

AMBITION News

The Ambition-cm Trial Newsletter
(Issue 13: October 2018)



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Team email address: ambition@lshtm.ac.uk

Nabila and David (LSHTM, Gaborone)

Philippa (LSHTM, London)

Timothée (Institut Pasteur, Paris)



@ambitioncm2020

Please do encourage
colleagues to 'follow' us!



Prof. Rati Ndhlovu, UoZ Principal Investigator, happily signing timesheets during the monitoring visit (1-5 October 2018). Thank you, Rati!

Greetings from Gaborone!



Many thanks to colleagues at all sites who continue to work tirelessly on AMBITION. We have made great progress in the month of September - our steady patient recruitment numbers reflect this hard work.

Since our last Newsletter, we are delighted to share that our **first patient was successfully randomized in Kampala on 5 October 2018**, bringing our patient recruitment number up to **39**.

We welcome **Dr. Kenneth Ssebambulidde** from **IDI Uganda**, who has now begun his **MSc in Immunology of Infectious Diseases** at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM).

Congratulations are also in order for **Kenneth**, who has been cited as the lead author in an article that was published in the **Clinical Infectious Diseases (CID)** journal.

We are also happy to share a profile of another AMBITION colleague from **IDI Kampala**.

Dr. Nabila Youssouf and **Dr. Timothée Boyer-Chammard** will be heading to Zimbabwe to conduct a **Year 2 site monitoring visit** at our **Harare** site from **1-5 October 2018**.

Philippa Griffin, our **Financial & Administrative Project Manager** at **LSHTM**, will also be setting off to Zimbabwe and Malawi for her first round of annual **financial support site visits** from **8-30 October 2018**.

We have begun planning for the upcoming **Mycology course**, which is to take place in **Cape Town**, South Africa from **10-14 December 2018**. More details on page 5.

A busy yet exciting time ahead—we look forward to it!

Best Wishes,

Joe

Recruitment Update (as of 5 October 2018)

We are happy to share updates on patient recruitment numbers at each site:

**Botswana-Harvard Partnership
(Gaborone)**



20

The last patient was
recruited on **20
September 2018**

**University of Cape Town
(Cape Town)**



04

The last patient was
recruited on **3 September
2018**

**University of Zimbabwe
(Harare)**



14

The last patient was
recruited on **28
September 2018**

**UNC Project Malawi
(Lilongwe)**



We look forward to enrolling the first
patient very soon!

**Malawi-Liverpool Wellcome Trust
Clinical Research Programme
(Blantyre)**



We look forward to enrolling the first
patient very soon!

**IDI Uganda –Kampala
IDI Uganda –Mbarara**



01

The first patient was
recruited in Kampala on **5
October 2018**

AMBITION MSc Student



"Immunology is a fascinating science. Over the next twelve months, I hope to acquire a knowledge base on how immune cells respond to infectious disease causing microorganisms.

With mentorship from the AMBITION Immunology working group, I hope to contribute to the understanding of immune responses in cryptococcal meningitis. The feeling is mind-blowing. Keep an eye out! "

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome **Dr. Kenneth Ssebambulidde** to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). Kenneth joins us from IDI Kampala where he has been working as a Study Doctor for the past 18 months.

He will be pursuing an **MSc in Immunology of Infectious Diseases** at LSHTM during the 2018/19 academic year.

Congratulations are also in order to **Kenneth** for being recognised as first author on an article that was published in the prestigious **Clinical Infectious Diseases (CID)** journal.

We are very happy for him and for fellow IDI Kampala colleagues, who lent their support to the article. His manuscript on **"Symptomatic cryptococcal antigenemia presenting as early cryptococcal meningitis with negative CSF analysis"** can be accessed here: <https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciy817>

We are excited to have Kenneth here at LSHTM this year - he joins us just in time to experience the chilly autumnal London weather. We wish him all the very best with his studies and hope he enjoys his time in the UK!

Introducing more AMBITION Colleagues

We are happy to introduce another member of our AMBITION team from **IDI Uganda (Kampala)** below:

Olive Carolyne Namuju: Research Nurse

I am a Nurse/Counsellor and a Social Scientist. I hold a Certificate in Nursing, with a Diploma in Guidance and Counselling (2004).

I attained a degree in Social Sciences from Makerere University in 2010. Thereafter, I undertook a course in Applied Clinical Research Evidence Medicine (ACREM) 2012/2013, under the Department of Clinical Trials – School of Medicine, Makerere University.

I have worked as a Research Nurse for 4 years on EDCTP Projects investigating the pathogenesis of TB IRIS in TB/HIV Co-infected adults in the INTERACT and TB/HIV OUTCOME studies at IDI - Mulago.

I joined the Meningitis team as a full time Research Nurse in 2016. I am also a Co-ordinator of the sub-study Autopsy Study which seeks to assess the pathogen and anti-infective distribution and responses in HIV-positive patients (adults).

My interest is in career development and I hope to pursue a Master's in Public Health in the near future.

My role within the AMBITION study involves screening and recruiting participants, providing informed consent, clinical assessment, medical history, sample collection, data collection, data management, AE/SAE reviewing and reporting, drug administration, follow-up of participants and training delivery.



Harare Site Monitoring Visit



Dr. Nabila Youssouf and Dr. Timothée Boyer-Chammard will be at the University of Zimbabwe from **1-5 October 2018** to conduct a **monitoring visit**.

They will visit both the **Department of Medicine at the University of Zimbabwe College of Health Sciences (UZCHS)** and **Parirenyatwa Hospital**, to provide additional support to our UoZ colleagues during the busy recruitment period, and to help our colleagues in Harare ensure that all trial procedures are being performed as per the protocol.

Well done to the Harare team on the excellent recruitment to date!

Financial Support Visits

Philippa Griffin, our **Financial & Administrative Project Manager** at LSHTM, will be commencing her annual **financial support site visits** from **8-30 October 2018**:

- **University of Zimbabwe College of Health Sciences (UZCHS)** in Harare from **8-14 October 2018**
- **UNC Project** offices in Lilongwe from **14-20 October 2018**
- **MLW Project** offices in Blantyre from **20-30 October 2018**

These visits provide a chance for Philippa to support financial and administrative colleagues with queries, look at financial records together, and help prepare colleagues for how an eventual EDCTP audit is likely to work.

Philippa is very grateful to the finance teams for setting aside the time to receive her.



Mycology Course—Cape Town (10-14 December 2018)



Preparations are underway for the upcoming '**Lecture and Practical Course in Medical Mycology**' course taking place in **Cape Town**, South Africa from **10-14 December 2018**.

The **AfGrlica Unit (University of Aberdeen / University of Cape Town)**, **Institut Pasteur** and the **AMBITION-cm Trial Consortium** have teamed up to offer a one-week English-speaking course for Scientists and Clinicians aimed at providing a comprehensive overview of Medical Mycology. This lecture and practical course will focus on the key fungal pathogens in Africa and will cover the microbiological, immunological and clinical aspects of fungal diseases.

We will be welcoming **12 delegates** from the **AMBITION consortium**, **4 delegates** from the **EDCTP-funded DREAMM study**, and **16 delegates** from elsewhere in **Africa**.

We are looking forward to having colleagues from all AMBITION sites convene in Cape Town in December—we will be sure to keep you updated on all things Mycology course-related in the next few months!