

Our First Writing Workshop Considered a Success!

The Catholic University of Health Allied Sciences (CUHAS) in Tanzania and Mbarara University of Science Technology (MUST) in Uganda with the University of Calgary received a major grant to develop qualitative research capacity at CUHAS and MUST.



Five teams, with 4-5 investigators from various specialties (nursing, medicine, nutrition, social science) were created as part of this project. Each team developed a research question around the topic area relevant to implementation of the larger "Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa" (Mama na Mtoto) in Tanzania and Uganda. The format was based on the MicroResearch format, with each team being assigned a coach mentor from the University of Calgary.

In May 2019, MicroResearch was invited to develop and deliver a Writing Workshop to help teams to prepare their final manuscripts. The Writing Workshop expanded on the writing and publication module in the MicroResearch workshops, with the objective of helping each team prepare a publication.

The workshop was received with positive feedback and participants felt that they learned new skills including the technical aspects of writing and the importance of specific writing and research tools and resources.

Thank you teachers, coaches, organizers, and reviewers for 2019

Ailie Clegorn	Jeanette Comeau
Anca Matai	Joy Mugambi
Andrew Lynk	Kabakyenga Jerome
Barabara Hamilton-Hinch	Margret Srimia
Barbara Mukasa	Mary Vander Wal
Beatrice Katusiime	Moses Thiga
Beth Cummings*	Nakalema Gladys
Bob Bortolussi*	Nixon Kamukama
Catherine Abaasa	Noni MacDonald*
Christopher Ddamulira	Nyakato Viola
Christopher Mukama	Olaro Charles
Semei	Pamela Kimeto
Edith Akankwasa	Pheona Businge
Eunice Ndyareeba	Purity Langat-Kinyua
Eve Dube	Richard Wanyama
Felix Manirakiza	Samuel Maling
Florence Bienempaka	Samuel Van Steirghem
Francis Oriokot	Sara Kirk
Geoffrey Wechuli	Scholastic Ashaba
Gertrude Kiwanuka	Shawna O'Hearn*
Harriet Chemusto	Stephanie Onguka
Heather Cockwell	Susan Nakubulwa
Heather Onyett	Sylvia Noah
Ilona Hale	Teddy Kyomuhangi
Imelda Tamwesigire	Tommy Chou
Jane Frank Nalubega	Tumuhimbise
Janice Graham*	Manasseh
Janna MacLachlan	Vincent Batwala
	Wesley Bor
	Yvonne Karamagi

* Academics Without Borders Volunteers

MicroResearch Writing Skills Curriculum

The MicroResearch Curriculum now includes several new modules on Writing Skills to improve academic publishing. These are incredibly valuable in learning the critical skills to become successful. MicroResearch is very much indebted to Dr. Stephanie Onguka from Kabarak University in Kenya, who developed the eight modules.

Also check out Dr. Onguka's recent publication on the role of MicroResearch in postgraduate medical education in the *Journal of Graduate Medical Education*:



Dr. Stephanie Onguka

Stephanie Onguka and Geoffrey M. Wechuli (2019) Postgraduate Research Methods Instruction in Africa: A MicroResearch Approach to the Postgraduate Thesis. *Journal of Graduate Medical Education*: August 2019, Vol. 11, No. 4s, pp. 197-199. <https://doi.org/10.4300/JGME-D-18-00991>



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2019

RECENT WORKSHOPS

Topic 1: Issues related to burnout among Family Medicine residents in Kenya

Topic 2: Knowledge, attitudes and self-reported cervical cancer screening practices among female clinicians in Kiambu county

Topic 3: Factors that affect adherence to Standard Operating Procedures among laboratory personnel

Topic 4: The double burden of malnutrition among the under 5 school going children

Topic 5: Nutritional knowledge levels of mothers on recommended child feeding practices

Topic 6: Nutritional Status of adults with Pulmonary Tuberculosis and HIV co-infection

"Africa is a continent where research is needed. I hope to see this workshop in more African countries. The demand is high, please keep on coming"

-MR Participant, KABU 2019

Kabarak University, Kenya May, 2019



A formal evaluation of the MicroResearch workshops for post-graduate students at Kabarak University was conducted in October, 2019 by Team-Based Learning consultants Jim Sibley and Amanda Bradley. A full evaluative report of the workshops is expected in the coming months.

Mildmay, Uganda May, 2019



Team 1: Influencing factors for hepatitis B infection among women of reproductive age in refugee settlements

Team 2: Hypertension management among adults living with HIV accessing care

Team 3: Does assisted partner notification improve HIV testing uptake among men?

Team 4: Engaging community to reduce prolonged stay in intensive adherence counseling clinic for ART-treated adolescents

MicroResearch is happy to have fostered a relationship with Mildmay Uganda. Mildmay Uganda was established in 1998 as a Centre of Excellence for provision of comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention, care, treatment, and training services. They are committed to and have excelled at transforming communities for sustainable health. As part of their strategic plan, Mildmay Uganda is keen on growing their research capacity, especially community focused research.

Dr. Olaro Charles, Director of Clinical Services, Ministry of Health Uganda came as a distinguished guest to the final day of the workshop. He listened to the team presentations and handed out the MicroResearch certificates. In his remarks, he noted the valuable role of Mildmay Uganda. He appreciated the quality of trainees that Mildmay Uganda produces and their care for HIV patients. All too often when he is at an international meeting, he hears research from Uganda that the Ministry does not know about and the presentations are not given by Ugandans. He is keen on the MicroResearch concept – local solutions for local problems that fit the culture, context and resources and lead by local Ugandans.

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Family Planning among refugees in Uganda



With connections to MicroResearch, a research team from Mildmay Uganda was able to secure grants from Grand Challenges Canada to fund their research, with MicroResearch contributors Drs. Noni MacDonald, Bob Bortolussi, and Janice Graham as collaborators.

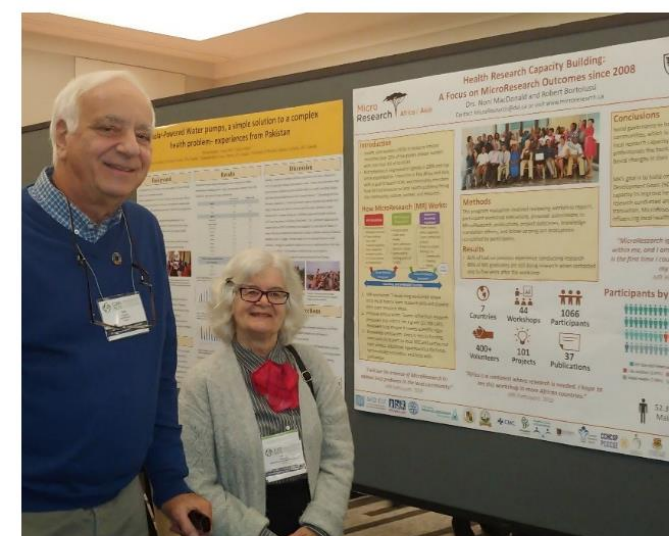
The main objectives of the study was to implement the Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS) innovation and demonstrate increased use of sexual reproductive health and family planning services among these poor and marginalized refugees living in urban centers of the low-or-middle-income countries (LMICs), such as Kampala, Uganda. GALS is a gender based, community-led, empowerment approach that uses participatory processes for community health workers to deliver sexual reproductive health and family planning services to their community.

A full report on the study's findings will be available soon.



Harriet Chemusto presenting her team's poster

Canadian Conference on Global Health in Ottawa, ON



Bob Bortolussi and Noni MacDonald

Ms. Harriet Chemusto, an epidemiologist from Mildmay Uganda and the PI of the Grand Challenges project, had the opportunity to come to Canada in October to present the study at the Canadian Conference on Global Health in Ottawa, alongside Dr. Janice Graham. Also presented at the conference was a poster by Bob Bortolussi and Noni MacDonald highlighting the successes of the MicroResearch program over the past 11 years and a presentation by Rania Fashir and other MicroResearch collaborators on an evaluation of research ethics committee practices on minimal-risk research in Eastern Africa.

Ms. Chemusto finished her trip to Canada with a one-week stay in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where she was able to meet with key global health researchers and MicroResearch volunteers and partners.

MicroResearch Africa meets MicroResearch Nova Scotia



On his recent trip to Nova Scotia, Canada, Dr. Godfrey Zari Rukundo, a psychiatrist and former MicroResearch participant from Uganda, had the opportunity to sit in on a MicroResearch Nova Scotia workshop being done at the Dartmouth General Hospital.

Meeting an MR graduate who has successfully completed multiple community health projects through the program was an inspiration and motivation for Nova Scotia participants.

Dr. Rukundo is currently developing a MicroResearch curriculum specifically for undergraduate students the Mbarara University of Science and Technology.

He is pictured here with a MicroResearch Nova Scotia participant Lila Pavey, who works as a health promoter in Halifax and has experience working in health promotion in Botswana.

Recent Publication

Kanyesigye H, Muhwezi O, Kazungu C, Kemigisha E, Woolcott C. (2019). Will district health centres use preloaded cell phones for pre-referral phone calls for women in labour: a randomized pilot study at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital in southwest Uganda. *Canadian Journal of Public Health*, pp. 1-3. DOI: 10.17269/s41997-019-00222-3

Adverse maternal-fetal outcomes in developing countries are primarily related to three delays: time to decision to seek health care, access to health services, and timely intervention at the health facility (Pacagnella et al. 2014; Thaddeus and Maine 1994). Given the high mortality rates in Uganda, there is a big need for improvement. Cell phone technology has been used in other African settings to potentially improve maternity care and referral systems. However, these interventions have centred on providing pregnant women with cell phones, an expensive intervention. Resources for such a large scale intervention are not readily available in our setting in southwest Uganda. We therefore piloted a more modest intervention, providing a mobile phone and recharged credit to the local health centre for the purpose of a pre-referral phone call to a dedicated number at the major regional referral hospital. The main objective of this pilot study was to assess whether health centres given SIM cards and cell phones would make pre-referral phone calls.



Noni MacDonald: Recipient of CSHH Lifetime Achievement Award



Shawna O'Hearn (Co-chair of CSHH), Noni MacDonald, and Bob Bortolussi at the CSHH Canadian Conference on Global Health, Oct 2019

A huge congratulations goes out to MicroResearch co-founder Noni MacDonald for receiving the 2019 Canadian Society for International Health Lifetime Achievement Award. Noni's dedication to improving health globally is evident in her involvement in MicroResearch, the World Health Organization, health research, and teaching. This award recognizes her passion and her contribution to global health throughout her remarkable career.

NEWS

MicroResearch International's Strategic Plan is ending in 2020. Stay tuned for our new plan, to be developed later this year.

For information about upcoming workshops, visit:
<http://www.microresearch.ca/workshops>

A special shout-out to new funders: Rotary International

MicroResearch would like to say a big thank you to the Rotary Clubs of Nova Scotia, PEI, and Mbarara, Uganda for their support for the MicroResearch projects from the Mbarara University of Science and Technology. Three projects have recently received full approval from MicroResearch, on topics ranging from self-medication among breastfeeding women, to menstrual issues among adolescents with disabilities. Thank you to the Rotary Clubs for ensuring these innovative and important studies get funded.



As always, we are grateful for all our funders and partners!

Academics Without Borders (AWB)
Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientists Program
Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS)
Chitwan Medical College, Nepal
Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation
Dalhousie University
Healthy Child Uganda
IWK Health Centre
Kabarak University & Affiliated Teaching Hospitals for
Family Medicine Residency, Kenya
Kigali University Teaching Hospital (CHUK), Rwanda

Maternal Newborn Child Health Institute (MNCHI), Uganda
Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda
Mildmay Uganda
McGill University
Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation
Nairobi Hospital, Kenya
Rotary Clubs of Nova Scotia, PEI, and Uganda
Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada
University of Calgary
Individual contributions from: Bob Bortolussi, Noni MacDonald & Shawna O'Hearn

Please consider making a donation, visit <http://www.microresearch.ca/donate> for more information.