

July 2021

# MicroResearch

Training Graduates &  
Research Projects



*MicroResearch Workshop in Mangochi, Malawi – February, 2021*

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Updates to project booklet can be found at <http://www.microresearch.ca/projects>



*The concept – small locally driven multidisciplinary health research teams developing research projects to improve health outcomes – starts with multidisciplinary research training workshops with hands-on research proposal development.*

*Learning how to ask the questions that will address their problems*

### **Our Values**

**PASSION:** Deeply rooted conviction and energy for everything MicroResearch represents.

**INNOVATION:** Steadfast commitment to improving health in the developing world.

**COLLABORATION:** Working collaboratively in multidisciplinary teams of health and other professionals to deliver on our promise.

**COMPASSION:** Demonstrated identification with humanity through the work of MicroResearch.

**RESPECT:** Commitment to pursue the questions that matter and are identified by the people we serve.

**CULTURE:** Unequivocal pursuit of capacity building, human resource development and a healthy environment.

[www.microresearch.ca](http://www.microresearch.ca)

Drs. Robert (Bob) Bortolussi and Noni MacDonald, Co-Directors

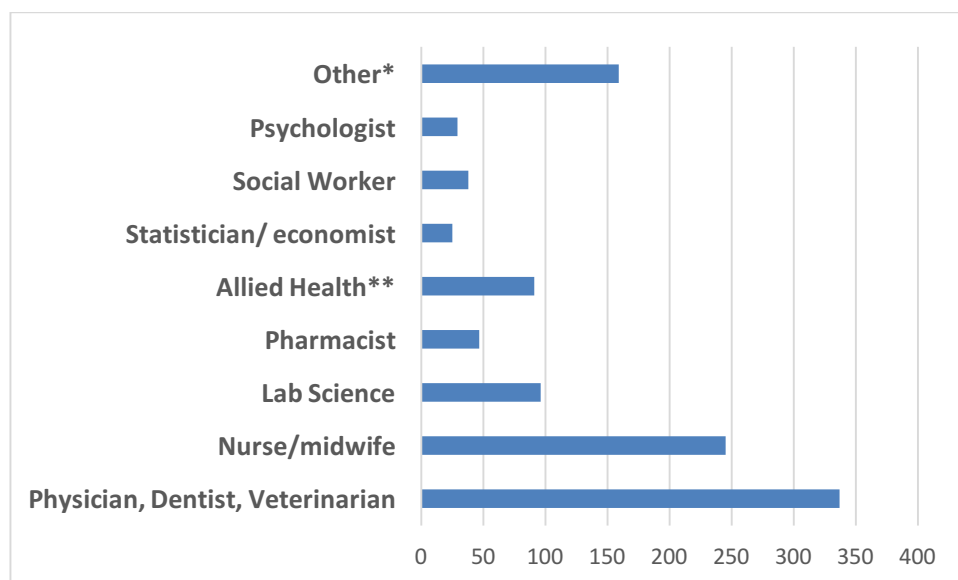
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Since 2008, 48 training workshops have been held in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Nepal, and Guyana resulting in **1,143 graduates**. This includes all participants from Standard MR Workshops, Writing Workshops, Train the Trainer Workshops, and Post-Graduate Training Workshops.

**Female 49.48% (532/1,067)**

**MD & Nurse 54.5% (582/1,067)**



\*Other: computer sci, ethno-botanist, librarian, accountant, development officer, management secretary, lawyer, engineer

\*\* Allied Health: occupational therapist, dental technologist, nutritionist

Figure does not include 22 (of 1,067) graduates with unstated professions or gender and does not include participants from Writer's Workshops or Train the Trainer workshops

### Summary of MicroResearch Standard Research Training Workshops and Outcomes

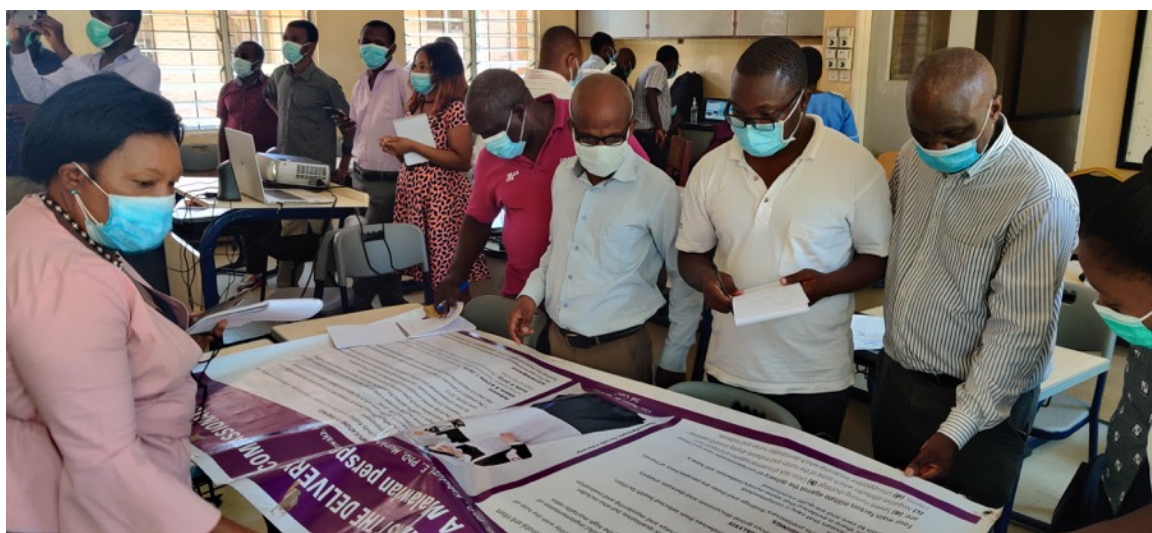
	2008 - 2009	2010- 2011	2012 - 2013	2014 - 2015	2016 - 2017	2018 - 2019	2020 - 2021	Total
Participants	21	110	256	284	178	168	69	1,086
Workshops	1	5	9	10	8	7	3	43
Team Projects Developed	3	17	36	45	28	28	14	171
Projects submitted to MR <sup>1</sup>	1	19	27	22	36	24	21	150
Projects launched <sup>2</sup>	1	9	17	36	27	23	12	125
Projects completed as of July 2021								46
Pub Med Journal publication or Book Chapters as of July 2021								48

1. Proposals submitted for international peer review via MicroResearch; 2. Includes projects meeting MicroResearch scientific approval and local ethics approval, 2nd projects from MicroResearch teams, as well as Knowledge Translation projects

**Summary of MicroResearch Training Workshops and Outcomes for Writing Workshops, Train the Trainer Workshops, and Post-Graduate Thesis Development Workshops**

	2017	2018	2019	2020*	2021*	Total
<b>Writing Workshops</b>	-	-	1	2	1	4
<b>Writing Workshop Participants</b>	-	-	23	21	10	54
<b>Train the Trainer Workshops</b>	-	-	-	1	3	4
<b>Train the Trainer Participants</b>	-	-	-	14	37	51
<b>Thesis Development Workshops</b>	1	1	1	1	-	4
<b>Thesis Development Workshop Participants</b>	13	13	6	13	-	45

*\*All workshops conducted in 2020 and 2021 were virtual, with the exception of the MUST Writing Workshop in January, 2020*



*MicroResearch Workshop at Mangochi, Malawi – February, 2021*

### MicroResearch Related Publications

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3. Atwiine BR, Rukundo A, Sebikali JM, Mutibwa D, Tumusiime D, Turyamureeba R, Birungi L, Tibanyendera B, Schlech W, MacDonald NE. Knowledge and practices of women regarding prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) in rural south-west Uganda. Int J Infect Dis. 2013;17(3):e211-2. DOI: 10.1016/j.ijid.2012.09.018
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7. Grant E, Munube D, Lumala P, Sentongo SA, Dodds L, Bortolussi R, MacDonald NE. Neonatal deaths and umbilical cord care practices in Luweero District in Uganda. Paediatr Child Health. 2014;19:333. DOI: 10.1093/pch/19.6.333
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9. Bortolussi R, MacDonald NE, Moraca S, Grant E. Assessing healthcare needs and research barriers for community focused interdisciplinary health research capacity building using MicroResearch model in East Africa. Paediatr Child Health. 2014;19(6) e39.
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11. Kollmann TR, Bortolussi R, MacDonald NE. MicroResearch – Finding sustainable solutions to local health challenges in East Africa. J Infect. 2015;71:S97-100. DOI: 10.1016/j.jinf.2015.04.022
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13. MacDonald NE, Bortolussi R, Kabakyenga J, Pemba S, Estambale B, Kollmann KHM, Odoi Adome R, Appleton M. MicroResearch: Finding Sustainable Local Health Solutions In East Africa through Small Local Research Studies. In *Optimizing Treatment for Children in the Developing World*. Eds MacLeod S, Hill S, Koren G, Rane A. Adis. Springer International Publishing AG, Switzerland. Chapter 6, pp53-64. 2015.

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## Selected Research Projects by MicroResearch Graduates

Title & Project Team Leader	Location	Lay Description
<b>2008 &amp; 2009</b>		
<p>Assessment of activities and impact of community owned resource persons (CORPS) on families and communities in Healthy Child Uganda Bwizibwera Project Area.</p> <p>PTL: Basil Tibanyendera</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Report to MicroResearch</li> <li>✓ Presented to local health authorities &amp; Health Child Uganda</li> </ul>	Mbarara, Uganda	<p>This study was designed to assess the activities and impact of the CORPS in the aspect of immunization. It was of the descriptive cross-sectional design, done in six villages in the sub-counties of Kashari and Rwanyamahembe. The sample size was 70 households which were randomly selected. Data were collected using a pretested questionnaire and focus group discussions. From the study findings, respondents had adequate knowledge about activities of the CORPs and they are the main source of information about immunization. However respondents had limited knowledge about immunisable diseases and ages of immunization against such diseases. Generally there has been an increase in the immunization levels among children under 5 years of age in the operational areas of CORPs and hence a considerable reduction in incidences of immunisable diseases among the children in Bwizibwera HCU project area.</p>
<p>Efficacy of Glutamine Supplementation on the outcome of children admitted with persistent diarrhea to Mulago hospital.</p> <p>PTL: Justine Kamuchaki</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Published: <b>Paediatrics &amp; Child Health 2013;18(1):e1</b></li> <li>✓ Published: <b>Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal 2013;32(5):573-6</b></li> </ul>	Kampala, Uganda	<p>Since persistent diarrhea is a major cause of death in infants in sub-Saharan Africa, 138 infants with persistent diarrhea were randomized to receive either standard treatment or standard treatment with Glutamine supplement. Although glutamine was reported to be beneficial in other studies, no benefit was shown in this prospective study.</p>



Founding MicroResearch Class Mbarara University of Science and Technology 2008; MicroResearch Team 2008: PTL: Basil Tibanyendera – Photo by Beebwa Esther- the team member not in photo

## 2010

<p>The practice of traditional rituals and customs in newborns by mothers in selected villages in Southwest Uganda.</p> <p>PTL: Florence Beinempaka</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Published: <b>Paediatrics &amp; Child Health 2014;19:72.</b></li> <li>✓ Published: <b>Journal of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada 2015;37(10): 899-900</b></li> <li>✓ Presented to Ministry of Health, Uganda</li> </ul>	<p>Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>Many Akole traditional birth customs are contrary to World Health Organization recommended newborn health care practices. Health care practitioners need a deeper understanding of these rituals in order to modernize them for better maternal neonatal care. Ignoring them will not eliminate them. Prevention and intervention steps might include providing VHTs with context based education to help them address these practices with pregnant women and with the community combined with protocol development to enhance VHTs recognition of newborns at risk needing close follow up and early referral for formal health care.</p>
<p>Knowledge and Practices of Women Regarding PMTCT in Mwizi Sub-county</p> <p>PTL: Barnabas Atwiine</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Published: <b>International Journal of Infectious Diseases 2013;17:e211-2</b></li> <li>✓ Presented to local health authorities &amp; Health Child Uganda</li> </ul>	<p>Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>90% of the 2.5 million children younger than 15 years living with HIV were infected by their mothers during pregnancy, labour and breastfeeding. 95% of the children live in the Sub-Saharan Africa. It's therefore important that women of child-bearing age (15-49 years) know and practice the methods of preventing transmitting the infection to their children. This research is aimed at finding out what the women in a rural Ugandan sub-county know about the prevention of HIV from infected mothers to their babies. We shall send research assistants to interview a hundred women in this sub-county. Their responses will be analyzed into themes and recommendations will be made to inform policy makers and health educators concerning this subject for rural Ugandan women.</p>



*MUST MR Workshop Class 2010*

**Francis O Oriokot, 2010 workshop participant speaking on behalf of other MUST workshop participants:**

*“A fatal pedagogic error is to throw answers, like stones, at the heads of those, who have yet to ask any questions’ (attributed to Steve Biko). What the Micro-Research Workshop has done is provide the tools to ask questions important to us. Thanks and best wishes.”*

**2011**

<p>The impact of the VHT new born strategy in reducing perinatal deaths in a rural district of Uganda.</p> <p>PTL: Isha Grant</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Published: <b>Paediatrics &amp; Child Health 2014; 19:333.</b></li> <li>✓ Presented to Ministry of Health, Uganda</li> </ul>	<p>Makerere Uganda</p>	<p>Peri-natal audit is a tool used by health workers to assess the mortality rates during the neonatal period. Our project aims to establish the impact of the Village Health Team newborn strategy which has been launched in Uganda in 2010. The project will conduct community verbal autopsy as baseline in Bamunanika County, Luweero District in Uganda. Thereafter, utilize the Village Health Team members who were trained on essential newborn care to conduct community training of the newborn care package. This group will work with the Village Health Team members, local leaders and in addition Save the Children in Uganda, Saving Newborn Lives team will provide technical and logistic support. Evaluation will be done 12 months later to assess the value of this project in reducing neonatal mortality at community level.</p>
<p>Frequency of malaria resulting in hospital admission among pregnant women and its association with IPT use.</p> <p>PTL: Freddy Eric Kitutu</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Report to MicroResearch</li> </ul>	<p>Makerere Uganda</p>	<p>Malaria affects mainly people with low immunity like pregnant women causing poor health outcomes such as maternal anemia, spontaneous abortions. Malaria also leads to low birth weight, increased risk of anemia in infants which are risk factors for poor infant outcomes such as mental retardation and infant mortality. To prevent malaria during pregnancy, pregnant women are given at least two doses of sulfadoxine/pyrimethamine (SP) as intermittent preventive treatment (IPT). This study will determine the relationship between the number of hospitalizations due to malaria and the use of IPT in pregnancy.</p>
<p>Healthy Child Uganda survey on Village Health Team Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviour of VHTs towards their responsibilities in Mbarara District.</p> <p>PTL: Ashaba Scholastic</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Published: <b>Paediatrics &amp; Child Health 2012;17:e89</b></li> <li>✓ Presented to local health authorities and Health Child Uganda</li> </ul>	<p>Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>The attitudes, knowledge and behaviour of the VHT members may play crucial role in implementation, effectiveness and sustainability of the program. Most studies of community health workers are from south Asia with few having been done in Africa, many of which have assessed community health workers’ neonatal programs rather than ‘integrated’ child health programs. Most large studies have looked at community health workers providing at least some component of curative care (i.e. medicine distribution) while the effectiveness of community health workers serving in a ‘health promotion-only’ role has not been well established, despite potential cost and sustainability benefits. No such studies have been done in Uganda to evaluate the knowledge, attitudes and behaviour of village health teams towards their work.</p>

### Comments from MR participants 2011:

*"Integration of community engagement in the lectures was great given that communities' effective involvement in projects leads to success. I do believe that what I and other members have achieved will help the improvement of the health standards in this region."*

<p>The impact of Community Owned Resource Persons on reducing malnutrition among children less than two years in three health Sub Districts in Mbarara and Bushenyi.</p> <p>PTL: Moses Ntaro</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Presented to Healthy Child Uganda</li> </ul>	<p>Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>The research will explore secondary data that was collected on children during the baseline in 2006 and the endline survey in 2009. On addition some data for validation will be collected. The primary purpose of the study is to determine whether the Community Health Volunteer (CHVs) program reduced malnutrition. To achieve this, the researcher will focus on the main activities that were normally conducted by the CHVs and test if there is any statistical relationship. The study will further explore if social demographic factors contributed significantly to the reduction in malnutrition. The data will be further cleaned and new variables created so that various statistical associations can be analysed.</p>
<p>Relationship between socioeconomic status and neonatal sepsis in Mbarara, Uganda.</p> <p>PTL: Tusiimire Jonans</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Presented to Healthy Child Uganda and local health authority</li> </ul>	<p>Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>Although there is scarcity of documented data in Uganda, a developing country, anecdotal evidence suggests that socioeconomic status of households may be inexplicably linked to the likelihood of a baby getting infection in its first 28 days of life. The general objective of our research is to measure socioeconomic status in households where neonates develop sepsis and compare it with that of households where neonates do not develop sepsis to understand the relationship between socioeconomic status and neonatal sepsis in Mbarara, Uganda. To attain this objective, we will interview mothers of babies admitted with sepsis and of those who do not have sepsis.</p>
<p>Assessing the relationship between social support system and nutrition status among children under 5 years.</p> <p>PTL: Natukwatsa Amon</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Report pending to Healthy Child Uganda</li> </ul>	<p>Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>The study will be carried out in Kyera parish in South Western Uganda and will describe in-depth the little-studied relationship between social support system and nutritional status among children under 5 years. A combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches will be adopted during the study. A qualitative approach enjoys a number of merits such as flexibility and ability to generate in-depth information. The method will provide an opportunity for participants to directly and interactively 'tell their story' concerning the relationship between social support system and nutritional status of children.</p>



*MicroResearch Workshop Mbarara, Uganda 2012*

## 2012

<p>Couples HIV counseling and testing: factors influencing its uptake.</p> <p>PTL: Nannozi Victoria</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Report to MicroResearch</li> <li>✓ Published: <b>Global Health Promotion 2016; 24(4): 33-42.</b></li> <li>✓ Published: <b>BMC Public Health 2017; 17:104.</b></li> </ul>	<p>Makerere Uganda</p>	<p>The purpose of this research is to identify understand and document the factors that are influencing the uptake of couple HIV counseling and testing in Mukono district in Uganda. This study will enable programs and the district to implement a culturally sensitive program. The information obtained will be shared with the different stakeholders with the intention of developing clear action plans for implementation. These stakeholders will include MOH, Mukono district Local government officials, the partners in HTC and representatives from the community in which the research was carried out.</p>
<p>Knowledge and current practices of Village Health Teams in early detection and care of young children with malnutrition in Healthy Child Uganda supported communities in Mwizi Sub County, Uganda.</p> <p>PTL: Elizabeth Kemigisha</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Report to MicroResearch, combined with project in 2014</li> <li>✓ Published <b>Can J Public Health 2016; 109: e486-7</b></li> <li>✓ Presented to Healthy Child Uganda and local health authority</li> </ul>	<p>Mbarara Uganda</p>	<p>Malnutrition remains a big problem in Uganda affecting 38% of children in South Western Uganda. The Ministry of Health interventions to address this problem together with organizations such as UNICEF, Health Child Uganda is to roll out the Village Health Team (VHT) strategy to manage malnutrition at a community level. We intend to carry out a survey to determine the knowledge and current practices of VHTs members in early detection and care for young children (under 5years) with malnutrition in Mwizi Sub County, in South Western Uganda. To do this we shall administer structured questionnaires to selected VHTs in the HCU supported areas and conduct focus group discussions to establish factors contributing to malnutrition in this region. Data will be entered into Epidata and analyzed by Stata software. Qualitative data from FGDs will be transcribed and themes established and analyzed by thematic analysis.</p>

<p>Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices about blood donation in rural communities of Kiruhura District, South Western Uganda.</p> <p>PTL: Natukunda Peace</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Published <b>Journal of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada 2015; 37(10):903–904</b></li> <li>✓ Presented to local health authority</li> </ul>	<p>Mbarara Uganda</p>	<p>Blood transfusion is a vital element of health care system in Uganda. Much (75%) of donated blood is used by children with different conditions and pregnant women with complications of pregnancy and/or child birth. Children with different conditions requiring transfusion use more than a half (50%) of donated blood. Therefore, to reduce maternal and child mortality in Uganda and meet MDGS related to child health and maternal health by 2015, there is an urgent need to ensure a sustained supply of adequate units of safe blood throughout the year. In Uganda, 100% of blood is donated by voluntary non-remunerated blood donors and majority of whom 90% are secondary school students. This indicates that during school holidays, communities become a major source of blood.</p>
<p>Maternal mental health and Malnutrition in children admitted in Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital in South Western Uganda.</p> <p>PTL: Ashaba Scholastic</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Published <b>BMC Public Health 2015;15:1303</b></li> <li>✓ Presented to local health authority</li> </ul>	<p>Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>Malnutrition remains one of the most significant child health problems in developing countries with about 53 % of child deaths/y due to underweight. 2011 Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS) showed that 38 % of the children were stunted and 16 % were underweight. While dietary and environmental factors are known major contributors to children's nutritional status, maternal depression may also contribute since it disrupts the mothers' ability to cope with demands of childcare. This study aimed to determine the association between maternal depression and malnutrition in children aged one to 5 years in southwest Uganda.</p>
<p>The Lived experience of VHT members in the Kinoni Health sub-district South West Uganda.</p> <p>PTL: Clare Kyokushaba</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Abstract presented 2017</li> <li>✓ Presented 1st International Symposium on Community Health Workers. Kampala, Uganda 2017</li> <li>✓ Published: <b>BMC Proceedings 2017 11(Suppl 6): 067</b></li> </ul>	<p>Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>This project uses random sampling to select 4 villages from the 6 parishes in Kinoni Health sub-district from which purposive sampling of VHTs and local leaders in each of the villages will be done. In-depth interviews will be conducted with the study participants and the interviews will be audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim. Field notes will be taken during the interviews and incorporated into written transcripts. Individual VHT members will be targeted for these interviews and Key informants will be targeted to provide the information on the context in which the VHTs perform their duties. Interviews will be followed by Focus group discussions which will be organized for randomly selected VHTs to provide more information on the commonly arising themes. Four FGDs will be held with a minimum of 8 participants per focus group discussion and we shall have one FGD in each of the selected villages.</p>

<p>Role of income generating activities in motivation and retention of Village Health Teams in the Kinoni health sub-district.</p> <p>PTL: David Tumusiime Katuruba</p> <p>Status:  ✓ Project completed  ✓ Report submitted Healthy Child Uganda</p>	<p>Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>Village health team mobilization and awareness:  Conduct focus group discussion with the VHTs and Key informant Interviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data analysis</li> <li>• Report writing</li> <li>• Meeting to discuss the findings</li> <li>• Meeting to prepare the dissemination</li> <li>• Dissemination to the VHTs, community leaders, policy makers, district leaders and other stake holders</li> </ul>
<p>Teenage antenatal services: Availability, accessibility and utilization of teenager friendly antenatal services in Mbarara Municipality, South Western Uganda</p> <p>PTL: Geoffrey Zari Rukundo</p> <p>Status:  ✓ Project completed  ✓ Published: <b>BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth 2015;15(351): 1-5.</b>  ✓ Published: <b>Midwifery 2019; 72: 74-79.</b>  ✓ Presented at MUST</p>		<p>Maternal mortality remains a serious problem in Uganda with concerns about Uganda's ability to achieve the Millenium Goal 5A to decrease maternal mortality rate from 1990 by three quarters by 2015. Female teenagers' sexual and reproductive health in Uganda is worsened by their poor health care seeking behaviour and the limited options for teen friendly care. This is of serious concern as approximately one in four falls pregnant each year and many have difficulty accessing services as there are a multitude of barriers. This MicroResearch group will examine the barriers to care in the municipality of Mbarara in south west Uganda. This cross-sectional qualitative descriptive study will determine the factors which influence the accessibility and utilization of antenatal services by teenagers.</p>



*MicroResearch Workshop 2012 University of Nairobi*

#### **Comments from MR participants 2012:**

*"You have made it possible for me to meet the people I should have met 5 years ago, who can help me in my research."*

*"I do believe that what I and other members have achieved will help on the improvement of the health standards in this region."*

*"I will share ideas and apply what I learned in my new job."*



## 2013

<p>Use of mobile phones to improve the antenatal care attendance of pregnant women in semi-urban south eastern Tanzania.</p> <p>PTL: Zabron Abel</p> <p>Status:  ✓ Project completed  ✓ Report submitted</p>	<p>Ifakara, Tanzania</p>	<p>The Maternal and child health has a high priority on the global agenda most prominently underlined in the Millennium Development goals 4 and 5 which address the reduction of Child mortality and improve maternal health respectively. The risk of maternal death is estimated to be 50 times higher in Sub-Saharan Africa compared to developed countries and this inequality is considered the largest discrepancy of all public health statistics. Pregnancy monitoring and detection of complications are the main objectives of antenatal care. WHO recommends the total number of visits for a pregnant woman should be at least 4 visits in developing countries. The project intends to make use of mobile phones to make call reminders to pregnant women to attend the antenatal care at the particular health facilities. This takes advantage of the widespread coverage of mobile phones network, whereby the study area approximately 75% of the population has mobile phone or has access to mobile phone.</p>
<p>Assessment of Knowledge, practices and attitudes on Exclusive Breast Feeding (EBF) among mothers attending Ifakara Reproductive and Child Health Clinic (RCHC).</p> <p>PTL: Janeth Katana Bulemela</p> <p>Status:  ✓ Project completed  ✓ Report submitted  ✓ Published: <b>International Breastfeeding Journal (2019): 14(1): 1-7.</b>  ✓ Project presented at MR Forum 2021</p>	<p>Ifakara, Tanzania</p>	<p>This project involves focus groups with nurses working in women and children clinic, women in villages from 3 different sites and nurses working in hospital where there are delivered women. A separate mini questionnaire of almost similar questions will be used to question the practice, knowledge and attitudes on breastfeeding of mothers in Ifakara as perceived by these people. Then next step will be to interview consented women of babies of within one year of age and their partners at the RCH clinic about the same issues discussed and particularly what are the men supports. The interview will be guided by the designed questionnaire. Men should not be necessary partners of the interviewed women.</p>
<p>The determinants of partograph use in Mulago Referral Hospital Labour Ward: Health workers perspective.</p> <p>PTL: Patrick Lumala Zzimbe</p> <p>Status:  ✓ Project completed  ✓ Report submitted  ✓ Published <b>BMC Health Services Research 2019;19(107) 1-8.</b></p>	<p>Makerere Uganda</p>	<p>Every year, a high number of mothers lose their lives during child birth in low and middle income countries due to prolonged labour. These deaths could be prevented by careful monitoring of labour guided by use of partograph. This study is set out to determine partograph use and user perspectives of this tool. We plan on obtaining qualitative and quantitative data about the use of partograph and the perception of this tool among health workers. We shall train four research assistants who will administer the questionnaire under close supervision of investigators. The data collection shall run for one month and data shall be compiled at weekly basis which shall be followed by data analysis and report writing. The findings shall be presented to Mulago Hospital and other stakeholders and policy recommendation shall be presented to the ministry of Health in Uganda.</p>

<p>Reasons for and determinants of non-adherence to the UNEPI vaccination schedule among children in Kyabugimbi</p> <p>PTL: Barnabas Atwiine</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Published <b>Can J Public health 2015; 106: e 564</b></li> <li>✓ Presented to Healthy Child Uganda and local health authority</li> </ul>	<p>Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>Only 52% of Ugandan children below 5 years of age are fully immunized, the lowest immunization coverage rate in East Africa, and one of the lowest in Africa. This denies children one of the most cost effective methods of disease-prevention and indeed, the country has suffered numerous measles outbreaks in the recent past. No local study has explored the reasons as to why there is low coverage of immunization coverage and the factors associated with failure to complete the immunization schedule, which our study aims at. We shall do this by interviewing primary caregivers of unimmunized and partially immunized children about their reasons and family characteristics.</p>
<p>Factors Associated with Delayed Presentation of Children with Malaria to Kazo Health Centre</p> <p>PTL: Imelda Kemeza</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Report submitted</li> <li>✓ Article being prepared for publication</li> <li>✓ Presented to Healthy Child Uganda and local health authority</li> </ul>	<p>Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>We shall conduct a cross sectional, descriptive and analytical study on adult care givers from Kazo Health Centre IV, in Kiruhura district whose children below 5years have a positive blood slide or Rapid Diagnostic Test with one or more symptoms of malaria and have consented. We shall interview adult care givers consecutively till 380 respondents whose children meet the inclusion criteria. The interviews will be audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim. Field notes will be taken during the interviews and incorporated into written transcripts. Individual adult care giver will be targeted for these interviews to provide the information on the early and delayed presentation of children below five years with malaria to a health facility. Interviews will be subsequent to a questionnaire on demographic and clinical information associated with malaria.</p>
<p>Knowledge and Perception of Parents on Under-Nutrition of Children under 5 years receiving outpatient services in, Nairobi</p> <p>PTL: Ednah Ojee</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Poster presented: Int Ped Association Conference, Vancouver 2017</li> <li>✓ Presented Africa Health Agenda Int Conference, Nairobi 2018</li> <li>✓ Article being prepared for publication</li> </ul>	<p>Nairobi, Kenya</p>	<p>The study seeks to explore the relationship between caregiver knowledge, socioeconomic status and nutritional status of children in the densely populated Eastern area of Nairobi-Kenya's capital city. Caregiver knowledge on nutrition will be assessed using a questionnaire with open and closed ended questions administered by trained interviewers to the caregivers attending outpatient clinic with children in either Kiswahili or English. The questions will cover-source of knowledge on nutrition and diet, feeding practises, food hygiene and illness associated with under-nutrition. These results will then be compared to the children's nutritional status using the international standard acceptable for classifying nutrition status of a child; using the weight and circumference of the left mid upper arm. The outcome of the study will give a basis to advocate for improved health education programs and by extension achieving millennium development goals with reference to child health and maternal health.</p>

<p>Hepatitis B Vaccination Coverage and Influencing Factors among Healthcare Students at Kenya Medical Training College, Kenya</p> <p>PTL: Leah Bii</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Published: <b>BMC Public Health. 2020 Dec;20(1):1-2.</b></li> </ul>	<p>Nairobi, Kenya</p>	<p>There is a high incidence of Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) infection in Kenya, with HBsAg carrier rate of &gt;9.3%. Although a safe and effective vaccine is available, the vaccination coverage among health care workers (HCW) is low (13% to 56%). A “catch-up” strategy targeted at unvaccinated adolescents or health care students (HCS) is non-existent. Published studies on HCS vaccination in Kenya are unavailable. The study will determine HBV vaccination coverage rate and factors influencing immunization among students at the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTTC).</p>
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### Comments from MR participants 2013:

*“Small projects are the cornerstone on which research skills are built and wider spectrum of potential researchers reached with excellent outcomes.”*

*“Allocate more resources to support MicroResearch, as this is the only way to go about resolving challenges faced in our communities.”*



*MicroResearch workshop Mbarara, Uganda 2013; Mother and child arriving at clinic, Busheyini District Uganda*

### 2014

<p>Use of Knowledge Translation principles and exchange to disseminate results of newborn death audits to Luwero District Health Team</p> <p>PTL: Eisha Grant</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Report given to Ministry of Health in Uganda</li> <li>✓ MOH has changed policy based upon this</li> <li>✓ Chlorhexidine gel now locally manufactured and distributed in “Mama packs”</li> </ul>	<p>Makerere Uganda</p>	<p>The previously completed MR project (2011) showed that cord sepsis is a serious problem causing neonatal deaths in Luwero District. The next step is knowledge translation of these findings. The project will apply qualitative methods through a detailed KT Plan with the following KT goals;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To increase awareness of the problems with traditional cord related practices in Bamunanika Sub- County Luwero District</li> <li>2. To increase interest to support WHO good cord care practices in Bamunanika Sub-county Luwero District</li> <li>3. To promote behavioural change on traditional cord care practices among mothers in Bamunanika Sub County Luwero District</li> </ol>
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<p>Knowledge, Attitude and Behaviour Towards use of Insecticide Treated Mosquito Nets among Pregnant women and Children in Isingiro district, South-western Uganda.</p> <p>PTL: Taremwa Ivan Mugisha</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Report to local health authority and HCU</li> <li>✓ Article: <b>BMC Public Health 2017; 17:794</b></li> </ul>	<p>Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>We shall conduct a cross sectional study involving households with pregnant women and children under five from Isingiro district. We shall have free listing interviews consecutively to such households until such a time those common themes have been identified; the interviews will be audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim. To supplement on household interviews, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews will be added. Key Informant Interviews will involves a health worker of selected health centres, a local council chairperson, an opinion leader such as religious leader, local council health secretary, drug shop attendant, and the District Health Educator. Focus Group Discussions will involve pregnant women and mothers with children less than 5 years, another for VHTs, and an FGD for men.</p>
<p>Effect of phone call on maternal and foetal outcomes prior and after maternal referrals from Isingiro district: A pilot study</p> <p>PTL: Hamson Kanyesigye</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Report to Healthy Child Uganda</li> <li>✓ Published <b>Can J Public Health 2019; 110: 520-522</b></li> <li>✓ Follow up project underway</li> </ul>	<p>Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>Maternal and Neonatal mortality rates remain high in Uganda despite the different interventions with estimates of 438/100000 and 25/1000 live births respectively. The three delay model in the referral system contributes significantly and most of the mothers with poor maternal and fetal outcomes are referrals especially from Isingiro district. Patients are routinely referred by the lower health units without informing Mbarara regional referral hospital and this delays timely interventions due to lack of preparedness leading to the poor maternal and fetal outcomes. We intend to find out if a phone call prior to maternal referral can improve the Labour outcome. We shall avail prepaid phones to some health units and compare the outcomes between the health unit that would have called before referral and those that will refer without informing Mbarara regional referral hospital.</p>
<p>Knowledge and current practices of Village Health Team members in early detection and care for young children in Healthy Child Uganda Supported communities in Kakanju Sub county, Bushenyi district</p> <p>PTL: Elizabeth Kemigisha</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Published: <b>Can J Public Health 2016; 109: e486-7</b></li> <li>✓ Presented to Healthy Child Uganda and local health authority</li> </ul>	<p>Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>South Western Uganda has high malnutrition rates with over 36% and 3% of children with stunting and severe wasting respectively (UDHS 2011). Locally, Kakanju Sub County in Bushenyi District is significantly affected with 13% of young children with stunted growth. Early recognition of signs of malnutrition in children improves outcomes and severity at presentation. WHO proposes use of Mid Upper Circumference tapes or oedema by community health workers or volunteers to recognise malnutrition (WHO, 2007). Despite the training the VHTs have received, children present late to hospital with advanced signs of malnutrition. The main objective of the study is to determine the current practice of the VHTs in early detection and care for children with acute malnutrition in Kakanju Sub County.</p>

<p>Ponseti clubfoot management: experience with the Steenbeek Foot Abduction Brace.</p> <p>PLT: Paul Mang'oli</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Published: <b>Paediatrics &amp; Child Health 2014;19:513-5.</b></li> <li>✓ Letter to editor reply: <b>Paediatrics &amp; Child Health 2015;20:148</b></li> <li>✓ Presented to local health authority and Kijaibe Hospital</li> </ul>	<p>Nairobi, Kenya</p>	<p>Clubfoot is one of the most common congenital deformities, with an incidence of 1 in 1,000 live births worldwide. In Kenya, about 1,200 babies are born with clubfoot every year. Left untreated, clubfoot leads to painful, disabling deformity, and social stigmatization. Ponseti method of clubfoot management with compliance with bracing is the key to a successful outcome. However, child friendly braces are expensive and out of reach for most families of affected children in Kenya, and in other developing countries. The Steenbeek Foot Abduction Brace (SFAB) is made locally in Kenya with a cost of less than \$10 US. This cross sectional study of acceptability, tolerability, compliance, complications and outcomes of children using the SFAB for <math>\geq 6</math> months found that this affordable appliance had high efficacy and low complications.</p>
<p>Practices of mothers managing colic among infants in Nyarubungo Village, Uganda</p> <p>PTL: Peter Nuwagira</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project underway</li> </ul>	<p>Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>The applicants propose to carry out an exploratory descriptive study to determine how mothers manage colic among their infants in a village setting in Nyarubungo parish in south west Uganda. Colic is a very common phenomenon but little is known about management in this rural setting. Mothers will be recruited through purposive sampling via referral from local VHTs and will be invited to answer an 8 item questionnaire that explores signs of colic, frequency of crying, age of onset, how was managed by the mother at onset and over time and from whom help was sought.</p> <p>The examination of the practices of mothers in the management of colic in Uganda will contribute to the understanding of the impact of these practices on the overall health of infants under one year in Uganda.</p>
<p>Tuberculosis Drug Resistance and Risk Factors among Presumptive Cases in Oromia Region, Ethiopia</p> <p>PTL: Girma Mulisa</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Received external funding</li> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Published: <b>Int J Infect Dis. 2015;39:57-61</b></li> <li>✓ Presented to local health authority Oromia Region</li> </ul>	<p>Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</p>	<p>The study aim was to determine risk factors for multi drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) in Oromia Region, Ethiopia. Of 439 presumptive MDR-TB cases, 265 had confirmed MTB with 33% (88) MDR-TB. Study patients were relatively young, 65% 18 to 39 years of age. On multi-variant analysis, occupation (being a farmer), known tuberculosis contact history, chronic antacid use for treatment of gastritis during anti-tuberculosis treatment, HIV infection, previous known tuberculosis history and outcomes were predictors of MDR-TB. MDR- TB was not rare in Oromia Region. Local MDR-TB detection capacity and local epidemiology studies are key for detection and guiding use of sparse resources to optimize MDR-TB control. If TB is suspected, the presence of any of the above factors should alert Oromia region clinicians and public health to be wary of MDR-TB.</p>

### Comments from MR participant 2014:

*"Two weeks ago I would not have believed how far I could have come. This workshop will help perfect my career as a nurse."*



### 2015

<p>Traditional rituals and customs for pregnant women in selected villages in southwest Uganda</p> <p>PTL: Florence Beinempaka</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Published <b>Journal of Obs and Gyne of Canada 2015; 37(10):899–900.</b></li> <li>✓ Presented to School of Nursing MUST</li> </ul>	<p>Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>Uganda has significantly improved its under-five mortality rate; however, maternal mortality is still a problem. Several Ankole maternal traditional pregnancy/ birth customs run contrary to World Health Organization recommended practices such as use of vaginal herbs, home delivery even of adolescents without a skilled birth attendant, and delayed hospital referral when complications arise. Low trust in health care workers and delay in hospital/health facility referral may be due to the observed association with referral and maternal/ neonatal deaths. Health care practitioners need a deep understanding of these rituals in order to modify them for improved maternal care.</p>
<p>The role of community health nursing in identifying the health needs of women and children in Katete cell- Mbarara municipality - Uganda</p> <p>PTL: Beebwa Esther</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project complete</li> <li>✓ Presented at two conferences at MUST</li> <li>✓ Published <b>International Journal of Africa Nursing Sciences 2021; Vol 15.</b></li> </ul>	<p>Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>Community health nursing is aimed at promoting and preserving the health of populations in the community. Regrettably, despite much government efforts, Uganda still has high maternal (430/100,000 live births) and infant (76 deaths per 1000 live births) mortality rates. The community has persisted in high rate use of the informal health sector e.g. traditional birth attendants, traditional herbalists and self-medication with over the counter drugs. The low use of the formal health care system and persistence in use of the informal system has contributed to the ongoing poor maternal child health outcomes. To better understand this issue, this project seeks to determine, through qualitative methods, the health needs of women and children residing in a suburb of Mbarara, Uganda, especially this group's lack of attention to health promotion prevention issues.</p>

<p>Prevalence of Ethanol Use Among Pregnant Women in Southwestern Uganda</p> <p>PTL: Lindsay English*</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Published; <b>Journal of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada 2015;37(10):901–902.</b></li> </ul> <p>*Project carried under auspices UBC, MR help with publication</p>	<p>Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>The prevalence of ethanol use in many Sub-Saharan African countries is high and reported to be increasing among women. The objective of this study was to determine the prevalence and predictors of ethanol use among women delivering at a regional hospital in Southwestern Uganda. Among 606 woman invited to participate, 505 were enrolled. The prevalence of maternal alcohol use during the current pregnancy was 16%. Prior use and the awareness of few alcohol-related harms were the strongest predictors of use during pregnancy. A minority of meconium samples (2%) revealed significant fetal alcohol exposure. Education as a protective factor, along with perceived risk as a risk factor, suggests that educational interventions can assist in efforts to decrease alcohol use during pregnancy in Southwestern Uganda</p>
<p>Determining the prevalence of polyparasitism and association with anaemia in febrile under-five children at a health facility in Chikwawa, Malawi.</p> <p>PTL: Jomo Hector Chilenga Banda</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Report submitted to MicroResearch</li> <li>✓ Article being prepared for publication</li> </ul>	<p>Blantyre, Malawi</p>	<p>Neglected tropical disease (NTD) affect the poorest people in sub Saharan including Malawi where soil transmitted helminths, schistosomiasis and malaria are endemic in mainly the lakeshore and lower Shire areas. Co-infection with all these parasites increases the risk of anemia and its complications. A lot of studies and interventions target school children and adults. Pre-school aged school children (PSAC) have been a neglected population. Screening for these conditions is not usually done in most health facilities in Malawi. This study will investigate febrile children under 5 years old with suspected malaria for urinary schistosomiasis, hookworm infection, Ascaris spp infection and malaria. The study will be done at Chikhwawa District Hospital in Malawi. Although a rapid malaria test is part of routine care, stool and urine samples will be taken which are not.</p>
<p>The contribution to mothers' health by village health team promotion practices: A case study of Kyabugimbi subcounty Bushenyi District.</p> <p>PTL: Teddy Kyomuhangi</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project completed</li> <li>✓ Published: <b>Can J Public Health 2015; 106: e 565</b></li> </ul>	<p>Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>Maternal mortality in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia accounts for 86% of the maternal mortality rate in the world. In Uganda, a community health worker strategy, Village Health Teams (VHTs), was introduced in 2001 to help address maternal/ child mortality challenges. VHTs are an equivalent of Health Centre I – responsible for the health of community members at the household level. VHTs serve as a community's initial point of contact for health and social services, as well as helping to build social capital and understanding of basic health services and lifestyle choices. As of 2014, over 170,000 VHTs have been trained and deployed across Uganda. The purpose of this study was to explore the contribution of VHTs' health promotion practices to maternal health in south west Uganda.</p>





MicroResearch Workshop, St. Francis Hospital, Nsambya, Uganda 2015

### Comments from MR participants 2015:

*"I will recommend this initiative to include more institutions specially those institutions which just started and have no experiences on research, no mentors."*

### 2016

<p>Assessment of the outcomes of perinatal asphyxia and determinant factors among asphyxiated neonates within the 1st 28 days of life at Yekati-12 Hospital Medical College, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2016.</p> <p>PTL: Yimer Seid</p> <p>Status: ✓ Transferred and ongoing follow up by Ethio Canada</p>	<p>Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</p>	<p>The aim of this research is to identify the contribution of medical indicated preterm birth to neonatal outcomes and assessing factors to determine immediate preterm outcomes through comparing magnitude of spontaneous and medically indicated preterm birth comparing immediate outcomes of spontaneous and medical indicated preterm birth and recommend possible intervention ways to reduce high neonatal death in tertiary Hospitals of Addis Ababa. Comparative cross sectional study design will be used to identify contribution medically indicated preterm birth to the immediate neonatal outcomes, identify magnitude of spontaneous and medically indicated preterm birth and assess associated factors to determine immediate outcomes of preterm birth.</p>
<p>Men's Knowledge and involvement on Obstetric Danger Signs, Birth Preparedness and Complication Readiness in Burayu, Oromia, Ethiopia, 2016.</p> <p>PTL: Nebiyu Wendwessen</p> <p>Status: ✓ Transferred and ongoing follow up by Ethio Canada</p>	<p>Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</p>	<p>Male involvement in obstetrics care is an important strategy reducing preventable maternal morbidity and mortality especially in developing countries where male as head of the household is the one who makes decision on financial, health and other family issues. Different studies showed that male involvement in maternal health is key to ensuring considerable reduction in maternal mortality. This study aims at assessing men's knowledge on obstetric danger signs and their involvement in Birth Preparedness and Complication Readiness (BP/CR) in Burayu city administration in Ethiopia.</p>

<p>Practice and associated factors towards skin to skin contact immediately after birth of health professionals in Addis Ababa</p> <p>PTL: Yemisrach Mekonnen</p> <p>Status: ✓ Transferred and ongoing follow up by Ethio Canada</p>	<p>Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</p>	<p>In Ethiopia the prevalence of neonatal hypothermia is around 53%, which is a huge number contributing for the high neonatal morbidity and mortality rates. Skin to skin contact is a simple and cost effective method for improving post-delivery care especially for prevention of hypothermia. This study will assess the actual practice of skin to skin contact among birth attending health workers in Addis Ababa health facilities and it will help to identify if there is a knowledge gap in the area. This study will assess practice and associated factors for Skin to Skin Contact immediately after birth among health professionals in public health delivery facilities in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.</p>
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*Bob Bortolussi and Linda Dodds at "Giraffe Crossing"; Stephanie Onguka, MR Faculty at Kabarak University, with her family*

<p>Factors associated with singleton neonatal low birth weight at St. Paul's hospital millennium medical college</p> <p>PTL: Mehret Yalew</p> <p>Status: ✓ Transferred and ongoing follow up by Ethio Canada</p>	<p>Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</p>	<p>Low birth weight (LBW) is considered a major factor affecting neonatal morbidity and mortality. Half of all perinatal and one third of all infant deaths are directly or indirectly related to LBW. It leads to inhibited growth, cognitive development and also associated with chronic diseases later in life. LBW is a sensitive indicator of the socioeconomic conditions and indirectly measures the health of the mother and the child. This study will assess factors associated with neonatal low birth weight for babies being born at St Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College in Addis Ababa over a one year prospective study.</p>
<p>A comparative study on spontaneous and medically indicated preterm birth and factors associated with preterm birth outcomes in Addis Ababa</p> <p>PTL: Samuel Muluye Welelaw</p> <p>Status: ✓ Transferred and ongoing follow up by Ethio Canada</p>	<p>Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</p>	<p>In Ethiopia over 320,000 premature babies are born every year and 24,400 children under five die due to direct preterm complications. The aim of this research is to identify the contribution of medically indicated preterm birth to neonatal outcomes and assessing factors that determine immediate preterm outcomes through comparing magnitude of spontaneous and medically indicated preterm birth, comparing immediate outcomes of spontaneous and medically indicated preterm birth and recommend possible intervention ways to reduce high neonatal death in tertiary Hospitals of Addis Ababa.</p>

<p>Cervical cancer screening uptake: a case study of Sheema district, rural south western Uganda</p> <p>PTL: David Ayebare Santson</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project complete</li> <li>✓ Presented at MUST Scientific Conference, Nov 2019</li> <li>✓ Manuscript under review</li> </ul>	<p>Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>Cervical Cancer screening is poorly implemented in rural communities of sub-Saharan Africa. This continues to threaten lives of most women. On the other hand, cervical cancer is one of commonest cancers among women in Uganda. In Sheema district, cervical cancer screening is done occasionally at health centres and very few women attend. The objective of this study is to investigate the factors influencing cervical cancer screening programmes in Sheema district South- Western Uganda.</p>
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Left: Workshop participants and teachers, Centre Hospitalier Kigali, Kigali Rwanda, 2016;  
Right: participants, teachers and judges, Gertrude's Children's Hospital, Nairobi Kenya, 2016

#### Comment from MR participant 2016:

*"I will now foster continued questioning within our institutions and community to develop pertinent research questions and find the answers."*

<p>Cascade from enrollment into care to viral suppression, women enrolled into the option B+ in a large HIV program in Uganda: Describing factor associated with lost-to- follow up and virologic outcomes and understanding barriers to retention</p> <p>PTL: Paul Gonza</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project complete</li> <li>✓ Preliminary results shared with Mildmay Hospital team</li> <li>✓ Working on manuscript</li> </ul>	<p>Makerere, Uganda</p>	<p>Although 97% of HIV+ mothers were started on appropriate ARV, only 56% are retained after 6 months. The applicants will describe factors associated with retention and lost to follow-up for mothers enrolled in Option B+ among HIV+ mothers in a rural community of Uganda. This project will use quantitative methods to describe demographic features and viral suppression and determine the rates of retention and loss to follow-up of these mothers at 6, 12, and 18 months postnatally. Qualitative methods will also be used to identify factors associated with loss to follow-up and virological outcomes of these mothers. Understanding loss to follow-up is a critical issue for success of Option B+ and the 90-90-90 goals. Imperfect adherence to ARV therapy will drive the development of resistance. This is already an issue in many clinics in Uganda with large numbers of patients failing therapy requiring second line and third line therapy that is much more expensive.</p>
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<p>Factors Affecting Nutritional Status Among Children Aged 1-5 Years In Buhweju District, South Western Uganda</p> <p>PTL: Abaasa Catherine</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project complete</li> <li>✓ Presented at MUST Annual Scientific Conference, Nov 2019</li> <li>✓ Manuscript submitted to BMC Public Health</li> <li>✓ KT Grant proposal under review with MR</li> </ul>	<p>MUST, Uganda</p>	<p>Despite Western Uganda having excellent growing conditions, and often being referred to as “<i>the food basket</i>” of the country, it has persistently registered the highest levels of childhood malnutrition. There is need to build a holistic picture of the factors responsible for these high levels of childhood malnutrition in order to guide the effective policies and interventions. This research project in Buhweju District will to interview caregivers of children 1 to 5 years of age using a structured questionnaire to examine factors that may be contributing to malnutrition. Key informant interviews will also be conducted with all health workers directly involved in child care programs.</p>
<p>Impact of Routine Screening for Hepatitis B Viral Infection in Pregnancy in a resource Limited setting.</p> <p>PTL: Anthony Makhoba</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project complete</li> <li>✓ Manuscript under review</li> </ul>	<p>Nsambya, Uganda</p>	<p>Hepatitis B is a major disease of serious global public health proportion which is preventable with safe and effective vaccine. Perinatal transmission contributes to the acute disease burden and may progress to chronic hepatitis B infection. This is an observational cohort study to determine the knowledge of pregnant women in this setting with regards to hepatitis B. This research is aimed at screening pregnant mothers attending Antenatal Care at St. Francis Hospital Nsambya for Hepatitis B viral infection. The authors plan to identify and refer (Internal) patients who are positive for evaluation for treatment and follow up. They will also follow outcomes of the delivery, Hepatitis B specific interventions given to the New-born at birth and subsequently.</p>



Workshop Participants, Tanzanian Training Centre for International Health, Ifakara, Tanzania 2016

#### Comments from MR Participants 2016:

*“I have never been taught in this way before- have a lecture with examples and discussion followed by use what I just learned in group work. This really worked for me.”*

*“We can make an impact on the health of our communities with MicroResearch. This was so relevant and useful.”*

*“You don’t have to be Superman to do research – research that is important to our communities.”*

## 2017

<p>Challenges to Complimentary Feeding among Children below 2 Years in Gweri Sub-county Soroti District in Uganda</p> <p>PTL: Tumuhimbise Manasseh and Beatrice Akello</p> <p>Status:  ✓ Project complete  ✓ Manuscript being written</p>	<p>MUST Uganda</p>	<p>Soroti district is one of the many parts of Uganda that suffer from acute food shortage. This impacts on the availability of foods for complimentary feeding of infants i.e. the period between 6 months and 2 years when foods in addition to breast feeding are given. Dietary intake in addition to breast milk has the largest impact on growth and development children in this age period- a critical time for brain development. This study seeks to understand how mothers cope with complimentary feeding needs for their young children in times of food shortages.</p>
<p>Assessing sexual practices and contraceptive use among adolescents 15-19 years in a refugee settlement in Uganda</p> <p>PTL: Elizabeth Kemigisha</p> <p>Status:  ✓ Project completed  ✓ Published <b>Reproductive Health 2019;16(35)</b></p>	<p>MUST Uganda</p>	<p>Access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services is challenging for young African women and girls affected by disasters and conflicts who are living in refugee camps or dispersed across host countries. In addition, adolescent girls are an overlooked group within conflict-affected populations and their SRH needs are often neglected. The overall objective of this study is to identify SRH needs of adolescent girls and their access to existing SRH services in selected refugee communities in Uganda via quantitative survey. This questionnaire will be administered to 250 young refugee girls, age 15-19 years.</p>
<p>Perceived Factors Influencing Adherence to Standard Operating Procedures among Laboratory Personnel in Bomet County, Kenya</p> <p>PTL: Sifora Fanta Chaleabo</p> <p>Status:  ✓ Project complete  ✓ Project presented at MR Forum 2021</p>	<p>KABU, Kenya</p>	<p>Multiple studies have demonstrated high rates of laboratory data error in East African laboratories. Adherence to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) has been shown to be crucial to ensuring laboratory data quality. However, recent studies have demonstrated decreased SOP adherence in Kenyan Health facilities correlating with poor laboratory data quality. This study seeks to determine perceived factors among laboratory personnel that influence adherence to SOPs in the public health facilities in Bomet County, Kenya.</p>
<p>Exploring the causes of delayed discharge process at the Nairobi Hospital, Kenya</p> <p>PTL: Nebert Kiguhe Mchidi</p> <p>Status:  ✓ Conducting data analysis  ✓ Working on manuscript</p>	<p>Nairobi Hospital, Kenya</p>	<p>Delayed discharge can be a costly problem for patients and for the hospital. We would like to find out what the discharge process at the Nairobi Hospital is like, identify bottlenecks and opportunities for more efficient discharge process.</p>



<p>Health related quality of life in children and youth with Type 1 diabetes living in Southern East and Highlands Tanzania</p> <p>PTL: Janeth Bulemela</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project complete</li> <li>✓ Manuscript and final report in preparation</li> </ul>	<p>Ifakara, Tanzania</p>	<p>For the last 8 years, in Tanzania there is an emergence of adolescents and children with Type I DM due to improved diagnosis. This was followed by the training done to 6 endocrinologists and then several local short training to primary health providers in regions of Tanzania. The latter is supported by a large program change Diabetes in Children (CDiC) and by International Diabetes Federation (IDF) where there are 16 clinics (5 hubs and 11 spokes) for organization. Nearly 756 children are registered and on follow up. In our proposal we are questioning if the children and adolescents after survival get a good health related quality of life or if it was better to die.</p>
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*MicroResearch Workshop participants, with Dr. Geoffrey Wechulli teaching KABU, 2017; and MicroResearch Workshop team at Chitwan Medical College, Nepal 2017*

### **Comments from MR participants 2017:**

*"MicroResearch was eye opening and I am positive that it will change my life."*

*"MicroResearch can change attitudes and perceptions."*

*"With colleagues at MicroResearch, I hope we can identify problems convert this into proposals, apply for funding and carry out research and implement findings."*

*"I will continue involving others to come up with research proposals whose findings benefit local communities in their innovations and simplicity."*

*"My knowledge after this workshop will be extremely helpful in my future scientific research in constructing the research and knowledge translation as well."*

*"I'll apply these skills in my research project and transfer it to my students and colleagues."*

## 2018

<p>Application for knowledge translation (KT) grant for a MicroResearch project: knowledge, attitude and behaviour towards the use of insecticide treated mosquito nets among pregnant women and children in rural southwestern Uganda</p> <p>PTL: Taremwa Ivan Mugisha</p> <p>Status:  ✓ KT project complete  ✓ Published: <b>Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine.</b>  <b>2020 Jan 1;8(1):383-97.</b></p>	<p>MUST, Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>The burden of malaria in Uganda remains unacceptably high, especially among children and pregnant women. To prevent malaria related complications, household possession and use of Insecticide Treated mosquito Nets (ITNs) has become a common practice in the country. In our MR study, we explored knowledge, attitude, and behavior towards the use of ITNs as a nightly malaria prevention strategy among pregnant women and children under five years of age in Isingiro district, Southwestern Uganda. We found a possession-utilization gap, and this requires engagement of all stakeholders in the malaria prevention campaigns using ITNs through: a) government's concerted effort to ensure universal access of right fit ITNs, b) end-user directed health education to emphasize positive attributes of ITN use, c) telling the ITN success stories to improve on the usage. This KT plan will work on this latter aspect.</p>
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*MicroResearch Workshop Class CHUK with teachers, coaches and judges. Kigali, Rwanda 2018.*

### Comments from MR participants 2018:

*"MicroResearch ignited the dead researcher within me, and I am sure amongst all of us. This is the first time I could think of problems outside my discipline. It feels so great."*

*"Very encouraging workshop. I did not have interest in research but since then got to know it is something useable, I am very curious."*

*"The course is excellent and highly needed in all resource-constrained settings."*

*"Change the name please! This is a big course not a micro course."*



<p>Exploring knowledge, experiences and challenges in handling menstruation among adolescents with disabilities, a qualitative study.</p> <p>PTL: Natuhwera Calorine</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project complete</li> <li>✓ Working on manuscript and final report</li> <li>✓ KT project submitted to MR</li> </ul>	<p>MUST Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>According to the Uganda census 2014, the prevalence for disabilities was 13% for any disability and 5.6% for any two domains of disabilities. Menstrual health hygiene and management for persons with disabilities is not frequently reported, yet these pose unique challenges to this sub population. This project focuses on menstrual health of persons with disabilities. The main objective of this study is to explore menstruation challenges among the highly vulnerable yet neglected groups in research such as adolescent girls those living with physical disabilities. As part of this project, we shall provide information on menstrual hygiene management and also counselling to enable girls with disabilities to realize their potential.</p>
<p>Prevalance and risk factors of self-medication among breast feeding mothers in Mbarara municipality</p> <p>PTL: Katusiime Beatrice</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Data collection and analysis completed</li> <li>✓ Working on final report and manuscript</li> </ul>	<p>MUST Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>Self-medication can be detrimental to the health of the mother and child. This has been identified as a common public health problem worldwide. In Uganda minor illnesses like fevers, abdominal upsets, cough, pains, common cold, etc. may stimulate breast feeding mothers to practice self-medication. The availability of the small drug shops in Mbarara makes access to over the counter drugs easy and without prescriptions. This may put children at risk. This study seeks to understand mother's experiences with self-medication, reasons why they self-medicate and if they have experienced any problems with self-medication.</p>
<p>Psychosocial Challenges among Caregivers of Children with disabilities in South Western Uganda</p> <p>PTL: Mutatina Robens</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project underway</li> </ul>	<p>MUST Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>Globally about 15 % of the world's population have significant disabilities. Caregivers for children with disabilities (CwDs) play a vital role in providing support for them through their lifetime. In Uganda the Person with Disabilities Act of 2006, provides a comprehensive legal protection for persons with disabilities by eliminating all discrimination and supporting equalization of opportunities. This act aims to provide relief to those living with disabilities but fails to consider the needs of those providing care such as CwDs. The purpose of this study is to determine the psychosocial challenges faced by caregivers of CWDs through interviews with CwDs recruited from the Organised Useful Rehabilitation Services (OURS); the only centre for disabilities in South West Uganda.</p>

<p>Perceptions of women with NCDs on birth control and pre-pregnancy counselling in Rwanda.</p> <p>PTL: Juvenal Nambaje</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project complete</li> <li>✓ Manuscript and final report under preparation</li> </ul>	<p>CHUK Kigali, Rwanda</p>	<p>The World Health Organization (WHO) encourages countries to reduce maternal and neonatal deaths. A lot of efforts have been made by the ministry of health of Rwanda to reduce maternal deaths. Chronic diseases exert a highly negative impact on maternal and neonatal outcomes. The aim of our study is to understand the perceptions of women with chronic diseases on birth control and pre-conception counselling in Rwanda. Our team made of internal medicine doctors, internal medicine nurses, a laboratory scientist and a midwife, hopes that this study will help to understand the barriers that those women are facing in terms of getting family planning methods and advices before getting pregnant. Results from this study will provide an evidence base to influence policies in order to decrease the burden imposed by chronic diseases in child-bearing age women in the region.</p>
<p>Why do Rwandan women not go for cervical cancer screening?</p> <p>PTL: Jean Pierre Gafaranga</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project complete</li> <li>✓ Manuscript under review</li> <li>✓ Presented project at MR Forum 2021</li> </ul>	<p>CHUK Kigali, Rwanda</p>	<p>Rwanda, a LMIC, has a population of 11 million with 2.72 million women aged 15 years and older who are at risk of developing cervical cancer. Rwanda is the first African country to initiate a nation-wide program to eradicate cervical cancer through vaccination against HPV. Rwanda has introduced low-cost methods for cervical cancer screening including visual inspection of cervix with acetic acid (VIA) and HPV-DNA test for women aged 35 or above with a repeat screening at 7 years for those with a negative results. Unfortunately, the screening rate had been low and the possible reasons are not known. Therefore, the study aims to find out the barriers for Rwandan women to use the cervical cancer screening program.</p>



*Participants at Chitwan Medical College, Nepal, 2018; MR team at Nairobi Hospital, 2018*

<p>How do Rwandans attending ANC want to learn about family planning?</p> <p>PTL: Timothee Shahidi Twahirwa</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Provisional Approval</li> </ul>	<p>CHUK Kigali, Rwanda</p>	<p>Worldwide, the use of family planning (FP) is estimated at 57.4% and 28% in Africa. Current data show that family planning alone has a direct impact on decreasing the global maternal mortality by 30% and neonatal mortality by 10% each year. Whether the community would prefer a specific mode of education and conviction towards FP methods, especially in middle and low income countries (MLIC), has not been documented. This study will explore how do Rwandan women and men attending antenatal care want to learn about family planning.</p>
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<p>CT scan request in management of paediatric head injury at Kigali University Teaching Hospital Emergency Department, Rwanda</p> <p>PTL: Mbanjumucyo Gabin</p> <p>Status: ✓ Provisional approval</p>	<p>CHUK Kigali, Rwanda</p>	<p>CT scan is the reference standard for diagnosis of Traumatic brain injury. With the increase of CT Scan use with increased radiation exposure which is becoming a heavy public health burden. CT Scan use in pediatric is still controversial and with most pediatric injuries being mild not needing neurosurgical intervention. Clinical decision rules have been developed to reduce radiation exposure to the pediatric population. Three clinical decision rules are widely used, PECARN, CATCH, and CHALICE. Pediatric emergency care applied research network (PECARN) is validated and preferred in low resource settings. There is no standard protocol of CT scan request at Kigali University Teaching hospital (CHUK). This study aims at assessing if CT scan requests in pediatric head injury at are following PECARN rules. To our knowledge no similar study has been done in Rwanda and the region.</p>
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### Comments from MR participants 2018

*"Kindly MR founders think of a sister training for purposes of multidisciplinary and sustainability beyond health."*

*"Endeavour to engage and create more awareness of this workshop. It is very important as it touches lives by research."*

*"I highly appreciate the skills I have learned and now I can apply to my career and promote research studies and teach others."*



MR graduates at Kabarak University, 2019; MR participants at Kabarak University, 2019

### 2019

<p>Factors that influence false tooth extraction among children below two years in Isingiro, southwestern Uganda.</p> <p>PTL: Elizabeth Najjingo</p> <p>Status ✓ Project underway</p>	<p>MUST Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>False tooth extraction, the removal of deciduous primary canine tooth buds among infants below 2 years of age, has been practiced amongst communities in East Africa, Ethiopia and Sudan for over six decades. This procedure, done in the community by traditional healers, involves unsterilized tools, such as bicycle spokes, needles, knives or finger nails etc., putting the child at risk of acquiring blood borne infections and the bleeding may lead to death from shock and anemia as well as sepsis and tetanus infections. This study will determine the factors that influence false tooth extraction in southwestern Uganda</p>
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<p>Factors associated with non-adherence to medications among Adolescents with common mental disorders at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital</p> <p>PTL: Gideon Robert Odendi</p> <p>Status ✓ Project underway</p>	<p>MUST Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>Mental health problems can affect at any age. Ten to twenty percent of youth in the world are affected by mental health problems, with the majority in low resourced countries, like Uganda. Failure to adhere to prescribed medicines can result in delayed response, reoccurrence of symptoms, and increased cost of overall treatment. The questions as proposed in this project: [1] What is the prevalence of non-adherence to medications among adolescents with common mental disorders at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital? [2] What factors are associated with non-adherence?</p>
<p>Prevalence of obesity and associated factors among primary school going children in Mbarara Municipality, Southwestern Uganda</p> <p>PTL: Timothy Nduhukire</p> <p>Status ✓ Project underway</p>	<p>MUST Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>Obesity is an increasing recognized health problem that now ranks as the fifth leading global risk for mortality. The International Obesity Task Force estimates that about 155 million school-going children globally, are either overweight or obese. Healthy weights and lifestyles have a significant impact on current and future health, including both metabolic and mental health. There is need to provide data on the prevalence of obesity so that policy makers are aware of the burden of obesity and its associated factors. Not much data is available in Uganda. This study seeks to obtain local obesity data among primary school going children in Mbarara Municipality, South Western Uganda and also examine factors that are associated with obesity in this setting.</p>



MR workshop at Mildmay Uganda, 2019

### Comments from MR participants 2019

*"Africa is a continent where research is needed. I hope to see this workshop in more African countries. The demand is high."*

*"My mind is opened up and I can [...] confidently carry out research. Thanks very much."*



<p>Knowledge, Attitude and Practice Regarding Cervical Cancer and Its Screening among Women in Madi, Chitwan</p> <p>PTL: Kalpana Sharma</p> <p>Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project complete</li> <li>✓ Preparing manuscript and final report</li> </ul>	<p>Chitwan Medical College, Nepal</p>	<p>Cervical cancer ranks as the leading cancer of females in Nepal. Death from the cervical cancer can be minimized through multi-disciplinary comprehensive interventions across the life course including community education, social mobilization, vaccination, screening and treatment. Most cervical cancer deaths in Nepal could be avoided if known effective interventions were available to all women and implemented, including immunizing adolescent girls against human papilloma virus (HPV) and cervical screening and treatment of pre-cancerous lesions. Even though these care modalities are available, Nepalese women have low knowledge and up take of screening. Therefore, this study aims to determine the knowledge, attitude and practice regarding cervical cancer and its screening among women of this area of Nepal.</p>
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*Harriet Chemusto, Noni Macdonald, Mary Odiit, and Bob Bortolussi at Mildmay Uganda Research Centre, 2019; Noni MacDonald and Janice Graham at the MR "Headquarters", Mildmay Uganda Research Centre, 2019*

<p>Factors affecting the uptake of malaria prevention strategies among pregnant women</p> <p>PTL: Taremwa Ivan Mugisha</p> <p>Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project complete</li> <li>✓ Manuscript in preparation</li> </ul>	<p>MUST Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>This study aims to better understand factors affecting the malaria prevention strategies among pregnant women in Birere sub-county, Isingiro district. In addition, the project will study health care workers at the antenatal clinic of Kasana Health Centre III to gain in-depth understanding of the topic, with emphasis on the questionnaire responses with pregnant women. Data will be collected through questionnaires and interviews that focus on the knowledge and behaviors of pregnant women and the perceptions of health care workers treating these women, with the aim to explore if malaria is emphasized as a major concern for pregnant women during antenatal care.</p>
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<p>Assessment of intrapartum referrals and use of mobile phone technology to improve maternal-fetal outcomes in South Western Uganda</p> <p>PTL: Kanyesigye Hamson</p> <p>Status: ✓ Project underway</p>	<p>MUST Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>Maternal mortality rate (MMR) and perinatal mortality rate (PMR) in Uganda are still very high. Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital (MRRH) receives many referred mothers in labour, with a significant number end up with bad maternal and fetal outcomes. These outcomes are attributed to delays while referring the mother from lower health units to MRRH and also because the health workers at MRRH are not alerted about the condition of the referred mothers so that they can prepare adequately. Mobile phone technology may reduce delays in management of referrals thereby improving maternal-fetal outcomes. This project aims to establish the effect of a phone based intervention on maternal-fetal outcomes among Intrapartum referrals.</p>
<p>Uptake of HIV Testing Services through Assisted Partner Notification (APN) among Men</p> <p>PTL: Simons Ezajobo</p> <p>Status: ✓ Provisional approval</p>	<p>Mildmay, Kampala, Uganda</p>	<p>The prevalence of HIV among adults aged 15 to 64 in Uganda is 6.2%, 7.6% among females and 4.7% among males.. Despite the improvement in HIV testing among men from 25% in 2005 to 52% in 2016, more efforts through an assisted partner notification (APN) strategy are needed to improve the uptake of HIV testing to expected target of more than 95% among the men. The main objective of this project will be to assess the uptake of HIV Testing services among men through APN in Wakiso District</p>
<p>Clients' knowledge and compliance towards hypertension management among adults living with HIV attending Entebbe and Mildmay Uganda hospital</p> <p>PTL: Carolyn Namayanja</p> <p>Status: ✓ Project approved ✓ Seeking ethics approval</p>	<p>Mildmay, Kampala, Uganda</p>	<p>Hypertension (HTN), a condition characterized by raised blood pressure, is one of the most common risk factors for cardiovascular disease affecting the health and well-being of people living with HIV. This study aims to ascertain clients' knowledge, perceptions and assess compliance towards hypertension management among adults living with HIV. The researchers will conduct focus group interviews with three differing groups: adults living with HIV receiving treatment for HTN; adults living with HIV who are not receiving HTN treatment; and adults who are not HIV positive but are being treated for HTN.</p>
<p>Barriers and facilitators of access to Hepatitis B services among women of reproductive age in Bidibidi refugee settlement in Northern Uganda</p> <p>PTL: Emmanuel Omony</p> <p>Status: ✓ Project approved ✓ Seeking ethics approval</p>	<p>Mildmay, Kampala, Uganda</p>	<p>This study will investigate the barriers and facilitators to accessing Hepatitis B services among women of reproductive age in Bidibidi refugee settlement in Uganda. Not all women who need Hepatitis B services in refugee populations access them and yet there is limited data on what factors could be contributing to this. The researchers plan to investigate these gaps so that interventions can be generated to improve service delivery. Quantitative data will be abstracted from existing medical records to identify the burden of Hepatitis B among women of reproductive age. This will be followed by qualitative data collection through interviews and focus groups.</p>



*MicroResearch graduates at Kabarak University, May 2019*

## 2020

<p>Social and Psychological impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in selected communities in Mbarara municipality south western Uganda</p> <p>PTL: Taremwa Ivan Mugisha</p> <p>Status ✓ Project underway</p>	<p>MUST Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>This study will enroll Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) healthcare providers, and community support teams in Mbarara city as the proxy to the understanding of community social and psychological effects in the era of a pandemic, southwestern Uganda. The study will use in-depth and key informant interviews to understand the underlying social and psychological concerns for both healthcare providers and community support teams but which may not easily be captured to inform an appropriate response and recovery mechanism during an infectious disease outbreak.</p>
<p>Factors influencing low uptake of DPT3 among infants aged 16 to 52 weeks in Rubirizi Town</p> <p>PTL: Agatha Nshabohurira</p> <p>Status ✓ Project underway</p>	<p>MUST Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>Rubirizi, one of the smallest districts in western Uganda has persistently performed poorly on DPT3 coverage at 78%. Worse still in Rubirizi town (the biggest urban centre in the District) DPT3 coverage is as low as 22% (DHIS2, 2017). Therefore the Research team seeks to understand reasons why the coverage is so low by exploring individual perceptions, community factors, and health service related factors influencing uptake of DPT 3 Immunization, community influencing factors associated with uptake of DPT 3 Immunization amongst infants 16-52 weeks in Rubirizi Town, Rubirizi District.</p>
<p>Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) adherence among adolescents attending boarding secondary schools in Sheema District, Uganda</p> <p>PTL: Derrick Komwangi</p> <p>Status ✓ Provisional approval</p>	<p>MUST Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>Adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART) has been reported to be sub-optimal among adolescents with HIV (ALHIV) in boarding secondary schools due to fear of unintended disclosure and associated stigma. Using a phenomenological exploratory cross-sectional design employing both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods, this study seeks to determine ART adherence level and explore the lived experiences of ALHIV attending boarding secondary schools to contribute towards improve ART related health outcomes in this vulnerable population.</p>



<p>Voices of young adolescents in schools regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and prevention measures: A qualitative study in South Western Uganda using a mail box technique</p> <p>PTL: Elizabeth Kemigisha</p> <p>Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project underway</li> <li>✓ Presented preliminary results at UPA conference, Oct 2020</li> <li>✓ Presented project at MR Forum 2021</li> </ul>	<p>MUST Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the closure of schools, public transport and no public gatherings in Uganda. These efforts have paid off with minimal community transmission of the virus so far. School age children and adults have been affected with interruption in learning. This is a concern in a country such as Uganda where school completion rates are low with drop outs at the beginning of adolescence period in primary school. The Ministry of Education has been proactive in substituting the lost school time with media based learning through television, radio and print media. It is not clear as yet how adolescents perceive this alternative kind of education, whether the target population has been reached and is actively participating. This study seeks to explore adolescent knowledge and experiences during the COVID 19 epidemic and lock down and how these events have affected their learning and learning expectations.</p>
<p>Experiences of caregivers of children with cerebral palsy attending Ruharo Mission Hospital in South Western Uganda</p> <p>PTL: Justus Asasira</p> <p>Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project approved</li> <li>✓ Seeking ethics approval</li> </ul>	<p>MUST Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>This project focuses on understanding the lived experiences of caregivers of children with neuro developmental complication in this case Cerebral Palsy in South-western Uganda. The study will focus on the primary caregivers who have lived with the child for at least 6months attending to Ruharo Mission Hospital in Uganda. There are few studies that have studied this group of caregivers in local context to understand their coping mechanisms at community level and how these could be scaled up and modified to inspire others involved in care.</p>



*MicroResearch workshop at MUST, February 2020*

### **Comment from a MR participant 2020**

*"A heart felt thanks from me and the guys. We enjoyed every bit of the workshop. These will be life long skills that will aid in our careers. No doubt every time we engage in research activities in the future we will keep you in mind."*

<p>Determinants of intimate partner violence disclosure among pregnant women in forcibly displaced settlements during COVID-19 pandemic in Kasese District</p> <p>PTL: David Ayebare Santson</p> <p>Status ✓ Project underway</p>	<p>MUST Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>Intimate partner violence (IPV) during pregnancy is causing high mortality among pregnant women and still births in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). One reason being that few health facilities offer IPV counselling services worsened by few women disclosing IPV. The situation is worse for pregnant women in rural forcibly displaced settlements, including limited access to information on the benefits of IPV disclosure and thus the effects of IPV might continue to threaten the lives of pregnant women, their pregnancies and newborns. It is against this background that individual interviews and FGDs will be conducted in the households in the settlements in Kasese district. Mothers with neonates, FGDs with women and men and Key Informant Interviews with professional Health workers at Bugoye Health centre will be conducted.</p>
<p>Healthcare providers and Caregivers' perspectives on factors underlying the persistent malnutrition of Children aged 0-59 months in Buhweju district, southwestern Uganda (KT project)</p> <p>PTL: Catherine Abaasa</p> <p>Status ✓ Provisional approval ✓ Presented project at MR Forum 2021</p>	<p>MUST Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>The objectives of this knowledge translation project is to create awareness on the factors responsible for persistent malnutrition in Buhweju district and engage the communities on how best they can mitigate the identified factors and plan for a way forward towards improvement of nutrition of children in Buhweju district. The effort will help engage into discussion on the perspectives of Healthcare providers and caregivers with policy makers to improve the nutrition of children in Buhweju district and Uganda at large.</p>
<p>Evaluation of a short menstrual hygiene training among adolescent girls in Nakivale refugee settlement (Knowledge Translation project)</p> <p>PTL: Elizabeth Kemigisha</p> <p>Status ✓ Project approved ✓ Seeking ethics approval ✓ Presented project at MR Forum 2021</p>	<p>MUST Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>Humanitarian crises and migration increase vulnerability of adolescent girls to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) risks with poor outcomes. These include limited knowledge on SRH risks or prevention practices, poor menstrual hygiene management, sexual violence with unintended pregnancies and so much more. We conducted a situation analysis of adolescent SRH knowledge and access to services in humanitarian crises. Our qualitative study findings indicated varied experiences regarding menstruation that included being unprepared for menarche, receiving social support on how to handle menstruation and menstrual hygiene, limited exercise or physical activities, school absences, psychological distress and physical pain. The burden of menstrual hygiene management, limited information about menstruation, limited accessibility to sanitary is still a challenge.</p>

<p>Effectiveness of Problem-Based Learning in enhancing students' understanding of electromagnetic wave concepts in physics among secondary schools in Western Uganda</p> <p>PTL: Stella Kanyesigye</p> <p>Status ✓ Under review</p>	<p>MUST Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>According to Uganda National Examination Board (2017), the performance levels in all science subjects continues to be low, with about 55 per cent of the candidates unable to exhibit the minimum required competency to be graded; the worst performed science subject being physics. Students exhibit various misconceptions especially with electromagnetic wave concepts despite their importance in health and technological developments. As a result, students tend to drop science subjects as they go to higher levels contributing to lack of skilled labor among Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields. In response, the Government of Uganda in January 2020 adopted a competence-based curriculum (CBC) to enhance students' skills, knowledge and development of self confidence in problem solving. As a move to improve students' learning outcomes, this study seeks to assess the effectiveness of Problem-Based Learning (PBL) as a CBC pedagogy in enhancing students' knowledge of wave concepts in physics among secondary schools in Western Uganda.</p>
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#### Comments from MR participants 2020

*"The workshop has opened my eyes as an upcoming researcher. More knowledge has been gained greatly and because I am a student, this has been timely."*

*"Good project for capacity building in primary health care where there is usually a gap in research."*



*MicroResearch Train the Trainer Virtual workshop with participants from Mangochi, Malawi – December, 2020*

<p>Factors associated with early discharge of pre-term babies in Southwestern Uganda: A qualitative study</p> <p>PTL: Stella Kyoyagala</p> <p>Status ✓ Provisional approval</p>	<p>MUST Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>Uganda has one of the highest preterm birth rates, ranked thirteenth worldwide. Prematurity is the second leading cause of deaths in children below 5 years in Uganda. To optimise survival of these delicate preterm babies, most are admitted in special units to treat for medical complications and optimize growth. 40% of these babies go home before the discharge recommendations are met, increasing chances for death at home. In Uganda, formalized community care services for preterm babies are completely lacking after these babies are discharged, yet 60% of the newborn deaths occur in the communities. Our study therefore, seeks to understand why some parents/attendants opt for early discharge of their preterm babies and how best they could be supported in caring for them in the hospital to stay longer and at home if early discharge is inevitable.</p>
<p>Exploring the nutrition challenges and their associated health outcomes experienced by communities in Mbarara city, south western Uganda during the COVID-19 Pandemic</p> <p>PTL: Catherine Abaasa</p> <p>Status ✓ Provisional approval</p>	<p>MUST Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>This is a phenomenological study on the challenges households in Mbarara city experienced during the COVID-19 lockdown. Anecdotal data in Uganda indicate emergence of food shortages since agricultural and food markets faced disruptions because of labor shortages, in addition to income losses and transport challenges that hindered sale of nutritious, fresh, and affordable foods, forcing families to rely on nutrient-poor alternatives due to imposed lockdown. Most Ugandans are finding it difficult to feed themselves and their dependents since most of them; often called the urban poor, live on a hand to mouth existence which is hinged on being able to work for a day's wage hence the average number of daily meals consumed is limited. This study will explore the nutrition challenges experienced by communities in Mbarara city, south western Uganda and the coping mechanisms they have deployed during this pandemic.</p>
<p>Knowledge, experiences, challenges faced by adolescents with disabilities in handling menstruation and forms of support by caregivers in Mbarara District, Uganda (KT Project)</p> <p>PTL: Calorine Natuhwera</p> <p>Status ✓ Project approved ✓ Seeking ethics approval ✓ Presented project at MR Forum 2021</p>	<p>MUST Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>In this study, we explored how adolescents with disabilities in Mbarara possess inadequate knowledge on menstruation and face unique challenges in handling menstruation. Out of 86 participants (adolescents), average of 37.2% (n=32) of the respondents had adequate knowledge about menstruation which was seen challenging. The interviews with care takers revealed that these girls face unique challenges in handling menstruation like 1) lack of adequate materials to use, 2) disability related challenges, 3) social cultural attitude attached to their disability like menstrual timing, access to education and limited support from caretakers. We therefore found a need to provide caregivers and adolescents with sexuality education tailored to their needs, provision of necessary hygiene materials and addressing psychosocial and restrictive cultural norms. This KT project will disseminate our findings.</p>

**Comments from participants in 2021:**

*“The workshop was an eye-opened. Facilitators were very humble and always listening to our concerns. Awesome!”*

*“The training was so wonderful and my research knowledge has greatly improved”*

**2021**

<p>Exploring knowledge and practices of COVID-19 preventive measures among secondary school teachers in public school within Lilongwe City, Malawi</p> <p>PTL: George Mwenye-Phiri</p> <p>Status: ✓ Provisional Approval ✓ Presented project at MR Forum 2021</p>	<p>Mangochi, Malawi</p>	<p>Within Malawi’s education system, teachers are regarded as great source of information and are at the center of influencing the behaviours of their learners as well as their communities. This research study aims to explore knowledge and practices of COVID-19 preventive measures among secondary school teachers in public schools within Lilongwe city, Malawi. It will add to the existing body of knowledge about the proportion of teachers with knowledge of COVID-19 vaccines and if teachers are vaccine hesitant or want to go forward with it and if they are able to teach learners in covid-19 preventative measures in schools.</p>
<p>Enablers and barriers to adherence to newly introduced oral treatment resistant tuberculosis in Mangochi District, Malawi</p> <p>PTL: Michael Chifundo Manong’a</p> <p>Status: ✓ Provisional Approval ✓ Presented project at MR Forum 2021</p>	<p>Mangochi, Malawi</p>	<p>In the past, Multi-Drug Resistant (MDR)-TB injectable treatment regimens were used in Malawi as standard treatment. However, WHO has recommended a change to pills for MDR-TB. The enablers and barriers to this new approach have not been studied. Since many MDR-TB patients are also treated for HIV with a high “pill burden”, a potential for increasing default rate is possible. The researchers plan to do a qualitative study to examine enablers and barriers to pill adherence among MDR-TB patients in Central Malawi. If successful, the study may identify enablers for treatment adherence to be promoted and strategies to overcome the barriers. This information may guide new treatment protocols.</p>
<p>Exploring contributing factors to birth asphyxia: A case of Mangochi District Hospital Maternity Wing, Malawi</p> <p>PTL: Wilford Kamanula</p> <p>Status: ✓ Provisional Approval</p>	<p>Mangochi, Malawi</p>	<p>Birth Asphyxia continues to be one of the contributing factors to neonatal mortality worldwide and Malawi is not an exceptional. Reports show that Birth asphyxia contributes about 28% towards total neonatal deaths in Malawi (Malawi Demographic Survey 2015). At Mangochi district Hospital 60% of neonatal mortality rate is due to birth asphyxia (DHIS2, 2020). The main objective is to explore factors contributing to birth asphyxia at Mangochi District Hospital Maternity wing.</p>

<p>Stigma associated with infectious diseases among health care workers: A case of COVID-19 in Mangochi, Malawi</p> <p>PTL: Ezekiel Kadango</p> <p>Status: ✓ Provisional Approval</p>	<p>Mangochi, Malawi</p>	<p>COVID-19 is now a well recognized serious global public health pandemic. Health care workers have experienced stigma in a number of settings because they are directly involved in the diagnosis, treatment and care of patients with COVID 19 hence may be regarded as at increased risk for infection potential for spreading the virus to those they are in contact with. Evidence from literature is not clear as to whether health care workers in Mangochi Malawi face Covid 19 related stigma or not as has been reported in other countries. Therefore, this project will conduct a study to determine if there is stigma among health care workers due to proximity to COVID-19 in Mangochi, Malawi. The study will answer the research question are health care workers facing any kind of COVID 19 related stigma, what is the magnitude.</p>
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*MicroResearch Workshop in Mangochi, Malawi – February, 2021*

<p>Economic justification for community-based health insurance in Uganda: A case of Save for Health, Luweero District, Uganda</p> <p>PTL: Judith Flavia Najirijja</p> <p>Status: ✓ Under review</p>	<p>Makerere, Uganda</p>	<p>Community Based Health Insurance (CBHI) is a feasible way to increase access to health care and provide protection against heavy health expenditures. CBHI is suitable for developing countries like Uganda because it provides indemnification to persons in less organized settings and low- income earners who have limited financial backup from other sources and rely on government health services that do not protect them from serious illnesses. Data will be collected through conducting interviews with key informants and beneficiaries of the health insurance scheme managed by SHU.</p>
<p>Factors associated with relapse among patients with severe mental illness in Kampala</p> <p>PTL: Bives Mutume</p> <p>Status: ✓ Under review ✓ Presented project at MR Forum 2021</p>	<p>Kampala, Uganda</p>	<p>Relapse among patients with severe mental disorders is a major concern associated with increased burden in terms of morbidity, mortality and treatment costs. Relapse in severe mental illnesses is a world wide problem. Factors affecting relapse and readmission rates are heterogeneous and need to be identified to better allocate resources for improved outcomes among patients with mental illness. Despite the challenges associated with relapse among patients with mental illness at individual and family levels, research studies linking associated factors and relapse in mental disorders in Uganda are sparse. Hence this study is aimed to determine the factors associated with relapse among patients with severe mental disorders in south western Uganda.</p>



<p>Male involvement in menstrual health and hygiene in Mbarara District, Uganda</p> <p>PTL: Evas Nimusiima</p> <p>Status: ✓ Provisional approval</p>	<p>MUST, Mbarara, Uganda</p>	<p>Over the years, millions of menstruators have been directly or indirectly denied the right to manage their monthly menstrual cycle in a dignified and healthy way. This has caused menstruators to face stigma, harassment and social exclusion during menstruation. Less effort has been done to promote the involvement of men and boys in menstruation and menstrual health hygiene yet by roles and responsibilities attributed to being a man, it is known that men and boys have the potential to support women and girls to manage their menstruation effectively across different social domains including household, community, school and at work. Therefore, this project is set to explore the knowledge, attitude and practices of males and females towards male involvement in menstrual health and hygiene.</p>
<p>An explorative study on healthcare providers' experiences influencing attendance of ANC services during the COVID-19 lockdown period at healthcare centres in Kabale, Uganda</p> <p>PTL: Keneth Iceland Kasozi</p> <p>Status: ✓ Under review</p>	<p>Kabale, Uganda</p>	<p>The project will involve healthcare workers working at healthcare centres in Uganda. In particular, the project leaders will acquire information related to their experiences during the previous and current covid lockdown in Uganda to identify opportunities and challenges associated with covid19 at the antenatal care clinics at health centre IVs in Kabale districts. Close to no study has been conducted in developing countries (especially in Africa), and yet healthcare workers have been reported to be suffering from anxiety and mental stress while working in an environment where their colleagues are dying from the pandemic.</p>



*Judges at the Malawi workshop – February, 2021*

***Comments from participants in 2021:***

*“The knowledge I have learnt will benefit every student that I teach and colleagues at work because I will share the resources, knowledge and skills obtained from the workshop.”*

*“I am going to be a better reviewer for journals that usually contact me to review their articles”*

## MicroResearch-based Thesis Workshop for Post-Graduates

**Kabarak University, Kenya - May 2017**

	Program	Proposed Thesis Topic	Project Update
Mung'ara David	Fam Med	What are the doctors' knowledge and attitude with regard to in-patient adults' end of life care? (A study in Kijabe hospital, central Kenya)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Completed</li> <li>✓ Passed thesis defense</li> <li>✓ Published in Kabarak University (KABU) journal</li> </ul>
Boaz Niyinyumva	Fam Med	Do culture and social norms affect whether or not a patient has health insurance? A study in hospitalized patients from 18 years and above at Chogoria Hospital, Tharaka Nithi County- Eastern Kenya?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Completed</li> <li>✓ Passed thesis defense</li> <li>✓ Published in KABU journal</li> </ul>
Elijah Yulu	Fam Med	Does having National Health Insurance Fund coverage affect clinician's medical decision making in the outpatient and inpatient setting at PCEA Chogoria Hospital, rural Eastern Kenya?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Completed</li> <li>✓ Passed thesis defense</li> <li>✓ Published in KABU journal</li> </ul>
Faith Lelei-Mailu	Fam Med	How prepared do family members feel they are to provide end of life care for their advanced cancer patients?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Completed</li> <li>✓ Passed thesis defense</li> <li>✓ Published in KABU journal</li> </ul>
Terer, Elijah	Fam Med	What are the stated reasons for delayed presentations of non-pregnant women 18 yrs. and above with abnormal vaginal bleeding in the two referral hospitals in Bomet county Kenya?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Completed</li> <li>✓ Passed thesis defense</li> <li>✓ Published in KABU journal</li> </ul>



*MicroResearch Thesis Workshop at Kabarak University, Kenya – May, 2017*

**MicroResearch-based Thesis Workshop for Post-Graduates  
Kabarak University, Kenya – May, 2018**

	<b>Program</b>	<b>Proposed Thesis Topic</b>	<b>Project Update</b>
Mourine Melenia	Fam Med	What methods are commonly used to procure illegal abortion and how are the accessed by women in Bomet County?	✓ Completed ✓ Passed thesis defense ✓ Published in Kabarak University (KABU) journal
Sarah Kiptinness	Fam Med	How effective is universal screening compared to selective risk factor-based screening for gestational diabetes at Kijabe Hospital?	✓ Completed ✓ Passed thesis defense ✓ Published in KABU journal
Hillary Kositany	Fam Med	What are the reasons for the timing of first antenatal visit among women at Temek Hospital?	✓ Passed thesis defense with minor revisions ✓ Projected to graduate Dec 2021
Bramwel Wekesa	Fam Med	What is the adequacy of informed consent for elective cesarean section for women presenting at Kijabe Hospital? What are women's views towards the informed consent process at Kijabe Hospital?	✓ Passed proposal defense
Musa Saruti	Fam Med	What are health care providers' reasons for prescribing antibiotics for upper respiratory tract infections to children less than 5 years in outpatient clinics in Chuka and Chogoria Hospitals?	✓ Completed ✓ Passed thesis defense ✓ Published in KABU journal
Gad Igiraneza	Fam Med	What are the Opinions and understanding of vasectomy among married men in Chogoria, Tharaka Nithi County Kenya?	✓ Completed ✓ Passed thesis defense ✓ Published in KABU journal
Joy Sinkeet	Fam Med	What are the healthcare seeking behaviours of female sex workers in Bomet county, a rural read in South Rift part of Kenya?	✓ Completed ✓ Passed thesis defense ✓ Published in KABU journal
Caroline Chepngeno	Nutrition	What are the risk factors of metabolic syndrome among university staff?	✓ Completed ✓ Passed thesis defense ✓ Published in KABU journal
Dominic Kiprotich	Nutrition	How many diabetic patients attending diabetic clinic at Nakuru level 5 Hospital receive nutrition counselling and translate it to actual practice?	✓ Completed ✓ Passed thesis defense ✓ Published in KABU journal
Eddah Chepkoton	Nutrition	What is the prevalence of overweight, obesity and nutritional status among rural middle-aged women and the association with socio-demographic factors in Rongai Sub-county?	✓ Completed ✓ Passed thesis defense ✓ Published in KABU journal
Everlyne Malanda	Nutrition	What it's the prevalence of maternal obesity and child under nutrition in low resource urban setting in Nakuru county?	✓ Completed ✓ Passed thesis defense ✓ Published in KABU journal
Winnie Moimet	Nutrition	What are the dietary practices of hypertensive patients attending Nakuru level 5 Hospital?	✓ Completed ✓ Passed thesis defense ✓ Published in KABU journal



*Participants at Kabarak Workshop May 2019*

### **MicroResearch-based Thesis Workshop for Post-Graduates Kabarak University, Kenya – May 2019**

	<b>Program</b>	<b>Proposed Thesis Topic</b>	<b>Project update</b>
Nourine Chepkemoi	Nutrition	Dietary intake and Nutritional Status of adults with Pulmonary Tuberculosis and HIV co-infection in Kericho County Hospitals	✓ Data collection and thesis writing stage
Jane Kilonzi	Nutrition	To assess the nutritional knowledge levels of mothers on recommended child feeding practices in Moi Teaching Referral Hospital	✓ Data collection and thesis writing stage
Sifora Chaleabo	Fam Med	What are the factors that affect adherence to Standard Operating Procedures among laboratory personnel, in Bomet county Kenya?	✓ Passed proposal defense stage ✓ Data collection and thesis writing stage
Belyse Arakaza	Fam Med	What is the knowledge, attitudes and self-reported cervical cancer screening practices among female clinicians in Kiambu county?	✓ Passed proposal defense
Amy Akim	Fam Med	What is the prevalence and factors associated with burnout among Family Medicine residents in Kenya?	✓ Passed proposal defense
Faith Kimutai	Nutrition	What is the double burden of malnutrition among the under 5 school going children in Ainamoi subcounty Kericho county?	✓ Data collection and thesis writing stage

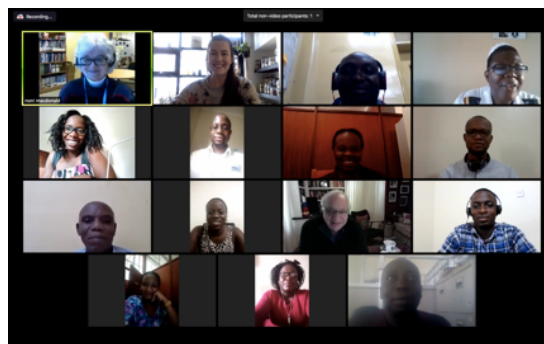


*MicroResearch Writing Workshop, MUST Uganda, June 2019; MicroResearch Writing Workshop, MUST Uganda, February 2020;*

## MicroResearch Scientific Writing Workshops

June 2019 - MUST, Uganda <sup>1</sup>		
Institution/Location	Participants	1st Draft Manuscripts prepared
MUST	9	5
CUHAS	11	4
U of Calgary	3	N/A
February, 2020 – MUST, Uganda		
MUST	15	15
November, 2020 – Virtual Workshop		
MUST	3	3
Kigali, Rwanda	2	2
Georgetown, Guyana	3	3
Kabarak, Kenya	1	Pending
February, 2021 – Virtual Workshop for MUST		
MUST	10	10

1. Supported by Maternal Newborn Child Health Institute, Mbarara University of Science Technology (MUST), Catholic University of Health Allied Sciences (CUHAS), University of Calgary, and Dalhousie University. Each team from MUST and CUHAS had data from one or two projects, which formed the background to develop a draft manuscript



*Left: MR Virtual Writing Workshop, with participants from Guyana, Rwanda, Kenya, and Uganda – November 2020  
Right: MUST Virtual Writing Workshop- February 2021*

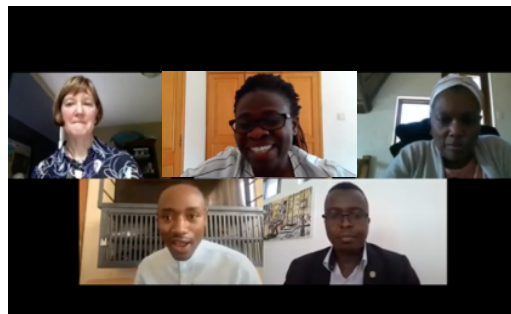
## **MicroResearch Virtual Forum**

### **June 23 and 24, 2021**

MicroResearch International was granted funds from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada to hold the third Regional Forum in Uganda. Due to travel restrictions during the pandemic, the forum was moved to a virtual platform. Despite the limitations that virtual meetings can entail, it provided an opportunity for a greater range of people from different countries to attend.

#### **The objectives of this two-day Forum were to:**

- Foster discussion on the three theme areas: Research Ethics, Education-Growing a Culture of Inquiry, and Knowledge Translation
- Provide an opportunity for MicroResearch investigators to present their research projects, plans and outcomes and exchange ideas
- Encourage networking with other MicroResearchers from eastern Africa and beyond
- Carry out a Focus Group Discussions on future direction for MicroResearch
- Contribute background and input for the development of the 2021 MicroResearch Strategic Thinking plan



*The Research Education panel at the MR Virtual Forum, June 2021*

**Five African countries involved:** Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Malawi

**Number of African participants:** 38

**Number of African panelists:** 10

**Number of African project presenters:** 9

**Number of guests/observers from Canada:** 6



## MR Forum Project Presentations

**Jean Pierre Gafaranga (Rwanda):** “Cervical cancer screening: Why do not Rwandan women go for cervical cancer screening?” – *Selected as a runner-up for best presentation*

**Bives Mutume (Uganda):** “Factors associated with relapse among patients with severe mental illness at Kampala International University Teaching Hospital Mental health and Psychiatry ward” (5 min)

**Michael Chifundo Manonga (Malawi):** “Exploring adherence to newly introduced oral drugs for TB drug-resistant patients” (5 min)

**George Mwenye-Phiri (Malawi):** “Exploring knowledge and practices of Covid 19 preventive measures among secondary school teachers in public schools within Lilongwe City, Malawi”

**Elizabeth Kemigisha (Uganda):** “Voices of young adolescents in schools regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and prevention measures: A qualitative study in South Western Uganda using a mail box technique”

**Polyphile Nthihinyurwa (Rwanda):** “Cascade training for medical residents in Rwanda following a MicroResearch workshop” – *Selected as 1<sup>st</sup> place 5-minute presentation*

**Sifora Fanta Chaleabo (Kenya):** “Lab SOPs: Perceived factors influencing adherence to standard operating procedures among laboratory personnel” – *Selected as a runner-up for best presentation*

**Calorine Natuhwera (Uganda):** “Knowledge, experiences, challenges faced by adolescents with disabilities in handling menstruation and forms of support by caregivers in Mbarara District, Uganda”

**Elizabeth Kemigisha (Uganda):** “Evaluation of a short menstrual hygiene training among adolescent girls in Nakivale refugee settlement” – *Selected as 1<sup>st</sup> place 10-minute presentation*

**Catherine Abaasa (Uganda):** “Healthcare providers’ and caregivers’ perspectives on malnutrition of children aged 0-59 months” – *Selected as a runner-up for best presentation*

**Janeth Bulemala (Tanzania):** “Exclusive Breastfeeding: Assessment of attitudes among mothers attending Ifakara Reproductive & Child Clinic”

**Next steps:** The forum evaluation and comments from participants indicate that ongoing dialogue around these themes and issues is needed. The creation of working groups for further discussion was one outcome from this forum. A need for topic-specific networks was also identified to foster more networking between institutions and different countries. Finally, many participants indicated the need for more regular forums to be able to network and share research findings. Another forum is being planned for the following year.



We thank the following for their support

**Primary Partners:**



<p><b><i>Private Donations</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Other Sponsors and Supporters</i></b></p> <p>Africare</p> <p>BC Women's and Children's Hospital &amp; Foundation, Canada</p> <p>Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Kigali, Rwanda</p> <p>Chitwan Medical College, Bharatpur, Nepal</p> <p>Ethiopia-Canada</p> <p>Gertrude Children's Hospital, Kenya</p> <p>Global Health Research Initiative (GHRI)</p> <p>Healthy Child Uganda</p> <p>International Development Research Centre, Canada (IDRC)</p> <p>Kabarack University, Kenya</p> <p>Makerere University, Uganda</p> <p>Maternal, Newborn, Child Health Institute, MUST, Uganda</p> <p>Mbarara University of Science &amp; Technology (MUST), Uganda</p> <p>McGill University, Canada</p> <p>Mildmay Uganda</p>	<p>Montreal Children's Hospital, Canada</p> <p>Nairobi Hospital, Kenya</p> <p>Process Pathways Inc., Canada</p> <p>Rotary Clubs from Canada (Charlottetown, Kentville, and Halifax Harbourside)</p> <p>Rotary Clubs from Uganda (Mbarara)</p> <p>Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada</p> <p>St Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College, Ethiopia</p> <p>Tanzanian Training Centre for International Health (TTCIH)</p> <p>University of Alberta, Canada</p> <p>University of Calgary, Canada</p> <p>University of Malawi, Malawi</p> <p>University of Nairobi, Kenya</p> <p><b><i>Endorsements from:</i></b></p> <p>Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS)</p> <p>Society of Obstetricians &amp; Gynecologists of Canada (SOGC)</p> <p>Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist Program (CCHCSP)</p>
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**Special thanks to the many Academics Without Borders (AWB) volunteers who contributed their time and funds to the success of MicroResearch**