

MicroResearch Virtual Forum - June 23-24, 2021



MicroResearch Forum in Nairobi, Kenya - 2013

MicroResearch had previously hosted two forums in 2013, one in Kampala, Uganda and one in Nairobi, Kenya. These forums helped MR researchers share their findings connect with one another, leading to future collaborations. We will be hosting two forums in the coming years, with the first being held virtually from June 23-24, 2021 (starting at 11am, East African Time).

Project presentations: Presentations from select MR projects. Please apply to MR if interested in presenting your research.

Educational theme: Panel talks from guest speakers focusing on the themes of knowledge translation, research ethics, and creating a culture of inquiry.

Planning for the future: Focus group discussions to get participant feedback on the future of MR.

For more information on the forum or to register to attend, please contact MicroResearch@dal.ca.

Please help us plan MicroResearch's future by completing our anonymous survey:
<https://forms.gle/JHxdpitq6mMN77jK8>

MicroResearch Strategic Thinking Meeting

The last MR Strategic Planning was completed in 2015 after a face to face meeting in Toronto, involving MR leaders from Africa and Canada, as well as NGO representatives. Our goal of developing a new strategic plan in 2020 was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We now plan to hold a Strategic Thinking meeting in November, with a mix of in-person and virtual participants. The focus will primarily be on: sustainability, accessibility, and flexibility of the program. The Strategic Thinking approach differs from traditional strategic plans as it focuses on innovative and reflective ideas from a "bottom-up" approach.



MicroResearch Strategic Planning Meeting in Toronto - 2014

Hats off to all the MR reviewers, coaches, teachers, advisory committee members, and volunteers from the past 6 months!

Anchilla Banegura
Anna MacDonald
Apsa Selemani
Asasira Shinah
Audrey Steenbeek
Barbara Hamilton-Hinch
Beatrice Katusiime
Beth Cummings
Biniam Getachew
Bob Bortolussi
Bob Faque
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Stephanie Onguka
Susan Campisi
Susan Nakubulwa
Teddy Kyomuhangi
Tony Otley
Towela Maleta
Viola Nyakato
Violette Nabatte
William Wasswa
Winnie Chilemba

IMPORTANT DEADLINE!

MicroResearch
International grant
application deadline:
November 1, 2021



Connect With Us!

Web: www.microresearch.ca

Twitter: @MRinAfrica

Email: MicroResearch@dal.ca

We have a new social media coordinator for MicroResearch International! Doreen Ainembabazi will be running our accounts from our hub site in Mbarara, Uganda.

New MicroResearch Workshops

With ongoing limitations for international travel, our team has been looking for new, innovative ways to offer the MicroResearch program. By moving the program to a virtual platform, MicroResearch has been able to connect with sites across the world and conduct workshops via videoconference.

MicroResearch Train the Trainer Seminars



Train the Trainer for Mangochi, Malawi - Feb 2021

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

- MR Train the Trainer participant

The Train the Trainer Seminars are designed to help familiarize future coaches, co-teachers, and site leaders with the MR program and curriculum. These sessions are held both for new sites who want to learn more about MR and for existing sites who want to see what a virtual workshop looks like.

Holding these training sessions virtually has also allowed MR to invite guests from Canada and the UK.

February, 2021 - Mangochi, Malawi

March, 2021 - Mbarara, Uganda

April, 2021 - Georgetown, Guyana

May, 2021 - Mildmay Uganda, with guests from Tamil Nadu, India

MicroResearch Writing Workshops



Writing Workshop - Nov, 2020

"I am now confident to write because I feel I know what to do in each section of the manuscript. Thank you for your support."

- MR Writing Workshop participant

The 3-day MR Writing Workshops is a new program designed to help participants who have research data that they have analyzed and are ready to write up. By working in smaller groups with coach mentors, each person was able to identify their gold nugget and to start forming the backbone of their paper.

November, 2020: 10 participants from Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, and Guyana.

February 2021: 10 participants from Mbarara, Uganda.

"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."

- MR Writing Workshop participant

Kabarak University - November 2020

The MR Workshop at Kabarak University (KABU) was primarily planned and led by the Department of Family Medicine, with guest lecturers attending virtually from MicroResearch Canada. This was the seventh workshop held at KABU and the fourth workshop specifically held for family medicine residents to aid them in the preparation of their research theses.

The workshops for medical residents at KABU is similar to the traditional MR workshops, with much of the same educational content and exercises. Unlike in traditional MR workshops, participants are not separated into teams, instead they work individually. Thirteen participants attended the virtual workshop, each developing their own research topic.

Traditional MicroResearch Workshops

MicroResearch Workshop Mangochi, Malawi - February, 2021

The workshops in Mangochi are facilitated by the College of Medicine at the University of Malawi and are funded by a grant from the Fogarty Foundation.



Team 1: Investigating knowledge on birth preparedness among pregnant mothers in Mangochi District

Team 2: Exploring adherence to newly introduced oral drugs for TB drug-resistant patients

Team 3: Stigma associated with COVID-19 among health workers in Mangochi District, Malawi

Team 4: Factors contributing to birth asphyxia at Mangochi District Hospital, Malawi

Team 5: Exploring the literacy levels among secondary school teachers on COVID-19 related symptoms in public schools, Lilongwe city, Malawi

"My attitude towards research [changed]. I always saw research as a challenging task, difficult to accomplish. But now, I have the knowledge and will be able to carry it out in a team or as an individual."

- MR Participant from Mangochi, Malawi



MicroResearch Workshop Mbarara, Uganda - April, 2021

Since the MicroResearch workshop for the hub site in Mbarara was done virtually this year, we were able to expand our participant list to other locations around Uganda. Each of the five teams were represented by a different Ugandan institution: Makerere University Business School, Gulu Referral Hospital, Mbarara University of Science and Technology/ Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital, Kabale University, and Kampala International University.

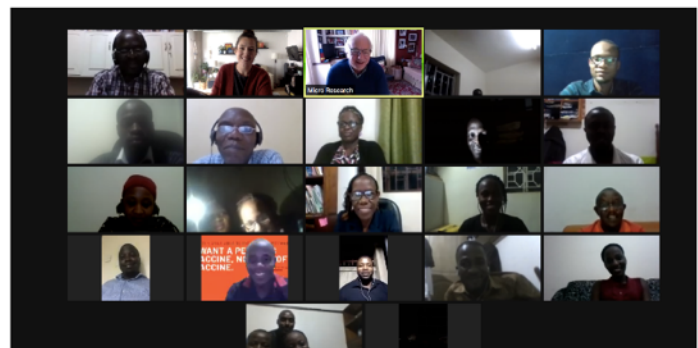
Team 1 (Makerere University): Economic justification for community-based health insurance in Luweero District: A case of Save for Health Uganda

Team 2 (Gulu Hospital): Functionality of ambulance referral services for maternity deliveries in the Acholi sub-region, Uganda

Team 3 (Mbarara University of Science and Technology): Male involvement in Menstruation and Menstrual Health and Hygiene in Southwestern Uganda: A case for Insingiro District

Team 4 (Kabale University): An explorative study on healthcare workers' experiences during COVID-19 lockdown on maternal attendance at antenatal care clinics in Kabale, Uganda

Team 5 (Kampala International University): Factors associated with relapse among patients with severe mental illnesses seeking care at Kampala International University Teaching Hospital mental health clinic



"I have learned how to always improve on what I do, I mean not to always stop at identifying different problems but go ahead and do something to see the situation."

- MR MUST participant

MicroResearch around the World

When the MicroResearch concept was developed in 2008, it began as a small program offered only at the Mbarara University of Science and Technology in Mbarara, Uganda. Thirteen years later, MicroResearch has expanded in one way or another to eleven countries across four continents.

MicroResearch Canada

In 2016, MicroResearch was brought to Nova Scotia, the province where the main MicroResearch site is located. Over the years we have trained more than a hundred participants using the same model as MicroResearch International. As workshops have moved to a virtual platform, MicroResearch is happily expanding to other parts of the country, involving teams in British Columbia and Newfoundland.

For more information on the MicroResearch Nova Scotia/Canada program, visit www.microresearch-international.ca.



MicroResearch NS workshop class - 2017



"The training was so wonderful and my research knowledge has greatly improved."

- MR Participant from Mangochi, Malawi

MicroResearch in the United States

Based off the MicroResearch concept, a group of health care workers have implemented a research education program in rural United States. The program targets medical students and residents to introduce them to community-based health research and to familiarize themselves with community health issues that are unique to rural Americans living in poverty.

For more information on the program, please see their article: Glenn, L.E., Simon, L., Smith, V.S., Longenecker, R.L., Schmitz, D., & Patterson, D.G. (2020). Microresearch: Promoting Scholarly Activity That Addresses Health Disparities in Rural Health Professional Education Programs. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Under.* DOI: 10.1353/hpu.2020.0133

Teddy Kyomuhangi nominated to the Canadian Global Health Organization's Transition Committee

We are pleased to offer our congratulations to our colleague Teddy Kyomuhangi from Mbarara, Uganda on being nominated to the new Canadian Global Health Organization's Transition Committee! Teddy has been an indispensable partner to MicroResearch, helping to manage the MR hub site in Mbarara. Her input and feedback from an African perspective will be invaluable in the transition of this amalgamated Canadian global health organization.



Teddy Kyomuhangi

Thank you to all our partners and supporters!



Academics Without Borders (AWB)
Canadian Child Health Clinical Scientists Program
Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS)
Chitwan Medical College, Nepal
Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation
Dalhousie University Research and Innovation
Dalhousie University Faculty of Medicine
Healthy Child Uganda
IWK Health
Kabarak University, Kenya

Kigali University Teaching Hospital, Rwanda
Maternal Newborn Child Health Institute (MNCHI), Uganda
McGill University
Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation
Nairobi Hospital, Kenya
Rotary Clubs of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Uganda
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada
Society of Obstetrics and Gynecologists of Canada
University of Calgary
University of Malawi - College of Medicine

**Please consider donating your time or resources,
visit www.microresearch.ca for more information.**