

AMBITION News

The AMBITION-cm Trial Newsletter

(Issue 29: April 2020)



In this Issue:

- Recruitment Update
- COVID-19—Updates by site
- UCT COVID-19 ECHO Clinic
- Update on EDCTP Period 3 Report

Team email address: ambition@lshtm.ac.uk

Nabila and David (LSHTM, Gaborone)

Philippa (LSHTM, London)

Timothee (Institut Pasteur, Paris)



@ambitioncm2020

Please do encourage colleagues
to 'follow' us!



Dr. Constantine Mutata, Dr. Ephraim Kufa and Taddy Mwarumba (Study Nurse / photographer) setting out to conduct participant home visits in Harare during the COVID-19 lockdown on **Monday 20 April**.

Greetings from Gaborone!



This has been a month of enormous change for AMBITION. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused major disruptions to trial activities, with recruitment at most sites halted for now. More detailed individual information on a site-by-site basis can be found on **Page 3**. However, we remain grateful to colleagues across the consortium who continue to work tirelessly on AMBITION, and who have displayed great acts of kindness during these challenging times.

UCT colleagues have been hosting an online **COVID-19 ECHO Clinic** for the past couple of weeks in an effort to share pertinent COVID-19 related updates. More details on how / where to tune in over on **Page 3**.

We have also received positive feedback on our **Year 3 EDCTP periodic report** which was submitted at the end of February. Philippa Griffin is currently working with financial and administrative colleagues across all partner organisations to address the various minor queries. Further information can be found on **Page 4**.

Despite the uncertain times, we will continue to support our AMBITION colleagues as much as we can over the coming weeks and months.

Best Wishes,

Joe

Recruitment Update (as of 30 April 2020):

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

**Botswana-Harvard Partnership
(Gaborone)**



The latest participant in **Gaborone** was recruited on **22 March 2020**

0 6 3

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



The latest participant in **Cape Town** was recruited on **11 March 2020**

0 6 8

**University of Zimbabwe
(Harare)**



The latest participant in **Harare** was recruited on **23 March 2020**

0 6 9

**UNC Project Malawi
(Lilongwe)**

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



The latest participant in **Lilongwe** was recruited on **29 April 2020**

0 7 7



The latest participant in **Blantyre** was recruited on **29 April 2020**

0 9 6

IDI Uganda (Kampala)

IDI Uganda (Mbarara)



The latest participant in **Kampala** was recruited on **13 March 2020**

2 0 1

The latest participant in **Mbarara** was recruited on **24 March 2020**

0 5 9

TOTAL: 633 (74.5%)

COVID-19—Updates by site

The COVID-19 pandemic has understandably impacted almost all aspects of the AMBITION trial this past month and, as a result, clinical research has now been halted at the majority of our recruiting sites (apart from Blantyre and Lilongwe).

Effective plans have been implemented to ensure that study teams are able to follow up existing study participants, and that they receive medication and appropriate monitoring during this challenging time. As always, David, Nabila, and Timothée remain on hand to assist all sites remotely as best they can.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all AMBITION colleagues for their continued hard work and endless patience during this difficult time.

Kiruddu Hospital, Uganda – Halted on Monday 16 March

Mitchell’s Plain and Khayelitsha Hospitals, South Africa – Halted on Monday 23 March

Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital, Uganda – Halted on Friday 27 March

Parirenyatwa Hospital, Zimbabwe – Halted on Monday 30 March

Princess Marina Hospital, Botswana – Halted on Tuesday 31 March

Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Malawi – Ongoing

Kamuzu Central Hospital, Malawi – Ongoing

Amid the current uncertainty, AMBITION colleagues have been pulling together to help study participants who are struggling to access basic food and medication.

We are particularly thankful to those colleagues who have gone above and beyond to offer support to participants during this trying time.

Colleagues at UCT, UNC Project and IDI have been working as study teams in recent weeks to deliver essential supplies - including food, anti-retroviral drugs and other medication - to the most vulnerable.

IDI colleagues load up basic supplies and medication ready to deliver directly to participants on Wednesday 22 April.



UCT COVID-19 ECHO CLINIC



COVID-19 ECHO CLINIC
Department of Medicine, University of Cape Town



Since early April, **UCT** have been hosting a weekly online **COVID-19 ECHO Clinic** in an effort to share COVID-19 updates.

Held **every Wednesday at 16:00 (SAST)** and chaired by **Prof. Graeme Meintjes**, the clinic offers a forum for those on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic to disseminate key information and provide insights into how different countries are dealing with this major global health issue. This is followed by a panel discussion.

Registration for the Zoom call is required every week. A link and corresponding agenda are sent out every Tuesday from the AMBITION mailbox to all colleagues (currently on the Newsletter Mailing List), wishing to join. Further information can also be found directly on the AMBITION Events page [here](#).

If you or anyone you know would like to be added to the mailing list for this clinic, please contact Sophia (sophia,hafeez@lshtm.ac.uk), who will add their name to the list.

Update on EDCTP Period 3 Report



We have recently received positive feedback for our **Year 3 EDCTP periodic report** which was submitted at the end of February. Our EDCTP Finance Officer is seeking clarification on a handful of costs. Philippa is now working with fellow financial and administrative colleagues to address the queries.

Philippa is extremely grateful to all colleagues at all partner organisations for their hard work, patience and co-operation during January and February earlier this year. Once all queries are addressed and the report is formally approved, we will be in a position to organise the next annual arrears payment to beneficiaries.