

AMBITION News

The AMBITION-cm Trial Newsletter
(Issue 23: October 2019)



In this Issue:

- Recruitment Update
- Monitoring Visit in Harare (7-10 October)
- Monitoring Visit in Cape Town (19-20 November)
- Monitoring Visit in Uganda (20-29 January 2020)
- New AMBITION colleagues
- UK Trial Managers' Conference (21-23 October 2019)
- Year 3 Financial Support Visits (October-December 2019)
- Open EDCTP Calls

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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. Admire Hlupeni and Dr. David Lawrence catching up at the LSHTM offices in London on 10 October.

Greetings from Gaborone!



We may be fast approaching the end of 2019, but this has not stopped colleagues across all sites from continuing to put a great deal of time and effort into all things AMBITION! Since our last Newsletter, where we proudly reported having reached our 50% recruitment target, enrolment has been steady, and we are very much looking forward to achieving our next milestone!

The team at UoZ kindly hosted **Dr. Timothee Boyer-Chamard** for a brief monitoring visit from **7-10 October**. Head over to **Page 3** to read more.

Dr. Nabila Youssouf and **Dr. David Lawrence** will be heading to South Africa to conduct a **site monitoring visit** at our **Cape Town** site from **19-20 November**.

More info on **Page 3**.

We may still be in 2019, but plans are already underway for the teams in **Kampala** and **Mbarara** to receive Nabila and David for the **first monitoring visit of the New Year** from **20-29 January 2020**. Head to **Page 3** for further details.

The AMBITION team continues to grow! We have welcomed a few new faces in the past month. On **Page 4** you can learn more about **Dr. Morris Rutakingirwa** and **Dr. Samuel Jjunju**, who both formally join the **IDI Uganda team in Kampala** as newly appointed **Study Doctors**. We are not done yet, though—there are more colleagues to be introduced in the next Newsletter, so watch this space!

Dr. Nabila Youssouf presented at the annual **UK Trial Managers' Network Conference** in **Birmingham** on **Tuesday 22 October 2019**. More info on **Page 5**.

Colleagues from the Grants Offices at the recruiting sites are hosting **Philippa Griffin**, AMBITION's **Financial & Administrative Project Manager**, for **financial support visits** during **October, November and December 2019**. Head to **Page 5** to check out the schedule of visits.

Finally, there are a number of **EDCTP calls open** for application. **Page 6** has all the details on how, when and where to apply.

Best Wishes,

Joe

Recruitment Update (as of 1 November 2019):

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

Botswana-Harvard Partnership
(Gaborone)



0 5 2

The latest participant was recruited on **21 October 2019**

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



0 4 0

The latest participant was recruited on **1 November 2019**

University of Zimbabwe
(Harare)



0 5 9

The latest participant was recruited on **4 October 2019**

UNC Project Malawi
(Lilongwe)



0 5 3

The latest participant in Lilongwe was recruited on **29 October 2019**

Malawi-Liverpool Wellcome Trust
Clinical Research Programme
(Blantyre)



0 6 8

The latest participant in Blantyre was recruited on **25 October 2019**

IDI Uganda (Kampala)



1 5 2

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

IDI Uganda (Mbarara)

0 3 7

The latest participant in Mbarara was recruited on **14 October 2019**



Monitoring Visit in Harare: 7-10 October



Dr. Ephraim Kufa and Dr. Constantine Mutata performing a lumbar puncture on a participant at Parirenyatwa Hospital

Prof. Rati and our fellow AMBITION colleagues at **UoZ** graciously hosted **Dr. Timothée Boyer-Chamard** for a brief **monitoring visit** from **7-10 October**.

The study team had the opportunity to work closely with Timothée to review all participant files, to finalise a number of source data verification points (following on from the recent monitoring visit in early August), and to work through various EDC queries.

It was also a good opportunity for the newly-appointed study doctors **Dr. Ephraim Kufa** and **Dr. Constantine Mutata** to become acquainted with Timothée. They look forward to working together over the coming months.

The visit was a success and Timothée is very grateful to Rati and to the UoZ team for their warm reception.

Upcoming Monitoring Visits

Monitoring Visit in Cape Town: 19-20 November



Prof. Graeme Meintjes and the study team at the University of Cape Town will receive **Dr. Nabila Youssouf** and **Dr. David Lawrence** from **19-20 November**. It will be a good opportunity for all colleagues to work together to review various trial-related documentation following the opening of the second recruitment site at Khayelitsha District Hospital a few months ago.

Monitoring Visit in Uganda: 20-29 January 2020



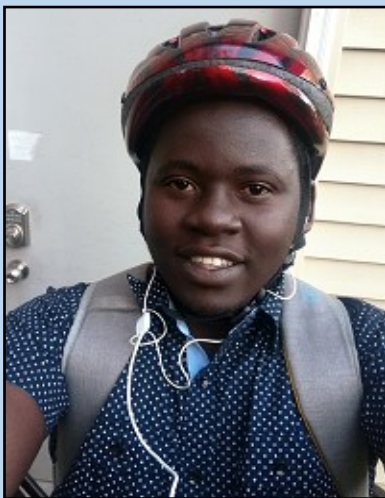
Dr. David Meya, **Dr. Conrad Muzoora** and fellow AMBITION team members at **IDI Uganda** (Kampala and Mbarara recruiting sites) will host **Dr. Nabila Youssouf** and **Dr. David Lawrence** from **20-29 January 2020**, marking the first monitoring visit of the **New Year 2020**.

The visit should provide an excellent opportunity to review participant files after the Christmas period, and for both the Kampala and Mbarara teams to welcome additional administrative and clinical support after all their hard work enrolling participants during 2019.



New AMBITION Colleagues

Dr. Morris Rutakingirwa, Study Doctor (IDI Uganda, Kampala site)

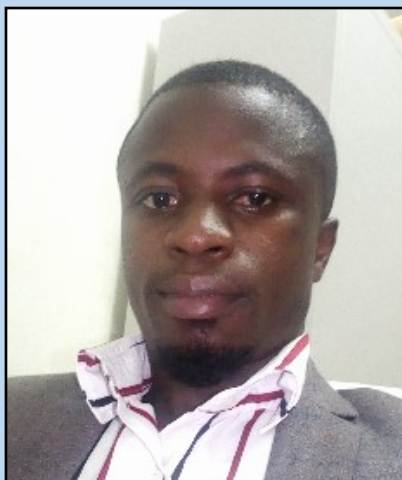


I graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Medicine and Surgery (MBChB) from Makerere University here in Kampala. During my Medical Internship in Internal Medicine at Mulago National Referral Hospital, I took a particular interest in clinical care and in the holistic management of patients with HIV/AIDS. As a result, I joined IDI as a Medical Officer on the C-ASSERT clinical trial, where I gained considerable experience in both clinical trial research and in the management of patients with cryptococcal disease.

Under the mentorship of Dr David Meya, I am hoping to further my career in infectious diseases research and clinical care.

Along with other members of the study team, I provide clinical care to all AMBITION participants.

Dr. Samuel Jjunju, Study Doctor (IDI Uganda, Kampala site)



I graduated with an MBChB from Gulu University, Uganda, before becoming a member of the Uganda Medical Association.

Prior to joining IDI, I worked as both a Medical Officer and as the Deputy Head of Clinicians at the Namulundu Medical Centre, in the Wakiso District of Uganda.

My current interests lie in the interventional medical research of HIV-associated central nervous system infections, with a specific focus on cryptococcal meningitis.

I am honoured to be working as an AMBITION Study Doctor. My main duties include the screening and enrollment of study participants, inpatient care, and outpatient follow-up.

UK Trial Managers' Conference, Birmingham: Tuesday 22 October



Dr. Nabila Youssouf participated in the annual **UK Trial Managers' Network Conference** in **Birmingham** on **Tuesday 22 October**.

Nabila delivered a compelling presentation entitled: **"Challenges in conducting trials in resource-limited settings: experiences and reflections from the AMBITION-cm trial"**. She highlighted some of the obstacles encountered when setting up and running complex international trials, and explained how the AMBITION team has successfully overcome them so far.

Congratulations to Nabila, and to the various **Study Co-ordinators** across all recruiting sites, who provided valuable insight and content for the presentation: which went on to win 'Best Presentation' on the day!

Year 3 Financial Support Visits: October-December 2019



It seems that 2019 has sped by, and it is once again the time of year for **financial / Grants Office colleagues** at some of the recruiting sites to receive Philippa Griffin, AMBITION's Financial & Administrative Project Manager, for **informal financial support visits**.

The team at UNC Project Malawi hosted Philippa from 16-18 October, and colleagues at the University of Zimbabwe welcomed her to Harare the following week. Up next:



The UoZ team and Philippa enjoying lunch in Harare on Wednesday 23 October.

- **University of Cape Town** (late November)
- **Botswana-Harvard Partnership in Gaborone** (2-6 December)

As in previous years, these visits provide a chance for financial and administrative colleagues to work with Philippa to address queries, review timesheets and expenditure documents to ensure compliance with EDCTP and Horizon 2020 regulations, and plan for the next EDCTP financial report.

Philippa is very grateful to the teams at UNC Project and UoZ for setting aside time and space to receive her this past month, and is looking forward to catching up with colleagues at UCT and BHP!



Open EDCTP Calls



Strategic Actions Supporting Large-scale Clinical Trials

For further information and details on how to apply:

<http://www.edctp.org/call/strategic-actions-supporting-large-scale-clinical-trials-2019/>

Closing Date: 7 November 2019

New Drugs and Vaccines for Priority Pathogens in Antimicrobial Resistance

For further information and details on how to apply:

<http://www.edctp.org/call/new-drugs-and-vaccines-for-priority-pathogens-in-antimicrobial-resistance-2019/>

Closing Date: 7 November 2019

Ethics and Regulatory Capacities

For further information and details on how to apply:

<http://www.edctp.org/call/ethics-and-regulatory-capacities-2019/>

Closing Date: 21 November 2019

Career Development Fellowships

For further information and details on how to apply:

<http://www.edctp.org/call/career-development-fellowships-2019/>

Closing Date: 27 November 2019

Preparatory Fellowships – in collaboration with the Africa Research Excellence Fund (AREF)

For further information and details on how to apply:

<http://www.edctp.org/call/preparatory-fellowships-in-collaboration-with-the-africa-research-excellence-fund-aref-2019/>

Closing Date: 27 November 2019