

## TDRfellows Newsletter: Issue 11 January 2014

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

Dear Fellow,

Happy new year and welcome to the 11<sup>th</sup> issue of the TDRf newsletter. I hope you have had a pleasant start to 2014 and I wish you a very successful and fruitful year ahead. By now you should have received a formal invitation to the TDRf 3rd Annual Alumni Meeting which is scheduled to take place on 19-20 March 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland. This is a fantastic event and the perfect opportunity to meet face to face with all the other fellows, those who are on placement and those who have already been through the process and furthering their career in research.

There will be a multitude of discussions including

placements and research and development but also plenty of opportunity to network with colleagues from across the globe.

Please remember to utilise the TDRf website to keep in touch before the meeting and to discuss any issues or requirements you may have. I will post information as and when it becomes available so that you are up to date with developments.

I look forward to meeting you in person in March.

Best wishes,

Liam

### TDRf Survey

At the alumni meeting in March there will be a presentation of the findings from the external review of the fellowship scheme that has taken place over the past few months. You may or may not have been involved with this process already but TDR would like to include further feedback from all of the fellows, especially as the new round of fellows would not have been included in the original evaluation. The objectives of this survey are to understand what TDR could do differently in the management of the Career Development Fellowship programme. The survey will help to give clear recommendations from all the fellows on how to successfully move forward and improve the fellowship for future participants.

Together with The Global Health Network TDR have compiled a short online survey consisting of nine questions across key areas of the fellowship. TDR would appreciate if all fellows could complete the survey before the meeting in March so that the results can be presented back you as a group. This survey will be available throughout February but will be closed in early March so that the feedback and findings can be compiled, analysed and presented at the meeting.

Please could you take a few minutes of your time to provide this valuable feedback. The survey can be accessed by clicking on the link below:

- Please click [here](#)

Alternatively, copy and past the following link into your browser:

- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HDTVXZ5>



**Name:** Magoma Mwanicha Kwasa

**Home institution:** Ministry of Medical Services, Nairobi, Kenya

**Host institution:** FIND, Switzerland

### Introduction

My name is Magoma Mwanicha-Kwasa from Kenya. The sixth child in a family of eight, I have grown up surrounded by family. We are six medics, and the other two siblings are lawyers. I love to laugh, and enjoy the company of others. I am very happily married, and God-willing, will soon start a family. I am driven by a culture of excellence, and I believe that if we say we are going to do something, we should actually do it, and do it well. And if we do it again next year, we should do it even better thanks to the lessons learnt this year.

### Background

I graduated from the University of Nairobi with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) and I work for the Ministry of Health in Kenya. I worked as a medical officer in government hospitals where I carried out daily ward rounds, patient procedures both in the wards and in theatre, in both the inpatient and outpatient departments, and worked with patients of all ages. In addition to this, there was supervision of interns, organizing continuous medical education programs and various administrative duties. Daily patient care, especially if you desire to work with a 'best practice' mindset, can be very frustrating if the necessary tools and equipment are unavailable. As in many developing countries, healthcare in Kenya is not where it should be. Recurrent strikes by health workers, outages of drugs and various diagnostics are but a few of the symptoms that led me to the conclusion that health care is a complex multilevel, multidisciplinary, and multifaceted industry. It is not as simple as 'swallow this pill'. As I started to look at healthcare not as the individual patient but as the whole system, I found my passion. Health Service Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, Research and Development became my new topics of interest. I applied to and was accepted at the University of London to pursue a Master of Public Health. At the same time, I was awarded as one of the WHO/TDR fellows for 2013/2014. I decided to defer the MPH and take this once in a lifetime opportunity, and acquire hands on training on global health.

### What you hope to achieve?

With the larger part of the fellowship already done, perhaps a better question would be 'what have I achieved?'

With my background, FIND has turned this clinician into a clinician researcher. I have been exposed to several things on the global level, such as the factors that influence WHO policy, pricing of diagnostics and drugs, factors that affect distribution and uptake of new diagnostics and drugs, and so on and so forth. On a regional level, factors that affect uptake are not always transferable from country to country, meaning that different countries, even in the same region can have extremely different perspectives. On a national level, I have learnt about program and project management, and the various steps that go into a successful project. I have seen the importance of operational research and how it contributes to monitoring and evaluation and strategic planning for a program or project. Then, of course, the dissemination of this information to various target audiences.

And this is just a glimpse of all I have learnt.



**Name:** Amadou SECK

**Home institution:** National TB program Dakar, Senegal

**Host institution:** Centre de Recherche Public en Santé, Luxembourg

**WHO/TDR REPORT ON TRAINING AT Public Research Centre for Health (CRP-Sante)**

**16<sup>TH</sup> April - 8<sup>TH</sup> July 2013**

**First 6 months WHO/TDR Career Development Fellowship Training:**

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



**Name:** MUPENZI MUMBERE

**Home institution:** Université Catholique du Graben Butembo, DRC

**Host institution:** GSK, Bio-Belgium

**WHO/TDR REPORT ON TRAINING AT Public Research Centre for Health (CRP-Sante)**

**16<sup>TH</sup> April - 8<sup>TH</sup> July 2013**

**First 6 months WHO/TDR Career Development Fellowship Training:**

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



**Name:** Lyda Osorio

**Home institution:** Universidad del Valle Cali, Columbia

**Host institution:** GSK, UK

**WHO/TDR REPORT ON TRAINING AT GlaxoSmithKline**

**22<sup>nd</sup> MAY – 22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2013**

**First 6 months WHO/TDR Career Development Fellowship Training:**

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



**Name:** Magoma Mwancha Kwasa

**Home institution:** Ministry of Medical Services, Nairobi, Kenya

**Host institution:** FIND, Switzerland

## WHO/TDR Career Development Fellowship Training Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND)

**1<sup>st</sup> MAY – 31<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2013**

**First 6 months WHO/TDR Career Development Fellowship Training:**

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

## Conference Reports



**Name:** MUPENZI MUMBERE

**Home institution:** Université Catholique du Graben Butembo, DRC

**Host institution:** GSK, Bio-Belgium

### **6th MIM Pan-African Malaria Conference**

**"Moving towards malaria elimination: Investing in research and control"**

**6 - 11 October 2013**

**The International Convention Centre, Durban, South Africa**

*The MIM conference is the largest gathering of the malaria community and therefore provides the ideal opportunity to showcase novel findings, innovations and ground breaking research. Since the first MIM conference in Senegal 1997, the global face of malaria has changed considerably, with malaria elimination now a viable option in many African countries. To highlight this paradigm shift, the conference is appropriately themed: "Moving towards malaria elimination: Investing in research and control" and has both plenary sessions and symposia dedicated to this topic.*

#### **1. Objectives of attending this conference**

As a fellow researcher involved in the GSK Vaccines studies on a malaria candidate vaccine, my objectives to attend this conference are:

- Hear and learn on the updates of malaria research in its various aspects: epidemiology, parasitology, entomology, biology, research on drugs and vaccines, strategies for control and elimination, etc.
- Seek networking opportunities with other scientists and stakeholders.

#### **2. Agenda of the conference**

The conference was stretched on 5 days plus one day for preliminary sessions. Below the detailed agenda:

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



**Name:** Lyda Osorio

**Home institution:** Universidad del Valle Cali, Columbia

**Host institution:** GSK, UK

**The Third International Conference on Dengue and Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever:  
Global Dengue Challenges and Promises.**

21-23 October 2013.

The Imperial Queen's Park Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.

<http://www.dengue2013bangkok.com/home/index/en>

*Building on the highly successful conferences held previously in Chiang Mai (2001) and Phuket (2008), this international conference will bring together leading scientists, clinicians, researchers, and scholars with a common interest and concern in the global situation of dengue, and will provide a venue for conference participants to exchange research findings, clinical experiences, encountered challenges and solutions in dengue treatment and control. Our goal is to enhance cross-disciplinary collaboration between delegates with different backgrounds and experiences, with the ultimate goal of improving the health of neglected world population affected by dengue, one of the fastest growing health burdens the world is facing.*

**1. Objectives of attending this conference**

By attending this conference I expected to: 1) improve my knowledge of dengue, 2) recognize the current global challenges for dengue research and development, and 3) interact with international researchers in a topic of the utmost important for Colombia, as one of the countries with the highest burden of Dengue in Latin America. As an active member of the Colombian network of dengue researchers, I should be able to share with my colleagues the benefits of my participation in the Conference and hence to improve the quality and contribution of our research. I will also share the information with my colleagues at Universidad del Valle and incorporate the acquired knowledge in the teaching courses I run for undergraduate and postgraduate students in Colombia.

**2. Agenda of the conference**

The program was organized over 3 full days with the following structure:

[Click here to read the full report and view Lyda's poster presentation](#)

**Upcoming Conferences & Meetings**

**March 2014:**

**[21st Conference On Retroviruses And Opportunistic Infections](#)**

3rd - 6th Mar 2014  
Boston, United States

**[6th ASEAN Congress on Tropical Medicine and Parasitology](#)**

5th - 7th Mar 2014  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**[9th International Symposium on Pneumococci and Pneumococcal Diseases](#)**

9th - 13th Mar 2014  
Hyderabad, India

**March 2014 (continued):**

**Australasian Society For Infectious Diseases Annual Scientific Meeting**

26th - 29th Mar 2014  
Adelaide, Australia

**April 2014:**

**3rd Joint Conference of the British HIV Association with the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV**

1st - 4th Apr 2014  
Liverpool, United Kingdom

**16th International Congress On Infectious Diseases**

2nd Apr - 5th Apr 2014  
Cape Town, South Africa

**Canadian Association for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Annual Conference**

2nd - 5th Apr 2014  
Victoria, Canada

**British Society For Parasitology Spring Meeting**

6th - 9th Apr 2014  
Cambridge, United Kingdom

**Spanish Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases 18th Congress**

9th - 11th Apr 2014  
Valencia, Spain

**May 2014:**

**23rd Annual Canadian Conference On HIV/AIDS Research**

1st - 4th May 2014  
St Johns, Canada

**32nd Annual Meeting of the European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases**

6th - 10th May 2014  
Dublin, Ireland

**HIV Drug Therapy in the Americas**

7th - 10th May 2014  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**24th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases**

10th - 13th May 2014  
Barcelona , Spain

**International Symposium On HIV And Emerging Infectious Diseases**

21st - 23rd May 2014  
Marseille, France

## 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:

- [Health Systems Research Initiative](#)
- [TDR advanced postdoctoral research and training grants in implementation research – 2014](#)
- [TDR postgraduate training grants in implementation research – 2014](#)
- [Fellowships Competition for Clinical and Public Health Researchers](#)

## Discussion Framework for Clinical Trial Data Sharing: Guiding Principles, Elements, and Activities



**Name:** Dr Trudie Lang

**Position:** Principle Investigator of The Global Health Network

**Location:** University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

Dear fellows, I wanted to take a few moments to share with you a very important discussion in which your contribution will be invaluable. The following is a blog I recently posted on The Global Health Network

Data sharing is one of the most important current issues in clinical trials. If conducted in the right way, sharing data could help facilitate faster and better generation of evidence to bring new interventions and improve disease management.

Many leading organisations involved in healthcare research recognise that we need international guidelines that would ensure data sharing can be done in such a way that maintains the integrity of the research, whilst also protecting the rights of research participants and the interests of the researchers.

To address this the Institute of Medicine have formed a committee and seek to gather wide perspectives with the aim of concluding a set of recommendations for data sharing in clinical trials.

It is essential that these recommendations are appropriate to all type of trials, are globally applicable and can be practically implemented.

[The first report from this committee](#) sets out this objective in detail and seeks input from as many different groups as possible.

This is a **very important** opportunity to contribute to the outcomes of this committee and influence these recommendations.

These recommendations may well be adopted by research funding agencies, regulatory authorities, pharmaceutical companies and publishers. Therefore the committee are very keen to receive input, feedback, opinions, ideas and comments in order to be certain that the recommendations that this committee conclude are truly appropriate for every conceivable type of trial conducted anywhere in the world.

The purpose of this blog is to disseminate this report as widely as possible through The Global Health Network community (please forward the link to this page to everyone that you can think of: <http://globalhealthtrials.tghn.org/blog/post/14/2014/01/discussion-framework-for-clinical-trial-data-s/>), and we urge you to comment. Please simply write your response in the reply section below the blog on Global Health Trials. This is important for three reasons:

1. It is essential that the perspective, concerns and realities of conducting trials in low-resource settings is a key consideration of this committee and that the recommendations will be globally applicable and appropriate.
2. If you write a comment here this will encourage others do so.
3. These comments can be collated and I can present them to the committee in February. Obviously the more responses there are the more powerful the impact will be.

This is a very important opportunity to help the committee understand the settings and context in which we all work and what you think about data sharing:

- Could data sharing be beneficial in your field?
- What concerns do you have? What are the barriers?
- What could be done to ensure fair and appropriate data sharing?

If appropriate mechanisms can be found then data sharing could bring vast benefits to populations in low resources settings. Lets make sure those mechanisms are workable and will improve evidence-led improvement in global health.

You can download the report by [clicking here](#).

To reply to the blog please [click here](#) and scroll to the bottom of the page.

There have already been several responses so please take some time to read and share your own thoughts on the subject.

## Research Ethics Online Training

I am pleased to announce that on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2014 The Global Health Network will be launching a new e-learning course and resource package.

**Research Ethics Online Training** is adapted from an e-Learning course and resource package designed and produced by the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** for use by internal staff. Research is a vital ingredient for improved global health and scientifically sound and ethically appropriate research is especially important in resource-poor settings where the need for locally applicable research findings is so great. **Therefore the WHO has very kindly granted permission for the adaption of this resource in a format and platform that is accessible to all.**

This is a substantial course consisting of fourteen individual modules across three key areas:

- 1. Introduction to Research Ethics**
- 2. Ethical Considerations in International Health Research**
- 3. Special Topics in Research Ethics**

There is a full library of resources that accompany the course including, case studies, principles and guidelines, videos, websites and a glossary. The course will be available from the [e-Learning Centre](#).