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Please do encourage
colleagues to 'follow'



Congratulations to our colleagues in
Blantyre who have enrolled our 680th
AMBITION participant!

Greetings from Gaborone!



The COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, but we are pleased that all AMBITION sites remain operational, and that we continue to afford patients the opportunity to participate in the trial. The study team in Blantyre recently recruited our 680th participant, meaning that we have now enrolled **80% of our 850 target**. Thank you and congratulations to everyone!

AMBITION will also be featured in the next EDCTP Newsletter, so do subscribe to their mailing list if you have not already done so.

The AMBITION Data Monitoring Committee held a virtual meeting on 31 July; we look forward to reading their conclusions and recommendations.

We are delighted that Dr. Kenneth Ssebambulidde, who obtained his MSc in Immunology of Infectious Diseases from LSHTM in 2019, has been awarded a four-year African Postdoctoral Training Initiative by the African Academy of Sciences. Kenneth will relocate to the US in early 2021.

Congratulations also go to Dr. Melanie Alufandika at MLW, who has had her article *Pragmatic approach to managing ART-experienced patients with HIV-associated cryptococcal meningitis: impact of ART adherence and duration* accepted in AIDS, and to Dr. Tshepo Leeme at BHP whose article *Utility of CD4 Count Testing in the Era of Universal ART: An Analysis of Routine Laboratory Data in Botswana* will be published in HIV Medicine.

Dr. Nabila Youssouf has been awarded a Patient & Public Involvement Grant from LSHTM to organise a theatre piece in Botswana about cryptococcal meningitis and lumbar punctures. We look forward to this event.

We would like to encourage interested colleagues to register on [The African Academy of Sciences' Clinical Trials Community Platform](#). This new tool has been designed to help trialists based in Africa expand their network, share experiences and insights, and forge research collaborations.

We look forward to a successful month of recruitment during August.

Best Wishes,

Joe

RECRUITMENT UPDATE (31 July 2020)

Botswana-Harvard Partnership
(Gaborone)



0 6 7

The latest participant was recruited on
22 July 2020

University of Cape Town:
Mitchells Plain Hospital and
Khayelitsha Hospital



0 7 4

The latest participant was recruited on
28 July 2020

University of Zimbabwe
(Harare)



0 7 3

The latest participant was recruited on
29 July 2020

UNC Project Malawi
(Lilongwe)

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



0 8 7

The latest participant was recruited on
31 July 2020

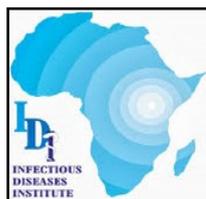


1 0 7

The latest participant was recruited on
30 July 2020

IDI Uganda (Kampala)

IDI Uganda (Mbarara)



2 1 6

The latest participant was recruited on
17 July 2020

0 6 0

The latest participant was recruited on
14 July 2020

Dr. Kenneth Ssebambulidde - African Postdoctoral Training Initiative

Warm congratulations to Kenneth, who obtained his MSc in Immunology of Infectious Diseases from LSHTM in 2019 through an AMBITION scholarship. Kenneth has been selected for the prestigious four-year African Postdoctoral Training Initiative funded by the African Academy of Sciences, in partnership with the US National Institutes of Health and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Kenneth will relocate to Bethesda, Maryland, in early 2021. He will be based in the NIH laboratories for two years, working alongside Dr. Peter Williamson, the head of the Translational Mycology Unit. Kenneth will investigate the host immune response to *Cryptococcus* in a non-HIV-infected patient population, with a particular focus upon flow cytometry. He will then return to Uganda in 2023 for two further years of research at IDI. Kenneth says:

"I am particularly fascinated by this opportunity. I am looking forward to acquiring skills during my time at the NIH that will help me progress further in the scientific world – from writing and communicating science and conducting robust scientific experiments to networking".



The African Academy of Sciences - Clinical Trials Community Online Platform



Many thanks to our colleagues at MLW in Blantyre for making us aware of this new tool, which seeks to increase the visibility of both researchers and trial sites in Africa. It also aims to provide a platform to collate regulatory and ethics procedures

and requirements on a per-country basis to aid decision-making by trial sponsors. Trialists can set up an individual profile, allowing them to connect with other researchers, share experience and insights, and forge future research collaborations. At present, the platform is focussed largely upon COVID-19 activity, but in the coming months it will grow to encompass other infectious and non-infectious diseases. Access the platform here: <https://www.ctc.africa/>

Grant Calls

Two upcoming grant calls may be of interest:

African Research Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases: African Researchers' Small Grants Program (SGP IV)

Up to **\$30,000** available for early- to mid-career researchers for projects to address 'Emerging Challenges facing NTD program implementation in Africa'.

Deadline 14 August.



MRC/DFID African Research Leader Scheme 2020:

Up to **£750,000** available for 'rising star' early- to mid-career researchers in sub-Saharan Africa to undertake up to five years of research in partnership with a UK institution.

Deadline 8 September.