

# AMBITION News

The AMBITION-cm Trial Newsletter  
(Issue 21: August 2019)



## In this Issue:

- Recruitment Update
- Monitoring Visit—Harare (5-9 August)
- Monitoring Visit—Uganda (27 August—3 September)
- New AMBITION colleagues
- EDCTP Periodic Report Approval—Year 2
- 11th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health (ECTMIH 2019) - 16-20 September

Team email address: [ambition@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:ambition@lshtm.ac.uk)

Nabila and David (LSHTM, Gaborone)

Philippa (LSHTM, London)

Timothée (Institut Pasteur, Paris)



@ambitioncm2020

Please do encourage colleagues  
to 'follow' us!



Lovely shot from the Uganda SIV in August 2018! This month marks a year since we opened the Kampala recruiting site for enrolment. We have come a long way since then, and are very excited for all that is yet to come!

## Greetings from Gaborone!



August has been an incredibly busy month! A new wave of monitoring visits have kept colleagues across all sites focussed on all things AMBITION. We greatly appreciate the continued efforts of all our partners, and are happy to see this dedication and hard work reflected in our ever-climbing enrolment numbers.

The team at UoZ kindly hosted **Prof. Joe Jarvis**, **Dr. Nabila Youssef** and **Dr. Timothee Boyer-Chammard** for a scheduled monitoring visit from **5-9 August 2019**. Head over to **Page 3** to read more about the visit.

**Dr. David Meya**, **Dr. Conrad Muzoora** and the whole AMBITION team at **IDI Uganda** welcomed **Dr. Nabila Youssef** and **Dr. David Lawrence** for monitoring visits in Kampala and Mbarara from **27 August—3 September**. More details on **Page 3**.

The AMBITION team is growing! We have welcomed a few new faces in the past month. Head over to **Page 4** to learn more about **Rhona Muyise**, who joins the **IDI Uganda team** as a **Pharmacist**, and **Dr. Enock Kagimu**, who also joins the **IDI Uganda team** as a **Medical Officer**. More colleagues will also be introduced in the next Newsletter.

We are pleased to have **survived the second phase of EDCTP financial and technical reporting**! Philippa (Financial & Administrative Project Manager at LSHTM) has now disbursed the reimbursement for eligible spend made in **Year 2 (January — December 2018)** to all partners. She is very grateful to financial and administrative colleagues at all sites for their patience whilst we answered EDCTP's various queries.

We are excited that both **Dr. Mosepele Mosepele** and **Dr. David Lawrence** will be presenting **AMNET** at the **11th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health (ECTMIH 2019)** from **16-20 September**. Further details on **Page 5**.

Our recruitment total now stands at **390 participants**. We look forward to hitting 400 by the end of September!

Best Wishes,

Joe

# AMBITION News

The AMBITION-cm Trial Newsletter  
(Issue 21: August 2019)



**AMBITION-cm**

*AMBIsome Therapy Induction Optimization*

**Recruitment Update (as of 4 September 2019):**

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

**Botswana-Harvard Partnership  
(Gaborone)**



**0 4 6**

The latest participant  
was recruited on **30  
August 2019**

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



**0 2 6**

The latest participant  
was recruited on **31  
August 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 6**

The latest participant  
was recruited on **3  
September 2019**

**UNC Project Malawi  
(Lilongwe)**



**0 4 5**

The latest participant in  
Lilongwe was recruited  
on **27 August 2019**

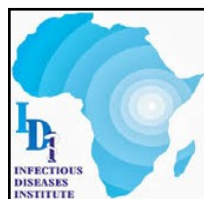
**Malawi-Liverpool Wellcome Trust  
Clinical Research Programme  
(Blantyre)**



**0 5 8**

The latest participant in  
Blantyre was recruited  
on **2 September 2019**

**IDI Uganda (Kampala)**



**1 2 8**

The latest participant in  
Kampala was recruited  
on **30 August 2019**

**IDI Uganda (Mbarara)**

**0 3 0**

The latest participant in  
Mbarara was recruited  
on **29 August 2019**



**TOTAL: 390 (46%)**

## Monitoring Visit in Harare: 5 - 9 August



Prof. Rati Ndhlovu and our fellow AMBITION colleagues at UoZ kindly hosted Prof. Joe Jarvis from 5-7 August and Drs. Nabila Youssouf and Timothee Boyer-Chammard from 5-9 August for a scheduled monitoring visit at the recruiting site in Harare. They were able to spend time in both the **Department of Medicine at the University of Zimbabwe College of Health Sciences (UZCHS)** and **Parirenyatwa Hospital**.

Prof. Rati with the whole team worked closely with Joe, Nabila and Timothée to undertake some administrative tasks (e.g. filing of patient records and hospital notes) and ensure that all trial procedures were being performed as per the protocol. Thank you to Prof. Rati and the UoZ team for their hospitality!

We also bid farewell to **Dr. Tawanda Zinyandu**, who has now left UoZ to pursue a Masters Degree at Harvard University. Our other study doctor at UoZ, **Dr. Admire Hlupeni**, will be taking a year out to **complete an MSc in Epidemiology at LSHTM**, funded by the AMBITION study (more on that in the next Newsletter). We are very grateful to Tawanda and to Admire for their contributions to AMBITION!

The team have now recruited two new study doctors, who will also be introduced in the next Newsletter.

## Monitoring Visits in Uganda: 27 August - 3 September



**Dr. David Meya, Dr. Conrad Muzoora** and the whole AMBITION team at IDI Uganda welcomed **Dr. Nabila Youssouf** and **Dr. David Lawrence** for a scheduled monitoring visit from **27 August—3 September**.

Nabila and David visited the **Kampala** recruiting site from **27-30 August**, working closely with colleagues to review various study documentation and provide support with the EDC. They also enjoyed becoming acquainted with the new **Kampala Study Coordinator, Dr. Laura Nsangi**, and the new Medical Officers.

The team at **IDI Mbarara** (led by **Dr. Conrad Muzoora**) then welcomed Nabila and David from **2-3 September**.

They enjoyed meeting new members of the team, including **Dr. Samuel Jjunju**, our new Medical Officer.

Many thanks to our colleagues at both Ugandan sites for hosting Nabila and David for the week. We look forward to enrolling more participants in the coming days and weeks!



### Introducing more AMBITION Colleagues



**Rhona Curthereen Muyise, Pharmacist (IDI Uganda)**



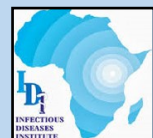
I hold a Bachelors degree in Pharmacy from Mbarara University of Science and Technology. I am an active member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Uganda and have 3 years' experience in clinical research as a clinical trial Pharmacist. I have over 6 years' experience in HIV/AIDS care, and more specifically pharmaceutical care. I am currently working as a lead clinical Pharmacist at IDI in both the PCT clinic and the research pharmacy. My primary role in PCT is to ensure patient-tailored pharmaceutical care, with a particular

emphasis on dose adjustment for patients with non-communicable diseases such as chronic and acute renal diseases. I am also responsible for overseeing stock management and for pharmacovigilance.

I also work as the Lead Trial Pharmacist in five separate clinical trials here in Kampala, including AMBITION. My key areas of expertise include receipt storage, dispensing, the accountability of IMPs, protocol-specific summary reports, dispensation retention, inventory and destruction tasks, the development and preparation of SOPs, and the generation of both standard and customised forms for drug accountability. In AMBITION, my responsibilities include overseeing the randomisation process, checking for completeness of prescriptions, monitoring for appropriate dosing, assessing patients' understanding regarding their medication, as well as providing them with any additional education/counselling and ensuring appropriate medication monitoring.



**Dr. Enock Kagimu, Medical Officer (IDI Uganda)**



Prior to joining the team at IDI, I served as a Research Assistant in two prevalence studies based at Mulago National Referral Hospital. Under the mentorship of Dr. David Meya, and through Uganda's research training collaboration with the University of Minnesota, I was awarded a small grant in 2017 which allowed me to lead a team in an evaluation study of the CrAg screening programme in Uganda as a means of reducing HIV-associated cryptococcal meningitis.

I then volunteered as a Medical Officer (MO) on the ASTRO and AMBITION clinical trials in Kampala for 8 months, before I was employed as a full-time clinical trial MO on the meningitis team at IDI. I also participated in the AMBITION-funded Medical Mycology Course at The University of Cape Town in December 2018. I have recently received a certificate in scientific writing as an early career researcher, and am now interested in researching the early detection of HIV-associated central nervous system infections through understanding the pathogenesis, immunology and diagnostics of the disease, so as to improve patient outcomes in low-resource settings.



## EDCTP Periodic Report Approval—Year 2



We are delighted to have secured approval for our Year 2 EDCTP periodic report. We were particularly happy to have received positive feedback from EDCTP about our descriptions of costs. Philippa is extremely grateful to study teams and to financial / administrative colleagues at all partner organisations for their hard work, patience and co-operation during January and February earlier this year.

Philippa has now made the reimbursement for eligible Year 2 expenditure to all partners. She also looks forward to visiting several of our African partner organisations between October and November to provide informal financial support visits and to help prepare for the next reporting period!

## 11th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health (ECTMIH 2019)



The Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (RSTMH) will be hosting the **11th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health (ECTMIH)** from **Monday 16 September to Friday 20 September 2019**, at the **ACC in Liverpool, UK**.

Every two years, ECTMIH 2019 brings together more than 1,500 scientists and experts from across the world. The Congress **provides a platform for sharing research and innovation** in the **field of tropical medicine and global health**.

We are excited that both **Dr. Mosepele Mosepele** and **Dr. David Lawrence** will be in attendance this year to present on all things AMNET-related!