

ACRIA

AIDS Care Research in Africa (ACRiA)

This training initiative was started as a small grants program under ADAC and was coordinated at JCRC. The initiative was a training and learning undertaking that enables participants to share the experiences and lessons learned for the best practices.

ACRiA's objectives are:

- To sponsor research that would lead to better AIDS care in Africa
- To foster the careers of African scientists and researchers
- To build human resources,
- To support the infrastructure and enhance capacity to establish and sustain excellence in both research and treatment in Africa.

To date, ACRiA has awarded grants to 17 grantees across the Sub-Saharan African region, as listed below:

Grantee	Institution	Research Topic
Neil A. Martinson	University of Witwatersrand, South Africa	Immediate Cause of Death in Hospitalized Patients with Tuberculosis: Potential for Mitigation
Raveen Parboosing	University of Natal, South Africa	The Prevalence of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) in HIV Infected and Uninfected Individuals.
Samuel Biraro Jr.	Mbarara University of Science & Technology, Uganda	Clinical Presentation and Progression of HIV/AIDS in Children in Mbarara, Uganda.
Hakim Sendagire	Makerere University, Uganda	The Effect of Trimethoprim/Sulfamethoxazole (Bactrim) Prophylaxis in HIV Patients, on Use of Sulfadoxine/Pyrimethamine (SP, Fansidar) Treatment in Malaria
Lucy Matu	University of Nairobi, Kenya	Correlation Between CD4 Lymphocyte Counts and Total Lymphocyte Counts, HB and Platelets Among HIV Positive Children

Joseph Rujumba	Makerere University, Uganda	Challenges and Opportunities of Providing Counselling and Testing Services to HIV Infected Children and their Families in Uganda: A Case of AIC and Major Hospitals in Kabarole and Kampala Districts
Doreen Anna Sophia Mloka	Muhimbili University College of Health Sciences, Tanzania	Prevalence and Persistence of Drug Resistant HIV Viruses in Pregnant Women from Mbeya Region Tanzania Before and After a Single Dose of Nevirapine
Joshua Kimani	University of Nairobi, Kenya	Knowledge, Attitudes and Accessibility Survey of VCT Services in Kenya
Anisa Mosam	University of Natal, South Africa	Management of HIV Kaposi's Sarcoma (HIV KS) in Resource Poor Settings: an Open-labelled, Prospective Randomized Controlled Trial Comparing the Response of HIV KS to HAART Versus the Combination of HAART and Chemotherapy (CXT)
Jayne Byakika-Tusiime	Makerere University, Uganda	Bioequivalence of a Generic Co-formulation and Brand-name Regimen of Stavudine, Lamivudine and Nevirapine in the Treatment of HIV/AIDS
Magula Nombulelo Princess	University of Natal, South Africa	A Multidisciplinary Approach Addressing Social and Cultural Factors for Optimal Adherence to HAART in HIV-Infected Patients at King Edward VIII Hospital, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa
Margaret Lartey	Medical School, University of Ghana	Comparison of Responses to ART in HIV-Infected Adults with or without Tuberculosis Co-infection: Is Outcome Different?
Joseph MacDonald Ndekha	College of Medicine, University of Malawi	Randomized Controlled Trial Comparing the Impact of Nutritional Counseling Supplementary Feeding with either Ready-to-use Food or Corn Soy Blend among Malnourished ART Patients in Malawi
Johnson Ademola	College of Medicine,	Effects of Peer Education on Use of Voluntary Counseling and Testing Services among Young Persons

Ajuwon	University of Ibadan, Nigeria	in Ibadan, Nigeria
Ellen Chiratidzo Ndhlovu	College of Health Science, University of Zimbabwe	Immediate Vs Delayed ART in the Treatment of Cryptococcal Meningitis and Discontinuation of Secondary Prophylaxis
Richard Mwaku Matendo	Kinshasa School of Public Health, DR Congo	Three Arm RCT of Male Partner VCT Program Associated with the Antenatal PMTCT in Kinshasa, D.R. Congo
Irene Andia	Mbarara University of Science and Technology	Occurrence of Unfavorable Outcomes of TB Co-Infected HIV+ Patients Receiving Tuberculosis Treatment and Antiretroviral Therapy

COHRE

The International Clinical Operational and Health Services Research (COHRE) Training Program

Background and Objectives

This is an AIDS and TB focused Training program funded by Forgarty International Centre (FIC)/National Institutes of Health (NIH), Grant Number 2 U2R TW0006879 and it based at JCRC. The program started in 2004 and won the NIH award renewal for another five years effective April 2009 to March 2014. The goal of COHRE training program is to conduct training, research and mentorship as well as operationalise research findings in order to strengthen the national capacity to address the public health and scientific challenges of the evolving HIV and TB epidemic in Uganda and Africa at large.

JCRC, the lead institution for this grant collaborates with Makerere University, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Kampala City Council, and Uganda National TB and Leprosy Program, in Uganda, and Case Western Reserve University, USA. Two new institutions (Gulu University in Uganda and University of Georgia in USA) also joined the consortium.

COHRE Activities

The program supports short and long term training. Short term training was offered in the following areas:

- Grants writing and Grants Award Management
- TB Laboratory Skills and External Quality Assessment (EQA) Training
- Ethics, Human Rights and the Law on HIV/AIDS in Uganda
- Dissemination and Implementation Science
- Research Ethics and Good Clinical Practice
- Comprehensive HIV Care Management
- Proposal and Manuscript Writing Skills
- Training Health Workers in Implementing HIV/TB Collaborative Activities
- Mentorship Training
- Responsible Conduct of Research

COHRE Achievements

Among the notable contributions the COHRE program had to the scientific community in Uganda, and Africa at large, include:

- **Implementation research training:** The JCRC Implementation science training conducted through the COHRE program has targeted staff from more than 15 research institutions across the country. In a period of 12 months since the first Implementation science training was held, two institutions have won implementation science research projects.
- **Development of the Mentors Manual:** JCRC has demonstrated interest and commitment to promoting mentorship in Africa through spearheading writing a "Mentors' Manual for Health Sciences Training in Africa". The aim is to encourage mentoring practices for improved support to students pursuing undergraduate or postgraduate health science degree courses. This manual is the first ever mentors manual that has been produced and published in Uganda.
- **Establishment of the Health Services Research Course at Makerere University:** JCRC through the COHRE program has supported the establishment of the Masters degree in Health Services Research. The objective of this course is to produce specialists who will meet the health service research needs of Africa. Through JCRC's

program, two lecturers to kick start the course were trained at the Case Western Reserve University in Health services research to support roll out of this program right from curriculum development to getting the course approved by the National Council for Higher Education.

- **Establishment of the Masters of Public Health (MPH) course at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST):** With support from JCRC through COHRE, the MPH program was established at MUST. MPH is a relevant course for health services improvement and response in Uganda, and the impact of this initiative to development of Uganda's health care and service delivery systems is enormous.

IEARDA

The International Extramural Associates Research Development Award (IEARDA)

Background and objectives

JCRC was also granted this award, and implementation of its activities for Five Years Award (2010 - 2015). Project Title: Strengthening Research Training and Administrative capacity of Office of Research and Development. This was funded by Funded by: Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), National Institutes of Health (NIH) Grant Number: 1G11HD065299-01. The goal of this International Extramural Research Development Award (EARDA) developed cadres of research administrators that could address current and future NIH and other funding agencies' grants policies and procedures, and to strengthen the research and grant administrative infrastructure at JCRC and its affiliated institutions. Broadly, proposed program activities involved strengthening Office of Research and Development (ORD). Specific objectives for proposal were

- To strengthen the research training capacity and administrative infrastructure of the Office of Research and Development (ORD) at Joint Clinical Research Centre (JCRC) and the capability of its affiliated institutions.
- To assist affiliated academic and research institutions in standardization and completing mandatory registration necessary for NIH electronic grant applications.

- To foster and strengthen collaboration among social science, medical, clinical, and public health disciplines so that trainees can develop capacity to manage multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary research.
- To strengthen the capacity of the office of research and development personnel to spearhead the translation of research findings into practice and policy advocacy thereby ensuring that evidence-based interventions from operational research are shared and implemented efficiently in order to improve health services, and
- To provide the JCRC International Extramural Associate (IEA) with training on NIH grantmanship so as to obtain knowledge and skills required to effectively administer NIH and other agencies awards. Participating Institutions Joint Clinical Research Center (JCRC) (Awadee Institution), Uganda Christian University Mukono and Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST)

IEARDA Activities

It Identified, regularly disseminated information on training, conference, seminars, grant opportunities and other relevant issues, Review JCRC research policy document, developed generic research policy for review of research policies at MUST and Mukono Universities, Training workshop in Grants writing and Award Administration and management, Engaging the public in Research, Research ethics, introduction to dissemination and implementation research, Data collection methods and facility based data management, Introduction to research administration, Research compliance and Intellectual Property Rights etc.

Other training programs at JCRC

Comprehensive HIV care and ART Management

Duration: 5 days

Target Audience: The clinical care team: Doctors, Nurses and Clinical officers

Course Content: The aim of this course is to build capacity of the clinical team offering HIV care and ART management to initiate and monitor patients on ART, drug classifications and interactions, HIV diagnosis and counseling, management of opportunistic infections, and provision HIV prevention services among positives and PMTCT. The course further

provides participants with knowledge needed to provide pediatric care to exposed and infected children.

National HIV update Meeting: The National Update meeting is held annually to update clinicians on current research findings and HIV treatment practices globally. This meeting is supported by JCRC collaborators like the University of Wisconsin, and donations from other International organisations like Simply Speaking. The meetings target more than 100 health care workers and they have supported the development of specialized physicians, mentors and researchers across the country. These local and regional experts have supported ART scale up, HIV care training and are participating in various clinical trials and research studies in their respective settings.

Duration: 3 days

Target audience: Doctors, Nurses, clinical officers

Good Clinical Laboratory Practice (GCP). The GCP Courses offered by JCRC have helped more than six clinical trial teams in three study sites meet the protocol requirements for them to start the trials. These courses have also offered opportunities for more than 100 staff involved in various clinical trials get updates on clinical practices required for research. The course is given to the participants to equip them with the knowledge and skills on GCP regulatory requirements in order to carry out research within a well structured framework. This facilitates the research them to work according the international principles of human research subjects' protection and perform research using GCP-ICH guidelines.

Course Duration: 2 days

Target audience: All staff involved in clinical research

Course Content: (Introduction of) History of human subjects protection, What is ICH-GCP, Qualifications required to conduct a trial/ Trial conduct, Standard Operating Procedures, Essential Documents, Investigator's Brochure, Trial protocol and amendments, Case Report forms (CRFs), Monitoring, Responsibilities of (Investigators, monitors, sponsor and IRB/IEC); Handling and safety reporting procedures: (S/AE), Contract Research Organization (CRO)

Good Clinical Laboratory Practice (GCLP)

Duration: 3 days

Target audience: Laboratory technicians and technologists and laboratory scientific officers.

Course Content: This course aims at equipping health workers with HIV/ART Laboratory techniques. It covers HIV Testing in Adults and Children, CD4 testing; Diagnosis of Malaria, TB and Intestinal Parasites and Good Laboratory Practices. Practical sessions are conducted in laboratory centers of excellence. This course is relevant for individuals and teams whose perform tests relevant for HIV diagnosis and ART monitoring while observing Good Laboratory Practices.

The student mentorship program:

Duration: 2 months

Target Audience: Professionals - on exchange arrangements, Interns - Clinical, laboratory, medical, nursing, counselling, adherence, pharmacy and data, students that require industrial training

Course Content: Participants are exposed to various skills required in each respective department where that are attached (i.e. counseling, adherence, clinic, pharmacy and the laboratory). Trainees gain hands on experience and are assigned to staff member in each department who supervises the day today progress of the trainee.