

AMBITION News

The AMBITION-cm Trial Newsletter
(Issue 25: December 2019)



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Team email address: ambition@lshtm.ac.uk

Nabila and David (LSHTM, Gaborone)

Philippa (LSHTM, London)

Timothée (Institut Pasteur, Paris)



@ambitioncm2020

Please do encourage colleagues
to 'follow' us!



Dr. Nabila Youssouf presents the Lumbar Puncture Workshop poster in **Maun, Botswana** on **Sunday 1 December**.

Greetings from Gaborone!



The festive season is upon us! Most of the African sites have now concluded recruitment for the year, and we are very pleased to be ending 2019 with **510 participants** enrolled. As always, we are extremely thankful to all our colleagues who have worked so hard this past year. We have achieved many important AMBITION milestones, and that is wholly down to our wonderful team!

We have many great moments to look forward to in 2020, not least continuing to work towards our target of 850 participants. We are also starting to plan a series of events in Uganda to follow the ICCC 2020 conference during the first week of June. But for now, please sit back and enjoy a few of our most notable moments from 2019!

Wishing you Seasons Greetings and a Happy New Year 2020. We look forward to working together in 2020.

Best Wishes,

Joe

Recruitment Update (as of 19 December 2019):

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

Botswana-Harvard Partnership
(Gaborone)



0 5 7

The latest participant
was recruited on **8**
December 2019

University of Cape Town:
Mitchells Plain Hospital and
Khayelitsha Hospital



0 4 8

The latest participant
was recruited on **6**
December 2019

University of Zimbabwe
(Harare)



0 5 9

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

UNC Project Malawi
(Lilongwe)



0 5 7

The latest participant in
Lilongwe was recruited
on **9 December 2019**

Malawi-Liverpool Wellcome Trust
Clinical Research Programme
(Blantyre)



0 7 5

The latest participant in
Blantyre was recruited
on **9 December 2019**

IDI Uganda (Kampala)



1 6 8

The latest participant in
Kampala was recruited
on **5 December 2019**

IDI Uganda (Mbarara)

0 4 6

The latest participant in
Mbarara was recruited
on **5 December 2019**

Highlights of 2019

January



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

February



The site in Mbarara opened for recruitment on **Tuesday 5 February 2019**. The first patient was successfully randomised later that day at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital.



Our **150th trial patient** was recruited at the Lilongwe site on **Wednesday 20th February 2019!**



March

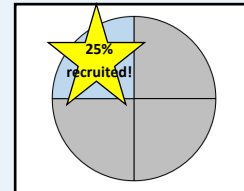


We officially submitted our **annual financial report** to the EDCTP for the period **January—December 2018** on **Friday 1 March 2019**.

April



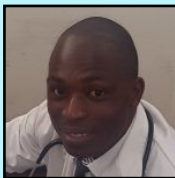
We hit our **25% participant recruitment target** on **Tuesday 9 April 2019**. Congratulations to the **IDI Uganda (Kampala)** team for enrolling our **213th participant**.



May



We were thrilled to recruit our **200th trial participant** at the Mbarara site on **Tuesday 26 March 2019!**



Dr. Admire Hlupeni (Study Doctor, UoZ) and Janet Zambezi (Lab Technician, UNC Project Malawi) were awarded **two fully funded MSc Studentships** at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) to study **Epidemiology and Immunology of Infectious Diseases** respectively, from **September 2019 - September 2020**.

A group picture of attendees at the third annual **AMBITION Investigators' Meeting** on the steps of **Institut Pasteur in Paris (28-29 May 2019)**.



A lovely group picture taken whilst on a tour of **Musée Pasteur** on **Wednesday 29th May**.

Highlights of 2019

June



We recruited our **300th trial participant** at IDI Uganda (Kampala) on Monday 1 July 2019!



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

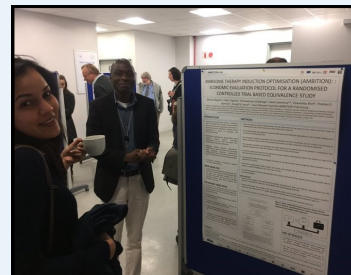


July

Plenty of monitoring visits took place this year! Recruiting sites in **Cape Town, Lilongwe, Blantyre and Harare** received members of the TMG in July and August.

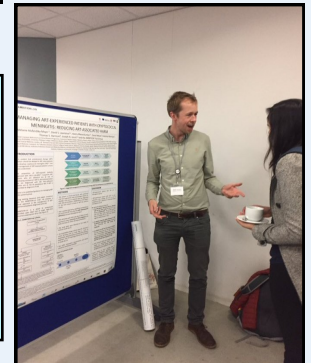


The **third AIDS-related Mycoses Workshop** took place at the **Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine** in Cape Town from 10-12 July 2019.



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

Dr. David Lawrence presented 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**.



Highlights of 2019



The team at UNC Project Malawi hosted Dr. Nabila Youssef, Dr. David Lawrence and Dr. Timothee Boyer-Chamard for a 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.

August



We secured approval for our Year 2 EDCTP periodic report in August 2019!



August brought about a new wave of monitoring visits! The team at UoZ kindly hosted Prof. Joe Jarvis, Dr. Nabila Youssef and Dr. Timothee Boyer-Chamard for a monitoring visit from 5-9 August 2019.



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.

September



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 ACC in Liverpool, UK.

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



Dr. Kenneth Ssebambulidde signed his final AMBITION timesheet at LSHTM.

We bid farewell to Kenneth in September 2019, following the completion of his MSc in Immunology of Infectious Diseases!



Highlights of 2019



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



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

Colleagues from the Grants Offices at the recruiting sites hosted Philippa Griffin, AMBITION's Financial & Administrative Project Manager, for financial support visits during October, November and December 2019.



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

October



We were excited to recruit our 425th AMBITION trial participant in October, officially reaching 50% of our recruitment target! The site in Gaborone had the honours of enrolling participant number 425 on Wednesday 2 October.

Dr. Ephraim Kufa and Dr. Constantine Mutata performing a lumbar puncture on a participant at Parirenyatwa Hospital, during a monitoring visit of the Harare recruiting site in October.



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



Highlights of 2019



500



We were incredibly excited to recruit our **500th AMBITION trial participant**. The site in **Kampala** had the honours of enrolling participant number 500 on **Monday 2 December**. We look forward to achieving our next milestone!

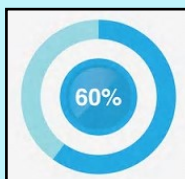
Dr. Nabila Youssouf presented the Lumbar Puncture workshop poster in **Maun, Botswana** on **Sunday 1 December**. The **World AIDS Day** theme this year was 'Communities make the Difference'.



December



The **MLW team** recruited participant number **510** at our **Blantyre site** on **Monday 9 December**.



We end 2019 having officially reached our **60% recruitment target!**

November

Dr. David Lawrence presented at a stakeholder meeting at the **Centre for Youth of Hope (CEYHO)** in **Gaborone** on **Friday 1 November**.



Dr. Nabila Youssouf and colleagues at **BHP**, including **Katlego Tsholo (Senior Research Nurse)**, headed up a public engagement **Lumbar Puncture Workshop** on **Saturday 2 November** as part of the **BHP Myth Buster Series**.



Kwana Lechiile, AMBITION's laboratory scientist, presented at the Lumbar Puncture Workshop on **2 November**.



Happy New Year