

# AMBITION News

The AMBITION-cm Trial Newsletter  
(Issue 27: February 2020)



## In this Issue:

- Recruitment Update
- Upcoming Monitoring Visits
- Financial Support Visit in Uganda (3-7 February 2020)
- New AMBITION colleagues
- EDCTP Periodic Report—Year 3
- MSc Alumnus Graduation — Dr. Kenneth Ssebambulidde

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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. David Lawrence and Dr. Kenneth Ssebambulidde catch up during 'A Journey of Hope' clinical trials communication event held at the College of Health Sciences in Kampala on 30 January 2020.

## Greetings from Gaborone!



February has certainly flown by! We are pleased with our recruitment progress this month, and are looking forward to achieving our 70% enrolment target very soon. As always, we are very thankful to all colleagues for their continued efforts on all things AMBITION.

Plenty of monitoring visits are already in the diary for 2020! Nabila and David will be visiting **MLW** colleagues at the **Blantyre** recruiting site from **3-7 March**, the team at **UNC Project** in **Lilongwe** will be receiving Nabila and Timothée from **16-20 March**, and it will then be the turn of colleagues at the **Cape Town** site to host Nabila and David from **6-9 April**. **Page 3** has all the details.

**The Grants Office in Kampala** hosted Philippa Griffin (Financial & Administrative Project Manager) for an informal **financial support visit** between **3-7 February**. We are also pleased to have submitted our third annual report to EDCTP earlier today. Head over to **Page 4** to learn more.

We also have a new addition to the AMBITION team. **Joan Rukundo** joins us as the new **Study Nurse** at the **Mbarara site**. Learn a little more about Joan on **Page 4**. We will surely be introducing a few more colleagues in the coming months, so keep an eye out for that!

**Dr. Kenneth Ssebambulidde (Study Doctor, IDI Uganda)**, was in London earlier this month to attend the graduation ceremony to receive his **MSc degree in Immunology of Infectious Diseases**. Head over to **Page 5** to see some pictures!

Best Wishes,

Joe

### Recruitment Update (as of 29 February 2020):

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

**Botswana-Harvard Partnership**  
(Gaborone)



0 6 1

The latest participant was recruited on **21 February 2020**

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



0 6 2

The latest participant was recruited on **24 February 2020**

**University of Zimbabwe**  
(Harare)



0 6 4

The latest participant was recruited on **25 February 2020**

**UNC Project Malawi**  
(Lilongwe)



0 6 7

The latest participant in Lilongwe was recruited on **26 February 2020**

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



0 8 1

The latest participant in Blantyre was recruited on **28 February 2020**

**IDI Uganda (Kampala)**



1 9 3

The latest participant in Kampala was recruited on **26 February 2020**

**IDI Uganda (Mbarara)**

0 5 4

The latest participant in Mbarara was recruited on **5 February 2020**

**TOTAL: 582 (68%)**



### Upcoming Monitoring Visits 2020

#### Monitoring Visit in Blantyre: 3-7 March 2020

**Prof. Henry Mwandumba** and the rest of the AMBITION team at **MLW** will welcome **Dr. Nabila Youssouf** and **Dr. David Lawrence** from **3-7 March** for a **monitoring visit** of the **recruitment site in Blantyre**.

It will be a great opportunity for Nabila and David to work closely with MLW colleagues to review various study documentation, as well as provide support with the EDC following some routine updates.



#### Monitoring Visit in Lilongwe: 16-20 March 2020

**Dr. Cecilia Kanyama** and the team at **UNC Project Malawi** in **Lilongwe** will be hosting **Dr. Nabila Youssouf** and **Dr. Timothée Boyer-Chamard** for a monitoring visit from **16-20 March**.

It will allow everyone the time to recap trial and laboratory procedures and work through a number of administrative tasks. Nabila and Timothée also look forward to meeting a couple of new colleagues who have joined the team in recent months.



#### Monitoring Visit in Cape Town: 6-9 April 2020

**Dr. Nabila Youssouf** and **Dr. David Lawrence** will be visiting **Prof. Graeme Meintjes** and the rest of the study team at the **Cape Town** recruiting sites (**Mitchells Plain Hospital** and **Khayelitsha District Hospital**) from **6-9 April**.

As the first monitoring visit of 2020 in Cape Town, it will be a useful opportunity for everyone to work closely together to ensure all trial procedures are being performed as per the protocol.





### AMBITION Financial Update



Grants Office colleagues in Kampala kindly received Philippa Griffin, Financial & Administrative Project Manager, for an **informal financial support visit** from **4-7 February**.

This visit provided a chance to work together to address queries, review timesheets and expenditure documents to ensure compliance with EDCTP and Horizon 2020 regulations, and plan for the upcoming EDCTP financial report.

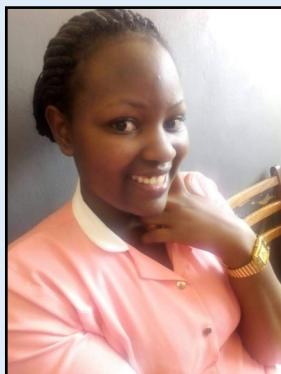
Philippa is very grateful to the team for setting aside time and space to receive her. Grants teams in all five African countries have received Philippa for short visits over the past months, and she would like to thank them for having made her so welcome during this period (**October 2019—February 2020**).

We have just now submitted our **third annual financial report to the EDCTP for the period January to December 2019**. Many thanks to all colleagues for their excellent record-keeping systems and their endless patience with the various administrative aspects. Congratulations to everyone who has worked hard to meet the **Friday 28 February deadline** and to produce such a high-quality report!



### New AMBITION Colleagues

#### Joan Rukundo, Study Nurse (IDI Mbarara)



I am a qualified Nurse with over four years of experience. During this time, I have been directly involved in a number of research studies, ranging from heart failure to stroke.

My interests predominantly lie in counselling and health education, and I am currently completing my Diploma in Nursing with a view to further my studies in the future.

My main responsibilities on the AMBITION study include consenting participants, administering drugs, assisting in the LP process, completing CRFs, and being a key point of contact in the follow-up of study participants.







### MSc Alumnus Update: Dr. Kenneth Ssebambulidde



**Dr. Kenneth Ssebambulidde (Study Doctor, Uganda),** our **LSHTM alumnus** from the class of **2018-19**, was in London this month to attend the graduation ceremony to receive his **distinction** in **MSc in Immunology of Infectious Diseases**. The ceremony took place at **Friends House in Euston** on **Thursday 20 February**.

As you can see, it was a lovely day marking the great achievements of the class of 2018-19.

Congratulations once again, Kenneth—we are very happy to have been able to celebrate the day with you!



1



2



3



4

1. Kenneth and Philippa catch up on the morning of graduation
2. Kenneth proudly stood next to the AMBITION study folders in the LSHTM offices!
3. Kenneth walks across the stage to receive his diploma
4. Kenneth and his fellow MSc classmate, Fanny, all ready to receive their degrees!