

# AMBITION News

The AMBITION-cm Trial Newsletter  
(Issue 22: September 2019)



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Nabila and David (LSHTM, Gaborone)

Philippa (LSHTM, London)

Timothée (Institut Pasteur, Paris)



@ambitioncm2020

Please do encourage colleagues  
to 'follow' us!



Dr. Kenneth Ssebambulidde signing his final AMBITION timesheet at LSHTM, before heading back home to Uganda!

## Greetings from Gaborone!



September has flown by! Our recruitment numbers continue to climb and that is all thanks to the efforts of our wonderful AMBITION team. We appreciate the hard work that is taking place across all sites!

Since our last Newsletter, we are delighted to report that we have achieved our **50% enrolment target!** Our **425th trial participant** was recruited at the **Gaborone site on Wednesday 2 October**. Many congratulations to the **BHP team!** Further details can be found on **Page 3**.

**Dr. Kenneth Ssebambulidde** has now completed his MSc in Immunology of Infectious Diseases at LSHTM and has returned home to resume his role as **Study Doctor** in **Kampala**. The team at LSHTM were sorry to see him go! Head over to **Page 3** for a flashback picture of Kenneth on his first day at LSHTM!

Just as Kenneth leaves, we welcome two new additions to London and to **LSHTM**.

**Dr. Admire Hlupeni** (**Study Doctor** from **UoZ**), has arrived to pursue an MSc in **Epidemiology**. **Janet Zambezi** (**Laboratory Technician** from **UNC Project Malawi**) will be completing an MSc in **Immunology of Infectious Diseases**. Learn more on **Page 4**.

The team at **UoZ** will kindly host **Dr. Timothee Boyer-Chamard** for a brief monitoring visit from **7-10 October 2019**. Head over to **Page 5** to read more about the upcoming visit.

The AMBITION team continues to grow! We have welcomed a few new faces in the past month. Head over to **Pages 5 and 6** to learn more about **Irene Rwomushana**, who joins the **IDI Uganda team** as a **Study Coordinator**, and **Dr. Ephraim Kufa** and **Dr. Constantine Mutata**, who join the **UoZ team** as the newly appointed **Study Doctors**. There are also more colleagues to be introduced in the next Newsletter, so watch this space.

**Dr. Mosepele Mosepele** and **Dr. David Lawrence** presented **AMNET** in Liverpool at the **11th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health** (ECTMIH 2019) from **16-20 September**. Further details on **Page 7**.

Finally, if you would like your biography and/or photograph on the AMBITION website to be updated, please get in touch with Sophia ([sophia.hafeez@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:sophia.hafeez@lshtm.ac.uk)). More information on **Page 7**.

Best Wishes,

Joe

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## AMBITION-cm

AMBIsome Therapy Induction Optimization

Recruitment Update (as of 2 October 2019):

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

**Botswana-Harvard Partnership  
(Gaborone)**



0 4 9

The latest participant  
was recruited on **2  
October 2019**

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

**University of Cape Town:  
Khayelitsha Hospital**



0 3 4

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

**University of Zimbabwe  
(Harare)**



0 5 8

The latest participant  
was recruited on **18  
September 2019**

**UNC Project Malawi  
(Lilongwe)**



0 5 1

The latest participant in  
Lilongwe was recruited  
on **1 October 2019**

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



0 6 2

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

**IDI Uganda (Kampala)**

**IDI Uganda (Mbarara)**



1 3 5

The latest participant in  
Kampala was recruited  
on **1 October 2019**

0 3 6

The latest participant in  
Mbarara was recruited  
on **1 October 2019**

**TOTAL: 425 (50%)**



### 425th Participant Recruited!



We are incredibly excited to share the news that we have recruited our **425th AMBITION trial participant**, and have therefore officially reached our **50% recruitment target**! The site in **Gaborone** had the honours of enrolling participant number 425 on **Wednesday 2 October**, so many congratulations to the **BHP** team!

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely give thanks to all colleagues across all sites for the great deal of time, effort and dedication they have put into AMBITION thus far—this milestone achievement would not have been possible without this collaborative effort.

We are excited for recruitment to continue to climb in the coming months and are eager to achieve our next milestone!

Only 425 participants left to recruit...

### Departing MSc Student

Earlier this month, the team based at LSHTM bid farewell to **Dr. Kenneth Ssebambulidde**, who has now completed his **MSc in Immunology of Infectious Diseases**. Kenneth has been a regular and cheerful visitor to the AMBITION office at LSHTM and has been a valued member of the 16-strong MSc Immunology of Infectious Diseases 2018-19 cohort.

It has been wonderful having Kenneth in London this past year and he will be greatly missed, but we know that his colleagues at **IDI Uganda** will be glad to have him back in his role as **Study Doctor**! We hope that Kenneth will also be able to put his immunology skills to good use by supporting several AMBITION sub-studies.

Many congratulations on completing your MSc, Kenneth—we wish you the very best for the future, and look forward to seeing your name on future publications!



Kenneth on his first day at LSHTM in September 2018



Kenneth ready to fly home to Uganda in September 2019!



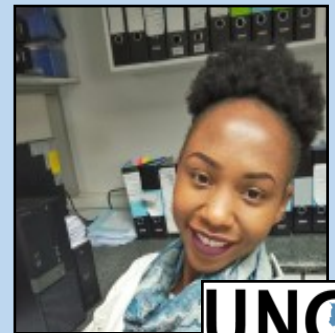
### Incoming MSc Students (2019 - 2020)

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome **Dr. Admire Hlupeni** and **Janet Zambezi** to LSHTM for the upcoming **2019/20** academic year.

Admire joins us from **UoZ** where he has been working as an **AMBITION Study Doctor** for just under two years. Similarly, Janet has taken a year out from her role as a **Laboratory Technician** at **UNC Project Malawi**, to spend the next 12 months in London.

During their time at LSHTM, Admire will be reading for an **MSc in Epidemiology**, and Janet will be pursuing an **MSc in Immunology of Infectious Diseases**.

We are excited to have Admire and Janet here at LSHTM - they join us just in time to experience the notoriously unpredictable Autumn weather in London. We wish them all the very best with their studies this coming year and we will be sure to keep you updated on their progress throughout!



Admire and Janet touched down in London on Thursday 19 September and wasted no time in acquainting themselves with the London Underground system!





### Monitoring Visit in Harare: 7-10 October



**Prof. Rati** and our fellow AMBITION colleagues at **UoZ** will host **Dr. Timothée Boyer-Chammard** next month from **7-10 October**.

The team will have the opportunity to work with Timothée to review participant files, finalise various source data verification (following on from the recent monitoring visit in early August), and discuss any EDC-related queries.

It will also be a great opportunity for the newly-appointed study doctors **Dr. Ephraim Kufa** and **Dr. Constantine Mutata** to become better acquainted with Timothée. Scroll down to learn a little more about Ephraim and Constantine.

### New AMBITION Colleagues

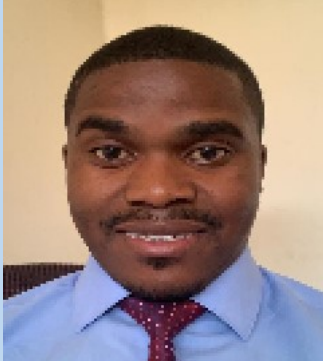
**Irene Rwomushana, Study Coordinator**  
(IDI Uganda, Mbarara site)



Following the completion of my Undergraduate Degree, I studied for an MSc in Clinical Trials at the University of Edinburgh in the UK.

As a Study Coordinator, I have gained invaluable skills in clinical trial monitoring and management through working in various therapeutic areas of clinical research. In addition to my role as AMBITION Study Coordinator at the Mbarara recruiting site, I am also the Co-auditor for an investigational site systems audit, and a Regulatory Affairs Officer.

My interests lie primarily in clinical trial monitoring, management and auditing.



**Dr. Ephraim Kufa, Study Doctor (UoZ)**



I attained my BSc in 2011, and proceeded to complete a degree in Medicine and Surgery (MBChB) at the University of Zimbabwe, in 2015. I was fortunate enough to complete my medical internship at Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals, in Harare—during my time at which I rotated through a number of medical wards: including the department of HIV management and HIV-related conditions.

After successfully completing my internship, I joined a government rural district hospital in Mutoko: a small town in the Mashonaland East province of Zimbabwe. It was here I served as a Government Medical Officer for just under two years, before being appointed the Acting District Medical Officer in October 2018. During this period, I gained invaluable clinical experience in my role overseeing the management of a wide range of diseases. This position also proved significant in shaping my administrative and team working abilities.

I am very interested in Public Health research that brings about positive change in underprivileged communities suffering from a high burden of communicable diseases, such as HIV.

I joined the AMBITION study in August 2019. I am primarily responsible for the provision of clinical services to study participants.



**Dr. Constantine Mutata, Study Doctor (UoZ)**



I gained my MBChB degree before reading for a Masters degree in Public Health at the University of Zimbabwe. I worked as a Senior House Officer in the Paediatric Department at Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals from 2014-2017, where I was responsible for overseeing patient care in the HIV clinic. It was here at Parirenyatwa, where I also worked as a Casualty Officer.

In 2017, I conducted a study entitled: 'Evaluation of the adverse events following an immunization surveillance system in Guruve district, Mashonaland Central', which was published in the Pan-African Medical Journal. I have considerable experience in statistical data analysis, report writing and in developing research protocols. My interests lie in HIV-related research, and the subsequent implications on health finance and economics.

My role in AMBITION includes the clinical management of study patients and other related activities.

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



The Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (RSTMH) hosted the 11th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health (ECTMIH) from **Monday 16 September to Friday 20 September 2019**, at the **Area and Convention Centre (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.

Our very own **Dr. Mosepele Mosepele** and **Dr. David Lawrence** were in attendance this year to present an update on behalf of AMNET.



## AMBITION Website Update—Biography and Picture

A quick reminder to anyone who wishes for their biography and/or picture to be updated on the AMBITION website: please email any new revisions/pictures to Sophia ([sophia.hafeez@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:sophia.hafeez@lshtm.ac.uk)) and she will upload the new versions.

Thanks so much!