

TDRfellows Newsletter: Issue 10 October 2013

Welcome to the 10th issue of the TDRf website newsletter.

Dear Fellow,

Welcome to the 10th issue of the TDRf newsletter. I hope that each of the new fellows are settling into their placements.

Conference season is in full swing and I'm sure that many of you have attended one of the many international scientific meetings that have taken place already or due in the coming weeks. The Global Health Network and TDR both had a presence at MIM and were due to attend the EDCTP Forum in Dakar until it was unfortunately cancelled. Although I will not be attending the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene annual meeting (November 13 – 17th) my colleagues from The Global Health Network will be operating a booth in the marketplace. Please let me know if you are attending and please pass by

the booth and say hello, they are very friendly and it's always a pleasure for any of the team to catch up with TDR fellows.

If you are attending a scientific conference or meeting please make sure to inform the rest of the TDRf community on the website as others from the may be attending the same meeting:

<http://tdrfellows.tghn.org/community/>

If you have attended a conference or meeting please remember to log on and complete a conference report so others can gain from your experience:

<http://tdrfellows.tghn.org/conference-reports/>

Best wishes,

Liam

Fellow's Biosketch



Name: Takudzwa Mtisi BSc MSc

Home institution: National Microbiology Ref Lab Harare Central Hospital Harare, Zimbabwe

Host institution: African Institute of Biomedical Science & Technology, Zimbabwe

I hold a Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Sciences (Honours) Degree (2006) an MSc degree in Medical Microbiology (2011) from the University of Zimbabwe.

I have a broad background in Medical Laboratory Sciences and have been primarily employed by the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare under several Public Health programmes involved in outbreak response and surveillance for public health bacteriology laboratories throughout the country. In addition under the AIDS International Training and Research Programme at the University at Buffalo, The State University of New York (UZ-UB AITRP), I have received specific training and expertise in HIV clinical pharmacology and implementation science, namely HIV Molecular Biology and Laboratory Quality Systems. My home institution is the National Microbiology Reference Laboratory where I am employed as a Medical Laboratory Scientist under the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare/Global Fund Early Infant Diagnosis of HIV program.

I am also tasked as a Quality Officer to develop and implement a Quality Management System for the Laboratory. As a World Health Organisation-Tropical Disease Research (WHO-TDR) fellow at the African Institute of Biomedical Science and Technology (AiBST), I am expanding my research of communicable diseases of poverty in particular HIV and TB as a PhD student with the University of Zimbabwe (UZ) under the title “**Characterisation, correlates and responses to Tenofovir (TDF) containing ART among HIV1 subtype C infected adults attending an OIC in Zimbabwe-a longitudinal study assessing the role of the laboratory in ART surveillance systems.**” I am also tasked with developing and implementing a Laboratory Quality Management System (ISO 15189) for the Laboratory in preparation in order to view the laboratory’s vision to carry out Clinical trials .

Based on my experience in clinical research training programs and global health and research capacity development, I am well suited to participate as a mentor for the proposed Research Training Program.

Six Month Progress Reports now available on-line



Name: Nouhoum Ouologuem

Home institution: Hospital of Mali Missabougou, Mali

Host institution: MMV, Switzerland

WHO/TDR REPORT ON TRAINING AT Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) AND CARDIABASE

02th MARCH - 03th SEPTEMBER 2013

First 6 months WHO/TDR Career Development Fellowship Training:

[Click here to read the full report](#)



Name: Ari Prayitno,

Home institution: CiptoMangunkusumo Hosp Faculty of Medicine Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Host institution: Sanofi Aventis, Singapore

WHO/TDR REPORT ON TRAINING AT SANOFI PASTEUR

4TH MARCH - 4TH SEPTEMBER 2013

First 6 months WHO/TDR Career Development Fellowship Training:

[Click here to read the full report](#)



Name: Takudzwa Mtisi BSc MSc

Home institution: National Microbiology Ref Lab Harare Central Hospital Harare, Zimbabwe

Host institution: African Institute of Biomedical Science & Technology, Zimbabwe

WHO/TDR REPORT ON TRAINING AT AIBST

1ST MARCH - 30TH SEPTEMBER 2013

First 6 months WHO/TDR Career Development Fellowship Training:

[Click here to read the full report](#)

Post CDF Training: challenges and hopes



Name: Eric Some

Home institution: Centre de Recherche International en Santé, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Host institution: Astellas, USA

I am Eric SOME a 2011 WHO/TDR fellow. I was hosted at Pfizer, USA in the malaria development team. The full year spent observing a big pharma company was a great experience. Apart from the work experience, it has been an important time to socialize and learn from a new culture.

If I had to retake this experience, what would I like to do otherwise or to do better?

First of all, I would have loved to discuss with my supervisor on my fellowship intermediate and final objectives accompanied by a kind of road map to evaluate each step. Then, I would have negotiated more involvement in the company life and the team works with more responsibility taking. From the first day, I would have started building my post fellowship research agenda and sharing my ideas with my supervisor and other colleagues to get useful feedback.

Lastly, I would have thought of actively creating and keeping a contacts book that may show very helpful once back home. Enlarging the ground of my scientific relationships would occupy an important place in my fellowship objectives.

How was my experience at Pfizer?

I enjoyed a lot staying for one full year in Groton Connecticut USA with Pfizer colleagues. This experience contributed a lot to improve my English practice both written and spoken. I joined two Toastmaster clubs for this purpose and the results were unexpected! I made tremendous progresses in English knowledge. I even obtained a certificate of competent communicator. I shall not mention the great number of great friends I met at Toastmasters' meeting! Thanks to Pfizer and toastmaster clubs' colleague, we incorporated a charity to sustain education in Burkina Faso, one of the least literate

countries in the world.

Any Challenges upon return home?

To tell the truth, I did not face per se any big challenge upon my return back home. A few weeks before the flight back home, I was notified of my selection for a research grant by our regional economic organization called UEMOA. I am currently working on this project. Two months later, I was again notified that I was selected as a PhD candidate at the University of Bergen. I currently embarked in this PhD training in Norway. This experience is a bit similar to my experience in USA and it is an opportunity to catch up with all “misses” during my fellowship.

Challenges that are also my hopes have still to come. The main one is how to contribute to strengthen our neglected tropical diseases research team. Even if this topic is in fashion, it is still a big challenge to work in the field because it is never easy to truly innovate whatever the field and particularly when it comes to research in NTDs. From this derives a hard struggle to get funding and to deliver.

What can be the hopes?

WHO/TDR department and CDF colleagues remain one of my best hopes. The CDF experience should push further to take into account the return of the grantee so that to make easy their integration back considering the new skills acquired. This issue is well known for long by all the CDF stakeholders. Though, to date, there has actually been no satisfactory answer.

Another hope is the division of Burkina Faso ministry of education and research into two ministries, on which, one only dedicated to research and innovation. I hope this will boost our research through the creation of national research funds, capacity and infrastructure building and research personal motivation.

Thank you all!

I would like to thank all the TDR newsletter team, especially Liam for giving me the opportunity to share my experience with all CDF community. There is nothing exceptional in it. Though, I hope it is helpful for the current fellows and I wish the best to all of them. To the rest of the CDF community including the WHO organizing team and the partners, I would like to express my deep gratitude for the fellowship grant, the supervision, the lessons learned through interpersonal interactions.

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Conferences & Meetings

The TDRf fellows.org now includes a ‘Conferences and Meetings’ page where you will be kept up to date with relevant scientific gatherings from across the globe. This list of conferences and meetings will be continuously updated, however if you know of any meetings that should be included please let me know. Please follow the link below to access this information:

<http://tdrfellows.tghn.org/upcoming-conferences/>

It’s always valuable to share your experiences of conferences and meetings with the community. Whether you have attended a conference, presented a poster or given an oral presentation it would be great to hear from you. Conference and meeting reports can be uploaded directly the TDRf website using the following link: <http://tdrfellows.tghn.org/conference-reports/>

Funding opportunities and calls for applications

For Funding Opportunities and calls for applications please check out the Funding Opportunities discussion group: <http://tdrfellows.tghn.org/community/community/group/funding/>

There are several new funding opportunities listed including:

[RSTMH to invest £100,000 in 2013-14 grants programme for African researchers](#)

[Gates Foundation Competition for Designing Health Records](#)

[Health systems research initiative call 1: Providing evidence to strengthen health systems and improve health outcomes](#)

Global Traditional Medicine is now up and running

For those fellows who are interested there is a new network area for research involving Traditional medicines.

For millenia, humans have depended on medicinal plants to treat their ailments. Traditional medicine is still mainstream in many parts of the world today. Scientific investigations have taken several different approaches. **(1) Medical anthropology and ethnobotany** looks at which plants and other treatments people use, and how they are used.

(2) Phytochemistry looks at isolating and identifying the key compounds in the plant. Testing these involves **(3) plant pharmacology** leading to **(4) clinical trials** in humans. While doing these investigations, it is important to respect the **(5)**

Intellectual Property Rights of the traditional owners of the knowledge about the medicinal properties of plants, and to ensure that they receive a fair share of any benefits which may arise from commercial developments. This new network member area is organised around these five key areas, each of which is overseen by a separate expert panel. It brings together resources and posts of interest to the various interest groups, as well as describing the overall aims for each of the groups.

Read more about this area here:

www.globaltraditionalmedicine.tghn.org

Read about traditional medicine in global health research:

www.globaltraditionalmedicine.tghn.org/articles



The Global Health Network continues to grow

As of the 15th of September 2013, we are happy to report that the network continues to show strong interest and growth:

- Nearly 12,000 site memberships
- From over 170 countries/regions, including most low- and middle-income countries, and
- Over 155,000 visits to the network.

The Global Health Network was set up and is run on a core operational funding grant from:

BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation

Please remember that the TDRf website is an on-line community specifically for fellows, so if there is anything you would like to see included on the website please do not hesitate to let me know. In the meantime I will be in touch regarding bioskecths and articles for the next newsletter.

The Global Health Network (www.theglobalhealthnetwork.org)
Follow us on Twitter (@info_TGHN) and
on Facebook (www.facebook.com/TheGlobalHealthNetwork).