

# AMBITION News

The AMBITION-cm Trial Newsletter  
(Issue 20: July 2019)



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@ambitioncm2020

Please do encourage colleagues  
to 'follow' us!



A wonderful group picture of all attendees of the second annual AMNET Meeting, held at the UCT Faculty of Health Sciences campus on Tuesday 9 July 2019.

## Greetings from Gaborone!



We are already over half way through the year and it is safe to say that our AMBITION colleagues are working harder than ever! We have had a particularly busy month in all recruiting hospitals and are thrilled that our enrolment numbers are reflecting the efforts of all our AMBITION colleagues.

Since our last Newsletter, we are delighted to report that we **opened** our **new recruitment site** at **Khayelitsha Hospital in Cape Town**. The UCT team randomised the **first participant** at Khayelitsha almost straight away, on **Monday 15 July**. Further details can be found on **Page 3**.

The team at UNC Project Malawi hosted **Dr. Nabila Youssouf, Dr. David Lawrence and Dr. Timothee Boyer-Chamard** for a scheduled monitoring visit from **14-17 July 2019**. **Nabila and David** were also received by the **MLW team** for a **monitoring visit** at the **Blantyre recruiting site** from **17-20 July 2019**. Head over to **Page 3** for further details.

We have also welcomed a few new faces to the AMBITION team in the past month. Head over to **Page 4** to learn more about **Dr. Achita Singh**, who joins the UCT team as a Medical Officer, and **Dr. Laura Nsangi**, who replaces Darlisha Williams as Study Co-ordinator at IDI Uganda. **We would like to thank Darlisha for everything that she has done for AMBITION** during the past two years. She has now returned to the University of Minnesota, where she will continue to support Laura and the rest of the team remotely.

The second annual **AMNET Meeting** took place at the **UCT campus** on **Tuesday 9 July 2019**. Further details of the event, as well as some pictures from the day, can be found on **Pages 5 and 6**. We were also delighted to have some of our fellow AMBITION colleagues present at the **2019 AIDS-related Mycoses Workshop**, which took place at the **Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine** at the University of Cape Town between **10-12 July**. Further details of the three-day event can be found on **Page 7**.

We are very excited to head into the second half of 2019. All colleagues across all sites continue to work tirelessly, and we look forward to witnessing our recruitment rate climb further in the coming months!

Best Wishes,

Joe



### Recruitment Update (as of 31 July 2019):

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

**Botswana-Harvard Partnership  
(Gaborone)**



**0 4 2**

The latest participant was recruited on **25 July 2019**

**University of Cape Town:  
Mitchells Plain Hospital**



**0 2 1**

The latest participant was recruited on **26 July 2019**

**University of Cape Town:  
Khayelitsha Hospital**

**0 0 1**

The latest participant was recruited on **15 July 2019**

**University of Zimbabwe  
(Harare)**



**0 5 2**

The latest participant was recruited on **23 July 2019**

**UNC Project Malawi  
(Lilongwe)**



**0 3 9**

The latest participant in Lilongwe was recruited on **30 July 2019**

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



**0 5 1**

The latest participant in Blantyre was recruited on **30 July 2019**

**IDI Uganda (Kampala)**



**1 1 2**

The latest participant in Kampala was recruited on **31 July 2019**

**IDI Uganda (Mbarara)**

**0 2 6**

The latest participant in Mbarara was recruited on **19 July 2019**

## Khayelitsha Hospital—First Participant Recruited!



We are thrilled to report that our very first participant was randomised at the newly-opened recruiting site at **Khayelitsha Hospital** in Cape Town on **Monday 15 July 2019**.

Many congratulations to the **UCT team** for all their hard work in setting up the new site and for enrolling the first participant. We are excited for recruitment to progress at Khayelitsha in the coming months.

## Monitoring Visit in Lilongwe: 14-17 July 2019



Dr. Cecilia Kanyama and the team at **UNC Project Malawi** in **Lilongwe** graciously hosted **Dr. Nabila Youssouf**, **Dr. David Lawrence** and **Dr. Timothée Boyer-Chamard** for a monitoring visit from **14-17 July**.

It provided a great opportunity for colleagues to collectively work through various trial-related documentation as well as conduct some important EDC checks, especially in light of some of the recent EDC system updates.

The monitoring visit was a great success and we are thankful to our colleagues at **UNC Project Malawi** for their generous hospitality!

## Monitoring Visit in Blantyre: 16-20 July 2019



**Prof. Henry Mwandumba** and the rest of the **AMBITION** team at **MLW** welcomed **Nabila** and **David** from **16-20 July** for the **second monitoring visit** at the **recruiting site in Blantyre**.

MLW colleagues worked closely with Nabila and David to recap trial procedures and work through a number of administrative tasks.

Thanks so much to Prof. Henry Mwandumba and the team at **MLW** for being so accommodating during the course of the visit and for your continued hard work on **AMBITION**!

## Introducing more AMBITION Colleagues

We are happy to introduce some new members of our AMBITION team below:



### New Starter: Dr. Achita Singh, Study Doctor (UCT)

I graduated from the MBChB programme at UCT in 2013. I am passionate about high-quality, evidence-informed emergency medicine, and following my graduation I completed a postgraduate diploma in primary emergency care. I then gained further experience as a clinician in emergency units in both the public and private sectors.

Following this, I joined UCT's Family Medicine Department, where I taught family medicine and primary healthcare to medical students. Inspired by some of my former colleagues, I then worked on a large cardiology and HIV study.

My research interests include HIV, fibrosis, opportunistic infections and the evaluation of new or repurposed drug therapies. Clinically, I am interested in internal medicine and radiology. A longer-term goal is to pursue a Masters in Tropical Medicine and International Health.

I join the AMBITION team as a Research Medical Officer at the Mitchells Plain and Khayelitsha sites here in Cape Town. I enjoyed meeting colleagues from the different AMBITION sites at the recent AIDS-Mycoses Workshop, and I am excited to see the results of our work in due course.



### New Starter: Dr. Laura Nsangi, Study Co-ordinator (IDI Uganda)

I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Medicine and Surgery and am currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Health at Makerere University here in Uganda. I have been a Co-Investigator in four clinical trials with the Medical Research Council/Uganda Virus Research Institute and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine including the START trial, Ebola and HIV Vaccine Trials and the Rift Valley Fever Survivors' trial.

The rigorous training and experience that I received during my four year tenure at MUL further cemented my desire to pursue a research career.

I am particularly interested in infectious disease control in the immunocompromised HIV-affected populations, and especially in neurological conditions such as cryptococcal and TB meningitis.

I am honoured to be able to co-ordinate the meningitis screening and AMBITION study activities at the Mulago study site here at IDI, as well as to offer support to the Mbarara study site.





### AMNET Meeting - Tuesday 9 July 2019



The **University of Cape Town (UCT)** hosted the **2nd African Meningitis Trials Network (AMNET)** face-to-face Meeting on **Tuesday 9 July 2019** in Cape Town, South Africa.

The meeting brought together researchers and practitioners from all AMBITION study sites for lively discussions on AMNET deliverables. The meeting was a great opportunity for all members to develop activities and resources to meet future Network targets. It was a packed day enjoyed by all.

The next AMNET Meeting is scheduled to take place in **Uganda** in **2020**. Until then, please enjoy these wonderful pictures from the Cape Town Meeting!





### AMNET Meeting - Tuesday 9 July 2019







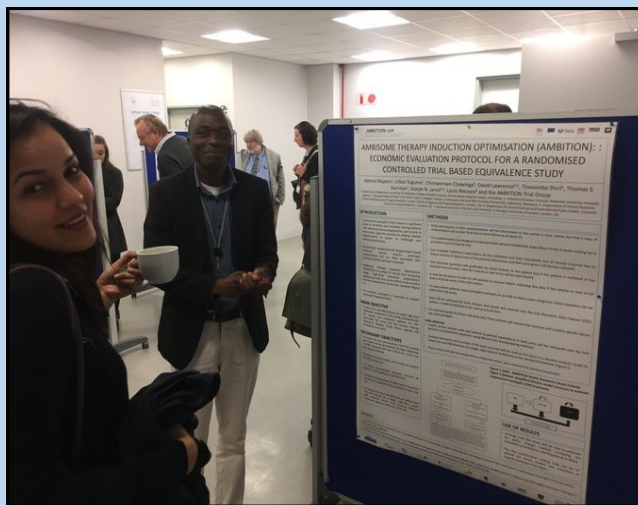
### AIDS-related Mycoses Workshop 10-12 July 2019



The **AIDS-related Mycoses Workshop** took place at the **Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine** in **Cape Town, South Africa** from **10-12 July 2019**.

The meeting provided a good opportunity to highlight the continuing problem of advanced HIV and the contribution of mycoses to HIV/AIDS deaths. Discussions revolved around the **latest advances in HIV/AIDS treatment** and the **current challenges** facing the field.

It was a successful workshop and we are very pleased that fellow AMBITION colleagues were in attendance to present various elements of the hard work being conducted across all sites.



Dr. David Lawrence presenting a poster on behalf of Dr Melanie Alufandika-Moyo, Study Doctor at MLW in Blantyre. The poster outlined AMBITION's treatment strategies for ART-experienced patients with cryptococcal meningitis.

Dr. Admire Hlupeni presenting his poster on the AMBITION Health Economics sub-study on behalf of all authors.

