![Ugandan Academy for Health Innovation and Impact]

Academy News

Launch of e-learning certificates for CPD

Health workers can now earn Continuous Professional Development (CPD) points from the convenience of their work places in all parts of Uganda. As long as they have access to the internet, all that these professionals need is to click on the website of the Ugandan Academy for Health Innovation and Impact where they can benefit from the resources available for distance learning.

Due to the partnership of the Infectious Diseases Institute with the Ugandan Ministry of Health, health care professionals can now receive e-certificates upon successful completion of IDI e-learning courses. IDI is currently accredited by the MoH to provide CPD for health workers.

The Ugandan Academy and IDI's learning Innovations Centre are operating a clinical training website which has already received great feedback from its users.

This issue of the Academy News shares the experiences of the health workers that have used the

E-learning certificate

clinical training website, and how its developers have continued to innovatively improve its usability.

From the Academy Director

This edition of the Academy News highlights exactly what the Ugandan Academy for Health Innovation and Impact has been established for. Health workers on the front lines of HIV and TB care are now able to access up to date information on best practice through IDI's Virtual Learning Environment. Users of the clinical training website have already given positive feedback, especially with regards to the interactive nature of the training materials. I am confident that the lessons learned in the roll out of this project will see even more innovations in health workers' approach to care.

Dr. Rosalind Parkes-Ratanshi

E-Learning boosts health workers' capacity to deliver quality care

Recording of audio narration for the interactive cases

Health worker capacity building is vital for the delivery of quality HIV and TB care. This is a fast paced field of medicine, with constant updates to information and treatment guidelines. It is therefore vital that health workers have regular access to relevant information that facilitates quality HIV and TB care.

The Ugandan Academy for Health Innovation and Impact is a program aimed at improving outcomes in HIV and TB care through design and implementation of innovative projects.

The program's objective is to ensure that health workers have regular access to up-to-date information. To achieve this, the Ugan-

dan Academy and IDI's Learning Innovations Centre are implementing a capacity building demonstration project.

The project has upgraded IDI's Virtual Learning Environment into a clinical training website that is dedicated to enhancing the technical healthcare providers' capacity in patient management. The website presents open access case studies, some of which are real life case scenarios from the IDI HIV clinic.

These cases have been converted into interactive animated presentations with voice-over narrations to increase user interest. Case reports are also developed and presented in PDF format.

The site also hosts current Ministry of Health and World Health Organisation guidelines for prevention, care and treatment of HIV, TB, malaria and related infectious diseases. So far, the website has received a great response from health workers and feedback has been encouraging. They have particularly been impressed with the interesting interactive cases with voice-over narrations.

One of the trainees commented, *"The voice over text was a new concept yet very captivating and interesting. The variety in voices also made the cases less monotonous. This was so much better than the face to face sessions.''*

The health workers also commended the Academy for the exhaustive investigations, research and consultations that were carried out on each of the cases. This thorough process and speciality review added credibility and rendered the cases ideal for learning. The knowledge assessments and quizzes placed strategically within the cases aid the learning process.

> *The voice over text was a new concept yet very captivating and interesting.*

> *The variety in voices also made the cases less monotonous. This was so much better than the face to face sessions.*

Lessons learned from Open access online training for health workers

Capacity building of health workers in Uganda has traditionally relied on face-to-face training. Times have changed, however, and online training is gaining popularity due its advantages over face-to-face training.

It is therefore not surprising that IDI's Virtual Learning Environment with its clinical training website has been met with enthusiasm by health workers seeking to upgrade their knowledge.

However, as with any innovation, a few teething problems affected utilisation of the open access clinical training website. IDI has devised solutions to overcome these huddles.

One of these challenges was that, the Ministry of Health (MOH) did not have any guidelines with regards to the award of online continuous professional development (CPD) points. IDI with support from the MOH developed guidelines for award of CPD points and this is what will determine the award of e-certificates.

Another hurdle was the failure to assess utilisation of the online resources. To address this, IDI is using Google analytics to track the number of health workers who have accessed the website since its launch in May 2016. Google analytics captures internet protocol (IP) addresses unique to each computer. However this doesn't capture individual users, and in some health centres,
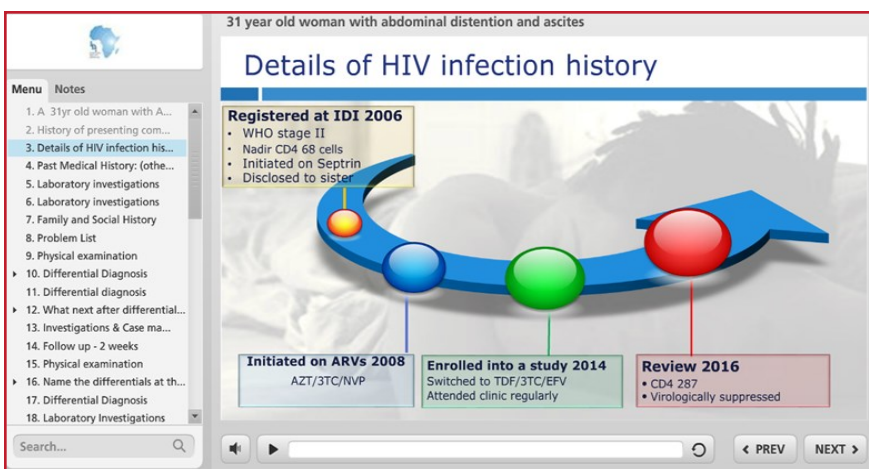

A nurse completes a quiz on his phone

The mobile interface is very user-friendly, this has greatly simplified access.

particularly the rural ones, many health workers use the same computer. For this challenge, IDI established user accounts to track individual use and to enable award of CPD points and e-certificates upon completion following a knowledge assessment.

Furthermore, many health workers do not have access to personal computers which made it quite challenging for them to access the site. This hurdle was sorted out by IDI developing a mobile friendly interface since a fair number of health workers have access to smart mobile phones and mobile internet. This innovation was greeted with enthusiasm, with one of the health workers commenting that, *"The mobile phone interface is very relevant. I can access the site from anywhere with no restriction to a computer."*
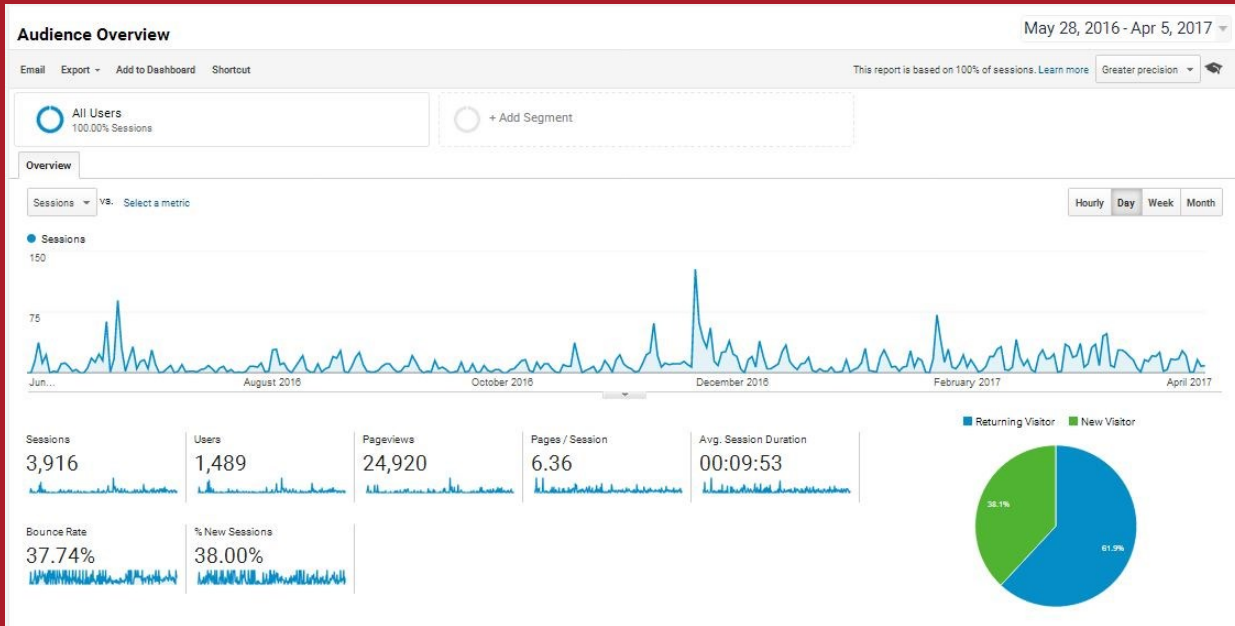
A clinical officer also gave this feedback, *"The mobile interface is very user-friendly, this has greatly simplified access."*

IDI continues to seek user feedback from the health workers in order to continuously improve the clinical training website and ease access for its target audience.

The interactive case interface with audio recording

Google Analytics for the E-learning website

For more information, contact:
The Ugandan Academy for
Health Innovaion and Impact
Infectious Diseases Institute
McKinnell Knowledge Centre
P.O.Box 22418 Kampala, Uganda

Phone: 256-312-211422
Fax: 256-414-307290
website: theacademy.co.ug

IDI is using Google analytics to track the number of health workers who have accessed the e-learning website since its launch in May 2016.