audiences. This month we present the highlights of these activities.

STEM Conference, Delhi

In January, Milli Liani attended the *International Summit on Women in STEM - Visualizing the Future: New Skylines* conference in New Delhi, hosted by the Department of Biotechnology, part of the Government of India Ministry of Science and Technology. As an invited panellist with Simon Kay (Wellcome Trust), she discussed insights from her PhD research study around the theme of *The future of women in STEM - Policies for enhancing the diversity in STEM fields*. <http://14.139.61.9/isw/index.html>



Review of published evidence on knowledge translation capacity, practice and support among researchers and research institutions in low- and middle-income countries

In her latest paper drawn from her PhD research, Violet Murunga presents a systematised review of evidence on low- and middle-income country researchers' knowledge translation capacity, practice and interventions. She concludes that "More high-quality research on researchers' knowledge translation (KT) capacity, practice and effective KT capacity strengthening interventions is needed. Study designs that extend beyond case studies and descriptive studies are recommended, including better designed evaluation studies, e.g. use of realist approaches, pragmatic trials, impact evaluations, implementation research and participatory action research."



Murunga, V.I., Oronje, R.N., Bates, I. *et al.* Review of published evidence on knowledge translation capacity, practice and support among researchers and research institutions in low- and middle-income countries. *Health Res Policy Sys* 18, 16 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12961-019-0524-0>

Capacity building cross-learning

A recent paper by researchers at the Centre for Capacity Research, as part of the DFID-Royal Society funded Africa Capacity Building Initiative (ACBI), found that "Common research capacity gaps were...insufficient opportunities for developing the skills of research support staff such as administrators and technicians...insufficient focus on the development of 'soft' researcher skills such as ethics, academic writing and, in non-Anglophone countries, English language...These could be strategic investment targets for the joint efforts of national governments and international organisations that fund programmes for strengthening research capacity in low- and middle-income countries." Such learning supports the recent findings of the LRP learning team which will be published in the LRP annual report next month.

El Hajj T, Gregorius S, Pulford J, Bates I (2020) Strengthening capacity for natural sciences research: A qualitative assessment to identify good practices, capacity gaps and investment priorities in African research institutions. *PLOS ONE* 15(1): e0228261. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0228261>

DELTAS: Learning Research Programme

The Learning Research Programme (LRP), led by the Centre for Capacity Research, works alongside the DELTAS Africa consortia to produce research-based learning about how to train and develop world-class researchers, foster their careers and collaborations, and promote research uptake. For more information about the LRP research activities and to access the LRP resources (annual reports, in-depth newsletters and all our publications), please visit our DELTAS research page at: www.lstmed.ac.uk/projects/deltas---learning-research-programme

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Some of the LRP team at the DELTAS Africa AGM 2019

Equitable Career Pathways - This theme is framed within the context of a PhD project, led by Millicent Liani, titled: “Examining barriers and enablers to gender equitable scientific career pathways in African research institutions”. Millicent has employed a qualitative case study design, focusing on three DELTAS consortia, including: **IDeAL** (Initiative to Develop African Research Leaders); **MARCAD** (Malaria Research Capacity Development in West and Central Africa); and **SANTHE** (Sub-Saharan African Network for TB/HIV Research Excellence).

Research Training - Currently led by Abiola Aiyenigba, this theme explores the range and quality of professional development opportunities available to African-based researchers as well as the individual and institutional benefits – in terms of professional development – associated with DELTAS Africa membership. Research activities have included a mapping of health-related postgraduate training courses available in sub-Saharan Africa, an online survey of African researchers’ professional development needs, opportunities and barriers, and a qualitative case study exploring the extent, and process by which, researcher training in sub-Saharan Africa may be enhanced through consortia membership. Participating DELTAS Africa consortia include: **CARTA+** (Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa+); **MARCAD**; and **Afrique One-ASPIRE** (African Science Partnership for Intervention Research Excellence).

Knowledge Translation - Also framed within the context of a PhD project, led by Violet Murunga and titled: “Exploring the research uptake strategies being used by African researchers to promote evidence-informed decision making”. Phase one of Violet’s research is a qualitative case study of selected DELTAS Africa consortia: **AMARI** (African Mental Health Research Initiative); **THRIVE-2** (Training Health Researchers into Vocational Excellence in East Africa-2); and **WACCBIP** (West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens).

Consortia Management - Framed within the context of a PhD project, led by Nadia Tagoe and titled: “Examining the process of establishing and managing health research capacity strengthening consortia”. Nadia is based at KEMRI-Wellcome Trust, Kilifi, Kenya, under the **IDeAL** programme and has employed a mixed methods research design. To date, Nadia has completed key informant interviews with almost all DELTAS Africa consortia Directors and Programme Managers as well as a focused case study in three selected DELTAS Africa consortia including: **CARTA+**; **THRIVE-2**; and **DELGEME** (Developing Excellence in Leadership and Genetic Training for Malaria Elimination in Sub-Saharan Africa).



Millicent Liani



Abiola Aiyenigba



Violet Murunga



Nadia Tagoe