

**Introduction**

Welcome to the fourth edition of the DELTAS LRP newsletter. In this newsletter, we introduce a new registry of health-related postgraduate training programmes in sub-Saharan Africa, profile a new LRP staff member and PhD student, list recent CRU-produced research capacity strengthening publications and provide an update on LRP activities.

**A registry of health-related postgraduate training programmes in sub-Saharan Africa**

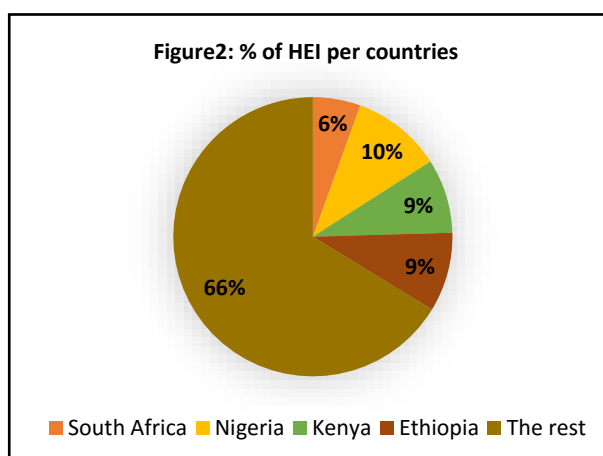
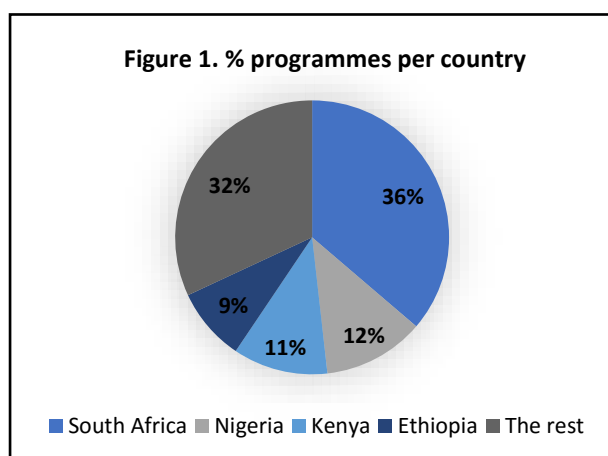
The DELTAS LRP team have recently released an Excel spreadsheet listing all postgraduate training programmes in Medical and Health Sciences provided by Higher Education Institutions (HEI) in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The spreadsheet and a brief summary report can be obtained at the following link: <http://www.lstmed.ac.uk/research/centres-and-units/capacity-research-unit-cru/our-projects/deltas-learning-research>

Some key findings are summarised in the Table and Figures below:

**The number and type of health-related, postgraduate training programmes provided by SSA HEI by region and language group**

		Overall		African Regions								Language			
				WA		CA		EA		SA		Ang		Fr	
		1599		400		115		428		655		1314		284	
Status	Public	1482	93%	374	94%	89	77%	368	86%	651	99%	1229	94%	253	89%
	Private	116	7%	26	7%	26	23%	60	14%	4	1%	85	6%	31	11%
Disciplines	Med. Sciences	938	59%	179	45%	59	51%	242	56%	458	70%	830	63%	108	38%
	Bio. Sciences	203	13%	105	26%	21	18%	42	10%	35	5%	138	10%	65	23%
	Public Health	346	21%	97	24%	27	24%	116	27%	106	16%	260	20%	86	30%
	Other	111	7%	19	5%	8	7%	28	7%	56	9%	86	7%	25	9%
Highest Level	PhD	471	29%	191	48%	61	53%	94	22%	125	19%	356	27%	115	41%
	Masters	1052	66%	178	45%	52	45%	295	69%	527	80%	918	70%	134	47%
	Other	75	5%	31	7%	2	2%	39	9%	3	1%	40	3%	35	12%

Overall, 68% of the postgraduate training programmes were provided by HEIs located in four countries (Figure 1). South Africa alone accounts for 36% of the postgraduate training programmes in health-related sciences. These four countries account for 34% of the identified HEIs (Figure 2), suggesting a relatively small proportion of HEIs are providing most health-related postgraduate training programmes in SSA.



## Recruitment

All positions on the DELTAS LRP have been successfully filled. The latest and final addition to our team is research assistant Mr Pierre Abomo Kele who will support learning theme 2 'Research Training'.

### Mr Pierre Abomo Kele



Pierre has a disciplinary background in political science and international relations. He has completed a Master degree in International Public Management at Sciences Po Paris, France with a dual concentration in Global Health and African Studies and a Master degree in political science from Université Lyon 3 Jean Moulin, France. Pierre is currently completing a PhD in Political Sociology at Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, France.

Pierre has worked for a range of international organisations, including UNAIDS where he contributed to the process of data collection, analysis and case study design to showcase UNAIDS' impact on reducing HIV-AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa. Also, he assisted the Donor Coordination Department of the International Labour Organisation in preparing external evaluations led by DFID, MOPAN or DANIDA. Most recently, He worked for the Africa Department of UNESCO in Paris on project management and strengthening youth-led civil society organisations engaged in promoting culture of peace and sustainable development in Africa. Pierre originates from Douala, Cameroon.

### DELTA LRP PhD Students

In addition to Ms Millicent Liani and Ms Violet Murunga, profiled in the previous DELTAS LRP newsletter, a third PhD student – Ms Nadia Tagoe - is now working within the scope of the DELTAS LRP. Nadia's PhD title is: **"Examining the process of establishing and managing health research capacity strengthening consortia"**. Nadia's studentship was provided by the DELTAS Africa Initiative to Develop African Research Leaders (IDeAL). She is based at the KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme, Kenya, is registered with the Open University, UK and is supervised by Prof. Sassy Molyneux (KEMRI-Wellcome Trust), Dr Samson Kinyanjui (KEMRI-Wellcome Trust) and Dr Justin Pulford (LSTM).

### Ms Nadia Tagoe



Nadia has over 10 years' experience in development-oriented project/programme management and research management. Until her enrolment, she was the Grants and Research Manager at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) where she spearheaded the University's effort to develop research support structures and services to strengthen researcher and institutional capacity for attracting funding and conducting high-quality and relevant research. She was also the Programme Manager for a number of research capacity building grants at KNUST including the NIH-funded Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI) and the Danida-funded Building Stronger Universities (BSU) initiatives. Prior to that she worked as a Project Manager at Habitat for Humanity Ghana.

## Publications/Resources

Recent publications from the Capacity Research Unit, LSTM:

1. The peer review process for awarding funds to international science research consortia: a qualitative development evaluation. F1000: <https://f1000research.com/articles/6-1808/v1>
2. Advancing the science of health research capacity strengthening in low- and middle-income countries: A scoping review of the published literature, 2000-2016. *BMJ Open* (*in press*).
3. A qualitative study to develop processes and tools for the assessment and tracking of African institutions' capacity for operational health research. *BMJ Open*: <http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/7/9/e016660.long>

## LRP Updates

### Theme 1: Equitable Careers

Millicent is working on her literature review, provisionally titled '**Gender inequities in scientific career progression in Higher Education Institutions in Africa: a review of existing evidence**'. Her research proposal is currently under ethical review at LSTM and relevant 'in-country' IRBs. Data collection in three purposively selected DELTAS consortia is scheduled to commence January 2018.

### Theme 2: Research Training

Having completed the registry of health-related postgraduate training programmes provided by HEIs in SSA (presented on front page of this newsletter), Pierre is now preparing to conduct an online survey of 'Professional development opportunities, priorities and barriers'. The survey will be administered to all DELTAS researchers beginning March 2018.

### Theme 3: Research Uptake

Violet is working on her literature review, provisionally titled '**Knowledge translation capacities and practices of researchers in low and middle-income countries: a structured literature review**'. IRB submissions are currently being prepared and data collection is scheduled to commence May 2018.

### Theme 4: Consortia management

Nadia is also working on her literature review, provisionally titled '**Processes and experiences of establishing and managing health research capacity strengthening (HRCS) consortia: A systematized review of published literature**'. The Scientific and Ethics Review Unit, KEMRI, is currently reviewing her research proposal. Key Informant interviews with selected consortia members are scheduled to commence March 2018.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. I hope all is progressing well with your respective DELTAS Africa activities. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Justin Pulford, Deputy PI, DELTAS LRP  
justin.pulford@lstmed.ac.uk

CRU, LSTM.