

# The Academy News



Ugandan Academy  
for Health Innovation  
and Impact

## The Ugandan Academy for Health Innovation and Impact launches 5 year Strategic Plan



Together we can drive health innovations. The Academy Board members and partners during the launch of the strategic plan

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The Ugandan Academy for Health Innovation and Impact ('Ugandan Academy') recently launched its five-year Strategic Plan outlining its priorities and targets over the period 2016- 2021. The launch took place on Friday August 26, 2016 at the Academy secretariat based at the Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) Knowledge Centre in Makerere University.

In the Strategic Plan, the Ugandan Academy spells out a clear vision of "Sustainable health care accessible to all in Uganda," and its mission "To improve health outcomes through innovations in clinical care, capacity building, systems strengthening and research, which inform policy and practices, with a strong emphasis on HIV and TB."

According to the plan, the Ugandan Academy will work towards policy improvements in the health sector with initial focus on HIV and TB, "The Ugandan Academy will focus on actively supporting innovations in the four areas of clinical care, capacity building, systems strengthening

and research".

The guest of honour Prof. Rev. Samuel Luboga welcomed the plan saying that it will contribute to alleviation of Uganda's pressing healthcare challenges. Seasoned health and academic professionals and partners attended the launch of the

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**"The Ugandan Academy will support innovations in clinical care, capacity building, systems strengthening and research"**



L-R Academy Board members Dr. Cissy Kityo, Ms. Regina Kamoga and Dr. Maik Stumpf.

## MESSAGE FROM THE ACADEMY DIRECTOR



We've had a busy few months at the Academy; with lots of exciting events. In August we had a fantastic day launching the Academy Strategic plan. This is an ambitious document outlining the activities that should take us to 2020. It was produced with a huge amount of input from our Board, the Ministry of Health, our funding partners and other stakeholders including IDI staff. I would like to especially thank Diana Asimwe, our programme manager and the consultants- Imprint Uganda for their dedication. The day was a festive event, attended by board members and other stakeholders and we were especially pleased to welcome Romain Rutten from Janssen, the Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, to join us.

Shortly following this was the deadline for the request for sub granting applications. We have received 36 exciting proposals and the team and board with our external reviewers are currently putting them through a rigorous evaluation to select the successful projects to be funded.

The Call for Life research study has started and has enrolled patients at both IDI and Kasangati. We are excited to be joined by Dr Agnes Bwanika, who is a very experienced physician and trial co-ordinator, having worked at MRC, and MUJHU previously. She has just completed her Masters in Medicine at Makerere University and we are pleased to have her on board.

Our Google analytics have told us that our e-learning materials have been accessed from 9 different countries including USA and India as well as Uganda and Kenya. We are excited about our growing global reach.

We congratulate George Kiwanuka for successfully completing his end of year MPH exams and look forward to welcoming our new scholars on board very soon.

Finally we would like to welcome the following new members to the Academy family; Diana Asimwe gave birth to Nkundwa, Vennie Nabitaka gave birth to Abigail, Tom Bosschaerts from Janssen welcomed Lora into his family and Marion Birnstill from the Johnson & Johnson Corporate Citizenship Trust welcomed Leo into her family. We send them and their families our very best wishes and congratulations!

**Dr. Rosalind Parkes Ratanshi**



## THE ACADEMY LAUNCHES REQUEST FOR INNOVATIVE HIV AND TB PROJECTS

The quality of care and treatment of HIV and TB in Uganda will soon receive a significant boost thanks to a series of innovative projects that will be funded by the Ugandan Academy for Innovation and Impact between 2016 and 2018. The Academy has dedicated 950,000 USD (about Shs 3.2 billion) to support these projects for a period of two years.

The academy is in the process of reviewing applications from Ugandan Non-Governmental Organizations, Community Based Organizations and the Academia to support projects in clinical management, research and capacity building in HIV and TB. Both clinical management and research projects have indicative ceilings of \$ 230,000 (Shs 768 million) and \$ 120,000 (Shs 400 million) for capacity development although the final figure and number of awards will depend on the number of successful proposals. Implementation of successful projects is expected to start in the January to March 2017 quarter.

**“Such projects must have innovative approaches and preferably include work with new technologies/ mHealth in their implementation.”**

### Priority areas

The funding is targeted at projects that seek to; scale up a known effective intervention in HIV or TB care in order to improve lives of people in Uganda, evaluate an intervention designed to improve HIV or TB prevention, diagnosis, care or treatment in Uganda and deliver a capacity building programme designed to improve skills or knowledge of health care workers in Uganda in the area of HIV or TB. Such projects must have innovative approaches and preferably include work with new technologies/ mHealth in their implementation.



In a bid to contribute to a critical mass of scientists that will drive innovation in health care, the Ugandan Academy for Health Innovation and Impact recently launched the second round of applications for masters and doctorate scholar positions. The scholarships target candidates with interests in improving the quality of care in HIV and TB management and innovative healthcare approaches like mHealth.

The successful candidates this year are; Enos Masereka and Dr. Richard Muhindo. Masereka is a final year masters student at Makerere University College of Health Sciences and his research topic is, "Retention in HIV care and associated factors. A study among HIV positive pregnant and lactating mothers attending PMCT clinics in Ntoroko district."

Dr. Richard Muhindo is a PhD scholar and his topic is "HIV prevention Programs for Sex workers in Uganda: where are we? Challenges, barriers and Strategies."

Masereka and Muhindo join Dr. Charles Patrick Namisi (PhD scholar 2015) and Dr. George Kiwanuka (Masters scholar 2015) who are the pioneer beneficiaries of the Academy scholarship program.

## THE ACADEMY OFFERS MORE MASTERS AND PHD SCHOLARSHIPS

"The offers target candidates pursuing studies on issues related to delivery of HIV and TB programs focusing on m-Health initiatives, TB, HIV adherence, PMTCT or key populations."



L-R The pioneer PhD Students Jane Wanyama and Charles Patrick Namisi and a master's student Dr. George Kiwanuka who are already beneficiaries of the Academy's scholarship program

## THE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER EXCITES READERS

The maiden e-newsletter for the Ugandan Academy for Health Innovation and Impact was well received by the readers and the academy stakeholders who suggested improvements to widen its reach and influence.

Key among the areas for improvement is widening its distribution mechanisms to ensure that it reaches more people.

IDI Executive Director Richard Brough's response best captures this,

"Very well done. I think this is excellent! I particularly liked the pictures right at the start and right at the end. Please work to make sure we maximise the exposure of this document."

The maiden e-newsletter was published in May 2016 and will be out on a quarterly basis.

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IDI Executive Director Richard Brough

## THE ACADEMY WEBSITE GOES LIVE



The wait is over. A website for the Ugandan Academy for Health Innovation and Impact is up and running. Aimed at supporting the Academy's communication functions, the design of the website is inline with the Academy's pursuit of innovative and technology based approaches to addressing Uganda's pressing health problems.

Under the domain name <http://theacademy.co.ug/>, the website is a one-stop centre where key information about the Academy can be found. It is regularly updated with the latest developments in the Academy.

The website has information about the Academy, the projects it runs and opportunities such as jobs, call for proposals and scholarship offers.

**“The design of the website is inline with the Academy's pursuit of innovative and technology based approaches to addressing Uganda's pressing health problems.”**

strategic plan that was developed through a consultative process with the Ugandan Academy stakeholders.

These included Mr. Romain Rutten, Head of Disease Management Programs, Janssen who was one of the special guests during the launch.

Speaking during the launch, Mr. Rutten emphasised Janssen, the Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, and the Johnson & Johnson Corporate Citizenship Trust (the Trust)'s commitment to support the Ugandan academy to achieve its goals; “We at Janssen and the Trust are very committed to make the implementation of the Academy a success and it is the flagship initiative in our Connect for Life program.”

Mr. Rutten also commended partnerships that the Academy has established with actors such as the Ministry of Health in Uganda, IDI and the Trust saying that they

are critical in achieving its grand goals, “These partnerships will enable us to bring together all our collective strengths and capabilities to generate relevant research and develop and implement innovative solutions,” Mr. Rutten said.

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*Mr. Romain Rutten speaking during the launch of the strategic plan*



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