

AMBITION News

The AMBITION-cm Trial Newsletter
(Issue 16: February 2019)



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@ambitioncm2020

Please do encourage
colleagues to 'follow' us!



Dr. Tinevimbo Shiri delivering presentations and leading discussions around the Health Economics Work Package at BHP in January 2019.

Greetings from Gaborone!



We hope that 2019 has been treating you well so far! As we near the end of February, we are grateful to all colleagues who have hit the ground running in the New Year. It has been a busy two months and we are pleased with the excellent progress across all the AMBITION Work Packages.

Since our last Newsletter, we are delighted that the **site in Mbarara** is now up and running and enrolling patients. More details on **Page 3**.

The **team in Lilongwe** enrolled our **150th trial participant** on **Wednesday 20th February 2019!** Further details on **Page 3**.

Our colleagues in **Cape Town, Lilongwe, Blantyre, Kampala and Mbarara** hosted members of the AMBITION TMG for monitoring visits. You can read more about the visits on **Pages 3 and 4**.

Dr. Tinevimbo Shiri, our **Health Economist** from **LSTM**, visited the **BHP team** from **21-22 January 2019** and the **UNC Project Malawi team** from **23-25 January 2019**, where he met with colleagues involved in Work Package 2 (Health Economics) and delivered some teaching sessions. Find out more about his trip on **Page 4**.

Financial teams at all six recruiting sites have now hosted Philippa Griffin (Financial & Administrative Project Manager) for informal **financial support visits** between **October 2018** and **January 2019**. More details on **Page 5**.

We have also begun planning the third **Investigators' Meeting** which is to be held at **Institut Pasteur in Paris** from **28-29 May 2019**. Head over to **Page 6** for more details.

It is an exciting time for AMBITION, and we look forward to the next couple of months with anticipation!

Best Wishes,

Joe

Recruitment Update (as of 28 February 2019):

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

**Botswana-Harvard Partnership
(Gaborone)**



3 2

The latest patient was recruited on **27 February 2019**

University of Cape Town



1 1

The latest patient was recruited on **6 January 2019**

**University of Zimbabwe
(Harare)**



2 7

The latest patient was recruited on **22 February 2019**

**UNC Project Malawi
(Lilongwe)**



1 7

The latest patient in Lilongwe was recruited on **22 February 2019**

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



2 4

The latest patient in Blantyre was recruited on **28 February 2019**

IDI Uganda (Kampala)



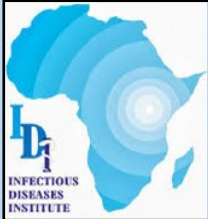
5 0

The latest patient in Kampala was recruited on **27 February 2019**

IDI Uganda (Mbarara)

0 5

The latest patient in Mbarara was recruited on **28 February 2019**



Recruitment opens in Mbarara — and a monitoring visit in Kampala

We are delighted that the site in Mbarara, Uganda, opened for recruitment on **Tuesday 5 February 2019**. The first patient was successfully randomised later that day at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital, which bodes well for future enrolment numbers.

The team (led by Dr. Conrad Muzoora) then received Dr. David Lawrence and Dr. Nabila Youssouf from 26-28 February for an early monitoring visit, which allowed everyone to become better acquainted and to observe the study in action on the wards and in the outpatient clinic. David and Nabila also spent a productive few days with the larger team in Kampala from 19-21 February. The burgeoning numbers of AMBITION patients in Kampala certainly kept them busy!

Congratulations to our colleagues at both Ugandan sites for their excellent results. We look forward to meeting again soon.



Milestone 150th Patient Recruited!

Our **150th trial patient** was recruited on **Wednesday 20th February 2019!**

Well done to the team at **UNC Project Malawi** in Lilongwe for doing the honours.

We are excited for our next milestone: **Patient 200!**



Monitoring Visit in Cape Town: 16-18 January 2019

Dr. Nabila Youssouf and Dr. David Lawrence were welcomed by the **UCT team** in mid-January, who hosted the first AMBITION monitoring visit of the year. The UCT team have been doing an excellent job which made the monitors job very easy!

The team have also submitted an application to open a second recruiting site at Khayelitsha District Hospital. This hospital is not far from Mitchells Plain District Hospital and receives many patients with cryptococcal meningitis. We hope to start recruiting at Khayelitsha in May.



Monitoring Visit in Lilongwe: 22-25 January 2019

The team at **UNC Project Malawi** in Lilongwe welcomed Dr. Nabila Youssouf, Dr. David Lawrence and Dr. Timothée Boyer-Chammard for a monitoring visit from **22-25 January**. All colleagues worked together to review trial-related documentation, including the important weekly site report and aspects of EDC data entry.

Thanks so much to **Dr. Cecilia Kanyama** and the AMBITION team at MLW for hosting Nabila, David and Timothée for the week and for effectively maintaining an open line of communication as recruitment continues through 2019.



Monitoring Visit in Blantyre: 4-8 February 2019

Prof. Henry Mwandumba and the rest of the AMBITION team at **MLW** hosted Dr. Nabila Youssouf, Dr. David Lawrence and Prof. Joe Jarvis in early February for the **first monitoring visit** at the **recruiting site in Blantyre**.

Everyone worked closely to tackle various administrative tasks and to recap trial procedures. We are grateful to the team for their time and flexibility, and in particular for their hard work over the Christmas period. We hope that recruitment numbers continue to climb at our Blantyre recruiting site in the coming months!

Dr. Tinevimbo Shiri visits BHP and UNC Project Malawi

Dr. Tinevimbo Shiri, our **Health Economist from LSTM**, took the opportunity to visit a number of AMBITION sites during January. He visited the team at **BHP in Gaborone** from **21-22 January**, then the team at **UNC Project Malawi in Lilongwe** from **23-25 January 2019**.

In Gaborone, Tinevimbo had the opportunity to tour the hospital facilities, and to meet with the entire study team to gather feedback on the Health Economics sub-study (Work Package 2). On his final day, he delivered some focused teaching on the sub-study and provided an introduction to economic evaluations within clinical trials. He also worked with Dr. David Lawrence to review the Health Economics data provided to date in the AMBITION EDC.

In Lilongwe, Tinevimbo had a fruitful meeting with **Dr. Cecelia Kanyama, Dr. Timothy Kachitosi and Chimwemwe Chawinga** on the next steps for the development of a costing tool in Lilongwe. After working with David to review the Health Economics CRFs for patients recruited in Lilongwe, Tinevimbo delivered a lecture on the Health Economics sub-study, including an introduction to economic evaluations within clinical trials which was well attended by a wider audience at UNC Project. This was concluded by a review and feedback session with the clinical team on the sub-study thus far.

A huge thank you to the study teams in both Gaborone and Lilongwe and in particular to **Dr. Mosepele Mosepele, Dr. Cecelia Kanyama and Prof. Mina Hosseinipour** who made Tinevimbo's trip successful, and for warmly welcoming him. He thoroughly enjoyed collaborating with his new colleagues. We hope that Tinevimbo will be able to make additional trips later in 2019 to other AMBITION recruiting sites.



Leading discussions about cost-effectiveness analysis in Gaborone...



...and conducting a teaching session on 'Health Economics Evaluation' in Lilongwe to a group of 40 from UNC Project.



Financial Visits in 2018—2019



Philippa would like to thank financial colleagues at all African beneficiaries for having made her so welcome during her financial support visits during October to January, setting aside both time and space to receive her.

Colleagues were able to demonstrate their excellent record-keeping systems and their patience in dealing with the various administrative aspects of EDCTP funding, including all those timesheets!

At the time of writing we are in the process of submitting our annual financial report to the EDCTP for the period January to December 2018 – congratulations to everyone who has worked hard to meet the deadline and to produce a high-quality report.



Prof. Rati Ndhlovu, UoZ Principal Investigator, happily signing timesheets during the October monitoring visit. Thank you, Rati!



3rd Investigators' Meeting: 28-29 May 2019



We are grateful to **Prof. Françoise Dromer**, **Prof. Olivier Lortholary** and the rest of the AMBITION team at **Institut Pasteur** for hosting the third AMBITION Investigators' Meeting from **28-29 May 2019**. Preparations are underway to welcome PIs, study doctors and other investigators from across the consortium to Paris in a few months' time. In particular, we are looking forward to a tour of the Institut Pasteur Museum and the chance to stay very close to the Eiffel Tower!