



## From the Academy Director



Dear All,

I would like to welcome all of you to this first edition of the Ugandan Academy for Health Innovation and Impact e-newsletter. This will be a quarterly publication designed to provide an update on the successes and achievements of the Ugandan Academy.

It has been a year since we had the inauguration of the Ugandan Academy for Health Innovation and Impact, and in November 2015 we launched the Ugandan Academy with the signing of the MOU between the Ministry of Health, Janssen, the Johnson & Johnson Corporate Citizenship Trust and IDI. Since then great progress has been made towards establishing the Ugandan Academy as a sustainable force for health innovation and impact in Uganda. We have a fantastic Advisory Board, led by Dr Jane Ruth Aceng, Director General, Health Services, Uganda Ministry of Health and Professor Elly Katabira, Makerere University. We have held our first and second board meetings, and are in process of an exciting strategic planning exercise at present. Our three demonstration projects are underway, with the new Call for Life™ up and running at IDI Mulago, and the moodle platform launched for e-learning activities. We welcome our first cohort of Academy supported students and are happy to report that 1000 patients are now being followed up in the ART Long Term Cohort at IDI.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the secretariat, the projects, plus our partners for the hard work in the past year and we are looking forward to the further achievements in the next quarter.

Dr. Rosalind Parkes-Ratanshi

## Inauguration of the Ugandan Academy

On 17th November 2015, The Ugandan Academy for Health Innovation and Impact was officially inaugurated at the Knowledge centre Makerere University. During the Inauguration, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI), Ministry of Health Uganda (MoH), the Johnson & Johnson Corporate Citizenship Trust and Janssen, the Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson as an indication of a new partnership.



Dr. Maik Stumpf, Director Disease Management Programs, Janssen; Dr. Ruth Aceng, Director General Health Services MoH and Richard Brough, IDI Executive Director during the MOU signing.



The Academy MOU signing>

< Dr. Rosalind Parkes-Ratanshi, the Academy Director (left); Prof. Elly Katabira, Professor of Medicine, Makerere University (center) and Jaak Peeters, Global Head, Johnson & Johnson Global Public Health (right) during the launch in 2015 at the IDI Knowledge Centre, Makerere University.



The Academy's mission is to urgently and demonstrably improve health outcomes for people living with or being affected by HIV and TB through a range of carefully focused interventions combining applied relevant research resulting in improved national policy/guidelines, and associated training and systematic ongoing support.

"The MOU signing is a significant milestone for the Academy which will fund nine projects over the next five years around HIV and TB Clinical management, capacity building and applied research to address urgent health needs in Uganda" says Dr. Rosalind Parkes-Ratanshi, the Academy Director.

Janssen, the Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, recently launched Connect for Life™ - a collaborative new program that is part of the Company's ongoing commitment to global public health. The Academy is the flagship implementation of Connect for Life™ – a new program to empower healthcare workers, academics, and patients to address critical health challenges, including HIV, TB, and maternal and child health in innovative, collaborative, and context-appropriate ways.

"The Academy is an exciting initiative and an excellent example of African-led international partnership aimed at producing practical African solutions to pressing challenges related to HIV and TB", says Richard Brough, Executive Director, Infectious Diseases Institute.

Dr. Maik Stumpf, Director Disease Management Programs, Janssen, says that supporting the Ugandan Academy is part of the company's long legacy to improve health outcomes for vulnerable populations, aiming to actively help build healthy communities worldwide through innovative and impactful healthcare solutions and partnerships. "With the Ugandan Academy and Connect for Life™, we intend to jointly prove concepts, take them to scale and replicate successful models for other public health areas. This is part of our longstanding commitment to help enhance health against some of today's most pressing health challenges, like HIV, TB, and maternal and child health."



Dr. Wim Parys, Head R&D Global Public Health, Janssen during the launch in 2015 at Knowledge Centre, Makerere University.

## Strategic Planning Workshop

As part of year two planning for the Ugandan Academy for Health Innovation and Impact, a workshop was organised from 19th-21st January, 2016 at Knowledge Centre Makerere University. The meeting involved a session on visions, strategies and roadmap for the Academy. This was an inspiring and challenging session facilitated by Marion Birnstill, Manager Partnerships of the Johnson & Johnson Corporate Citizenship Trust and attended by several Academy and IDI project leads. All project leads took part in this process aimed at articulating the Academy's vision for the future and laying the foundation for the Academy strategic plan that is currently being developed in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders in Uganda.



Part of the Ugandan Academy team during the workshop.



Marion Birnstill, from the Johnson & Johnson Corporate Citizenship Trust



## The First Academy Board Meeting

In 2015, the first Ugandan Academy Advisory Board meeting took place at the Academy offices at the Knowledge Centre Makerere with key partners in attendance.

The Academy Advisory Board members include; the Director General Health services, Ministry of Health; the Director Disease Management Programs, Janssen; the Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Makerere University; the Director General, Uganda AIDS Commission; the Executive Director, The AIDS Support Organization (TASO); Deputy Executive Director, Joint Clinical Research Council (JCRC); the Executive Director, Baylor College of Medicine; and the Executive Director, Community Health and Information Network (CHAIN).

The Advisory Board will mainly provide strategic guidance and oversight for the effective establishment and implementation of the key goals and objectives of the Ugandan Academy.

It will act as an important advisor to the secretariat and other key stakeholders as well as provide up to date information on relevant government policies and support for coordination with other Ministry of Health and implementing partner activities.



The Academy Advisory Board members during the first board meeting held at Makerere University, Knowledge Centre.



Dr. Ruth Aceng; Director General Health Services, Health Services and Dr. Christine Ondo; Director General, Uganda AIDS Commission during the Academy Board Meeting.

## Musa optimistic about Call for Life™ Program

‘CallforLife™ Uganda’ is a mobile health platform aiming to promote healthy behaviors and adherence to treatment by providing Friends with treatment adherence and visit reminders, health tips, as well as symptom management support. ‘Call for Life™ Uganda’ builds on technology developed by Connect for Life™, and has been implemented at IDI Mulago clinic by the Ugandan Academy for Health Innovation and Impact.

Byaruhanga Musa, 56, runs a small eatery business at the Infectious Diseases Institute Mulago clinic. He is a Friend (a term used to refer to HIV patients at IDI) and started receiving treatment from IDI in 2010. He is one of the Friends at the clinic who enrolled for this study.

“I discovered I was HIV positive in 1997 after several days and times of falling ill”. Until last year I was requested to be part of the Call for Life™ pilot study”, he adds.

He says he has expectations and optimistic about this program. “It will be a huge reminder in between our work schedules since we tend to be busy most of the time. Also the health information provided by the platform will be very beneficial, like issues with family planning which is rare for men to get.”



Byaruhanga Musa, one of the pioneer Friends for the Call for Life™ pilot study currently ongoing at the IDI clinic.