University of Nairobi
MEPI - Junior Faculty Research Capacity Building Program

PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTH RESEARCH TRAINING IN KENYA

Annual D43 Networking Meeting
4th August 2018
Durban, South Africa
Partnership for Health Research in Kenya
Partner institutions

- University of Nairobi
- Maseno University
- Kenyatta University
- University of Washington Seattle
Overall goal and strategies

• The main objective of the PHERT is to strengthen research training for junior faculty through a 2-year fellowship program
  – Eligibility: Full time faculty (UoN, KU, Maseno)
  – Research interest in MNCH, HIV or Mental Health

• To foster an environment that supports research for wider group of students, fellows & faculty
  – Short courses in scientific writing, grant writing
  – Leadership/ management
  – Bioethics
Two-year training program – overview

1st Year

Trainees undertake didactic and online courses at UoN and at the University of Washington

Skills in:
Epidemiology
Biostatistics
Implementation science

2nd Year

Trainees mentored to conduct a Research project, disseminate study findings

Encouraged to use the pilot data to write and submit a grant
Progress - Junior Faculty Trainees (n = 23)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intake</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Diversity
12 disciplines
Progress: emerging trends

• Types of mentored projects proposed by trainees reflect increasing confidence and commitment to research

• Trainees have started establishing their own linkages and networks

• Early signs of impact on parent departments - research interest & mentorship
Mentored Research
(Perinatal/neonatal/child health)

- Simplified Antibiotic treatment for Neonates with suspected sepsis in rural communities where referral is not possible: A Feasibility study in Kisumu county.

- Association between Antenatal care utilization and risk of stillbirths in 4 tertiary hospitals in Nairobi (Case control study)

- Effect of enhanced nutrition education of mothers on post-hospital discharge outcomes of children with severe acute malnutrition: Randomized Control Trial
Scope of mentored Research (HIV)

• Assessment of Public High schools as safe zones for Adolescents and Youth Living with HIV in Nairobi

• Characterization of steady state concentrations and pharmacogenetics of Atazanavir in HIV positive Kenyan patients

• Cause of death and clinical risk factors for mortality among hospitalized HIV infected patients on HAART at Kenyatta National Hospital (autopsy study)
Networking and linkages

Global Maternal Sepsis Survey
Trials on antenatal steroid use

Dr George Gwako
Obstetrics Gynaecology: Co-investigator

University of Washington Pathology
Elective residency in Naivasha

Dr Ann Barasa
Pathology: Co-director

Kenya Paediatric Association
Child & Adolescent Mental health

Dr Judy Kamau
Psychiatry: Consultant

CDC Kenya – Influenza studies

Dr Edward Walong
Anatomic Pathology: Consultant

University of Toronto – Glaucoma research unit

Dr Lily Nyamai
Ophthalmology: Observership
Ongoing mentorship (examples)

Dr Beatrice Mutai
M.Med students
- 5 in Paediatrics
- 1 in Pharmacy

Dr Lydiah Maingi
Mentorship in systematic review
Proposal writing

Dr Anne Mbwayo
Supervising
- 1 PhD student
  2 Masters (psychology)

Trainees report improved quality of interaction with their mentees (graduate or doctoral)
Selected departmental level impact

- Unit of Infectious diseases (Clinical medicine and therapeutics)
  - Fellows in CID undertake didactic component of PHERT (3)

- Trainees in leadership positions (additional benefit)
  - Curricular with increased research training
  - Emphasis on leadership training

Dr. Gladys N. Mwango
Chair Diagnostic Imaging & Radiation Medicine
**PHERT: Reach to wider faculty and students**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Trained Faculty and Postgraduates</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bioethics</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>• Fundamental ethical issues in research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership and management</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>• Project management, soft skills - people management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bio-Informatics</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>• Skills in computer application in health research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants Writing</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>• Grant writing and management cycle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Challenges and way forward

• Limited training positions restricted to formally appointed faculty
  – Interest in research training includes project staff
• Institutionalization of the program is on course
  – Potential for long-term sustainability
• Post-training: networking for grants application
  – Keeping the momentum and right attitude
Networking opportunities
Acknowledgement

The program is supported by a grant from the US National Institutes of Health (D43TW010141).

We thank the institutions for tremendous support and the Steering committee members for leadership.

University of Nairobi

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, 1861

PRESSION UNIVERSITY

MASENO UNIVERSITY