

AMBITION News

The AMBITION-cm Trial Newsletter

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In this Issue:

- Recruitment Update
- 'Crying for heLP': preparations for a theatrical piece around lumbar punctures in Botswana

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Congratulations to our colleagues in Mbarara who have enrolled our 700th AMBITION participant!

Greetings from Gaborone!



COVID-19 developments continue to impact recruitment across all sites. We are nonetheless still enrolling participants every week, and are delighted that the study team in Mbarara recently randomised our **700th participant** (and also our 701st and 702nd!) Thank you and congratulations to everyone. This is a significant achievement in light of the present circumstances, and we very much hope to meet - and ideally exceed - our 85% recruitment milestone (723 participants) by the end of September.

Following their virtual meeting on 31 July, the AMBITION Data Monitoring Committee were pleased with study progress, and have recommended that the trial continue. We are now making preparations for the next Trial Steering Committee meeting, to be held remotely during October.






Having been awarded a second public engagement grant by LSHTM, Dr. Nabila Youssouf and a group of colleagues at the Botswana Harvard Partnership are beginning to develop a theatre piece around lumbar punctures in Botswana.

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

Best Wishes,

Joe

RECRUITMENT UPDATE (effective 3 September 2020)

<p>Botswana-Harvard Partnership (Gaborone)</p>		<p>0 7 1 The latest participant was recruited on 27 August</p>
<p>University of Cape Town: Mitchells Plain Hospital and Khayelitsha Hospital</p>		<p>0 8 0 The latest participant was recruited on 17 August</p>
<p>University of Zimbabwe (Harare)</p>		<p>0 7 3 The latest participant was recruited on 29 July</p>
<p>UNC Project Malawi (Lilongwe)</p> <p>Malawi-Liverpool Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Programme (Blantyre)</p>		<p>0 8 8 The latest participant was recruited on 2 August</p>
<p>IDI Uganda (Kampala)</p> <p>IDI Uganda (Mbarara)</p>		<p>2 1 6 The latest participant was recruited on 17 July</p> <p>0 6 6 The latest participant was recruited on 1 September</p>

'Crying for heLP': a theatre piece around lumbar punctures in Botswana

Colleagues from all AMBITION teams will have encountered participants and family members who have expressed reluctance to undergo the lumbar puncture (LP) procedure. In November 2019, several colleagues from the study team at the Botswana Harvard Partnership (Dr. Mosepele Mosepele, Kwana Lechiile, Katlego Tsholo and Ikanyeng Rulaganyang) worked with Dr. Nabila Youssouf and Dr. Síle Molloy to deliver a successful workshop which aimed to demystify the procedure and to dispel various myths.



The workshop engaged directly with members of local communities. Attendees watched a video of the LP procedure, participated in a laboratory tour at BHP, and witnessed a compelling testimony from a former AMBITION study participant who had initially refused an LP, but who had eventually decided to try it as his symptoms evolved.



Nabila and the team have now been awarded further public engagement funding from LSHTM to prepare and deliver a theatrical piece. The play will draw its inspiration from the testimony of this former participant, beginning with its title 'Crying for heLP'. After suffering intense pain and delirium and crying for help to relieve his headache, this gentleman is now a passionate LP advocate. The team hopes to capitalise upon Botswana's rich story-telling culture and use the theatrical piece to capture the attention of the general public. The project could have wide and long-lasting impacts, sensitising a range of members of society and empowering them to pursue health-seeking behaviours.

