



Upcoming Event: MicroResearch Virtual Forum June 6 & 7, 2022



With support from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, the 2021 Virtual Forum was a fantastic success. We are now planning for the 2022 Virtual Forum on June 6 and 7.

The virtual event will be held via Zoom and will include both presentations from MR teams, as well as educational components and panel discussions.

This year's themes will include: networking, storytelling, and the democratization and decolonization of research.

The MR forum is a great opportunity for people to connect with other researcher, both locally and internationally, sharing current and prospective projects.

To register as a participant at the forum, visit shorturl.at/bFV45 or contact kelly.hunter@iwk.nshealth.ca. If you are interested in presenting your MR research project, please contact us!

New Publication: MicroResearch Approach for HIV-Training in Uganda

Wakida EK, Rukundo GZ, Atuhaire C, Karungi CK, Kumakech E, Haberer JE, Talib ZM, Obua C. **Perceptions of Undergraduates and Mentors on the Appropriateness, Acceptability, and Feasibility of the HEPI-TUITAH Micro-Research Approach to HIV Training in Uganda.** *Advances in Medical Education and Practice*. 2022 Apr 15;13:323-35. DOI:[10.2147/AMEPS359777](https://doi.org/10.2147/AMEPS359777)

Purpose: To evaluate the perceptions of undergraduates and mentors on the appropriateness, acceptability, and feasibility of a mentored seed-grant (micro-research) by Health Professions Education Partnership Initiative - Transforming Ugandan Institutions Training Against HIV/AIDS (HEPI-TUITAH) program on HIV training in Uganda.

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional descriptive qualitative study with focus groups, on HIV micro-research training, with undergraduate health professions students and faculty mentors across three partner institutions in rural Uganda.

Conclusion: The HEPI-TUITAH micro-research program was perceived as acceptable, appropriate, and feasible for health professions undergraduate students. It also promoted teamwork and academic collaboration. Provision for institution-based micro-research training activities and data collection experiences for the undergraduate students even during the COVID-19 pandemic would make the program more valuable. The lessons learnt will be applied to future training cohorts to optimize program impact and may be useful for similar programs in other settings.

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

Anchilla Banegura
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Corrie Young
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Tony Otley
Towela Maleta
William Wasswa

IMPORTANT DEADLINE!

MicroResearch
International grant
application deadline:
May 1, 2022



Connect With Us!

Web: www.microresearch.ca

Twitter: @MRinAfrica

Email: MicroResearch@dal.ca

MicroResearch Strategic Doing

MR has engaged in strategic planning in the past, which has paved the way for an expansion in both Africa and internationally. The program has grown and evolved over time and is now at a pivotal point where its sustainability and educational focus require strategic direction for the next phase of growth. A Strategic Doing exercise, completed in November, 2021, involved about 100 active participation from stakeholders in numerous countries, with approximately 2/3 from Africa. This process resulted in a dozen potential action items related to sustainability and education. These actions were streamlined into four priority areas – *the four A's*.



Awareness

- Web development
- Enhanced KT
- Regional forums
- Leverage stakeholders as promoters
- Participate in existing conferences and events



Alumni

- Establish a network of advocates
- Share best practices
- Share stories



Administration

- Operational support offices:
 - Support regions
 - Share resources
 - Promote MR



Access Funding

- Engage broader stakeholder groups
- Incorporate MR into larger projects
- Grow local site and national funding for MR

"Strategic Doing" In Progress

MicroResearch Website and Communications

As part of the Strategic Doing recommendations and an effort to increase awareness and promotion of the program, MicroResearch is launching a communications consultation, rebranding, and redevelopment of its public and private curriculum websites.

The website, particularly the private curriculum site, has become an integral aspect of MicroResearch as the program shifted to a virtual format. Participants and volunteer coaches and teachers can access the curriculum site to retrieve workshop PowerPoints, supporting materials and journal articles, relevant research toolkits, and short educational modules.

The intention in redesigning the website is to make the materials more accessible for participants and allow them to take advantage of the sheer amount of knowledge and resources available to help them in their research journey. Stay tuned for a beta-version of our new and improved website, coming in the fall 2022!



Storytelling: Sharing Successes



Sharing experiences and telling stories is an excellent way to reach people and raise awareness of how MicroResearch can change lives. Hosted by the team in Mbarara, Uganda, several "Storytelling" educational sessions were held this winter to teach other MicroResearchers in Africa how to successfully produce short-form videos telling their stories. This storytelling initiative fits within the Strategic Doing goal of increasing MR alumni networks and improving awareness.

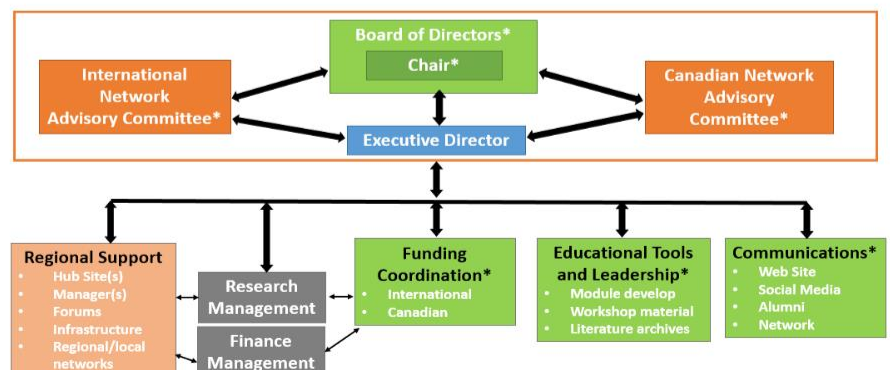
So far three videos have been developed, with more to come. To view the videos, visit www.microresearch.ca/storiespeople. The stories are also posted for the public on MicroResearch's YouTube channel: MicroResearch International.

New MicroResearch Organizational Structure

Alongside the Strategic Doing initiatives is the overarching necessity to restructure how the MicroResearch program is organized and how the different actors connect and work together. The major changes involve the creation of a Board of Directors and a Chair to oversee the new role of Executive Director, which has been filled by MR Coordinator Kelly Hunter.

These structural changes will pave the way for new leadership and strengthen working relationships between regional hubs and the main MR site in Canada.

MicroResearch Network and Organizational Chart



* Academic Faculty Board members involved in key leadership roles

Other recent MicroResearch publications to check out:

Taremwu et al. BMC Public Health (2022) 22:372
https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-022-12771-3

BMC Public Health

RESEARCH

Open Access

Treatment-seeking and uptake of malaria prevention strategies among pregnant women and caregivers of children under-five years during COVID-19 pandemic in rural communities in South West Uganda: a qualitative study

Ivan Mugisha Taremwu^{1*}, Scholastic Ashaba², Rose Kyaristima², Caritona Ayeabazibwe¹, Ruth Ninsima³ and Cristina Mattison⁴

Treatment-seeking and update of malaria prevention strategies among pregnant women and caregivers of children under-five years during COVID-19 pandemic in rural communities in South West Uganda

Background: Despite efforts to avert the negative effects of malaria, there remain barriers to the uptake of prevention measures, and these have hindered its eradication. This study explored the factors that influence uptake of malaria prevention strategies among pregnant women and children under-five years and the impact of COVID-19 in a malaria endemic rural district in Uganda.

DOI: [10.1186/s12889-022-12771-3](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-022-12771-3)

Feeding experiences of HIV-Exposed preterm infants among mothers living with HIV in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Background: Providing adequate nutrition to preterm infants who are born to HIV-positive mothers is more challenging due to the mother's underlying health and nutrition status. This study aimed to explore the experience of HIV-positive mothers' feeding practice of their preterm infants, and health workers to identify barriers and facilitators of feeding HIV-exposed preterm infants.

DOI: [10.2147/HIV.S333537](https://doi.org/10.2147/HIV.S333537)

HIV/AIDS - Research and Palliative Care

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ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Feeding Experiences of HIV-Exposed Preterm Infants Among Mothers Living with HIV in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: A Qualitative Study

Bianiam Getachew, Semaria Solomon, Blem Teshome Ramet, Tirumebet Mezgebu, Demelash Bezabih Ewnetu, Noni MacDonald

International Journal of Africa Nursing Sciences 15 (2021) 100335



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The role of community health nursing in identifying needs of women and children under five in Katete, Mbarara-Uganda

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The role of community health nursing in identifying needs of women and children under five in Katete, Mbarara-Uganda

Background: Globally, women and children are vulnerable to life-threatening conditions that are preventable. Although, Uganda has over the years recorded a steady decline in under-five and maternal mortality, little progress is observed. Community health nursing is key in improving the well-being of women and children in communities. The aim of this study was to describe the role of community health nursing in identifying the health needs of women and children under-five years.

DOI: [10.1016/j.ijans.2021.100335](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijans.2021.100335)

Upcoming MicroResearch Workshops 2022:

Kabarak University, Kenya
Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda
Mildmay Uganda
Georgetown Regional Referral Hospital, Guyana
Amar Seva Sangam (ASSA), India

"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 Participant from Uganda

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University of Calgary
University of Malawi - College of Medicine

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