



Consequential Life

A Newsletter of the JHU-MUSPH Chronic Consequences of Trauma, Injury, And Disability Across the Lifespan Program

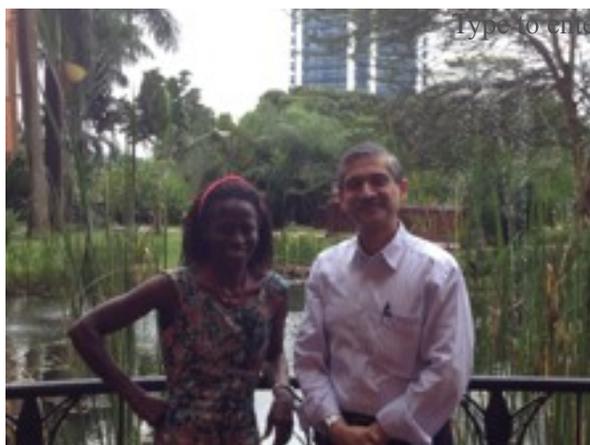
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Message from the Directors

Dear Colleagues,

This time last year, Chronic TRIAD was a great idea, but it only existed in the minds of a small group of colleagues from JHU and MUSPH who had applied for a NIH training grant to strengthen research capacity on the long-term health and economic consequences of trauma, injuries and disability across the lifespan in Uganda. Work on this initiative is well on its way, and this month, we have lots to report!



Since the grant was announced last August, we have opened an office at MU, hired Grace—a very capable administrator, held a consultative faculty workshop, and recruited our first cohort of MPH students. The formal process of adding a new MPH track - *Trauma, Injuries, & Disabilities*, to the curriculum at MUSPH is also well underway!

It is akin to those plants whose seeds spend months in the ground, sinking roots and finding dependable sources of nourishment. One might think they died; but one day a small green shoot breaks through the ground! It might look vulnerable, but the months of preparation stand it in good stead, and it will survive the elements.

Our months of preparation are beginning to yield results, and we look forward to the months and years ahead, as the work rolls out. Credit goes to the dedicated teams at MUSPH and JHU (look out for their profiles in the coming issues of this newsletter!).

These newsletters serve to both inform our colleagues, stakeholders, and partners of how the program is doing and where it is heading. We hope you find it useful and contact us if you have any interest in the field of injury, trauma or disability.

Our very best wishes for a fruitful 2013!

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First Year Chronic TRIAD Fellows



Following a rigorous screening process by core faculty at the MUSPH and individual members of our program's Technical Advisory Group, we recruited our first group of long-term fellows in October. We are delighted to welcome them to the program, and wish them every success as they prepare themselves to tackle trauma, injuries and disability in Uganda. Here they are:



Joseph Magoola has a MUSPH Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Health. After graduation, he served as a health educator, field officer, and the Head of Outreach for Rural Medical Services, targeting patients with pneumonia, syphilis, malaria, and HIV/AIDS. Magoola has observed that on a daily basis, newspapers report devastating RTIs all over Uganda. He developed a concern for the survivors of RTIs and the costs of prolonged rehabilitation to the patients and to society. His strong belief that Uganda needs to place a greater priority on injuries prompted him to publish an OpEd in the *Daily Monitor*, an independent daily newspaper with one of the highest distributions in Uganda, proposing the establishment of a trauma management system. Through this fellowship opportunity, Magoola aspires to contribute to the development and use of national databases to identify policies and interventions to prevent chronic consequences of trauma, injuries, and disabilities.

Rukia Namaganda's interest in health sparked as early as her senior secondary school years, during which she studied food and nutrition. She went on to obtain a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Health at MUSPH. After graduation, her work included data management at the Infectious Disease Institute (IDI), assessing nutrition at a local health facility through the Food and Nutrition Interventions for Uganda organization, and the monitoring and evaluation of a Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) project through the Grassland Foundation. Upon entering the MPH program, Rukia was struck by the burden of road traffic injuries (RTIs) in Uganda and by the loss of life and economic productivity. Motivated to find solutions, she hopes to assess the prevalence of RTIs, measure disability among those who experienced RTIs, identify coping strategies for those disabled from these injuries and examine their effectiveness.



Ntaate Livingstone's diploma and bachelor studies focused on social work and social administration, and he has a certificate in Environmental Health Science from the Mbale School of Hygiene. During his undergraduate studies, he worked at Mulago-Mbarara Teaching Hospitals and at the Kamwakyia Christian Caring Community (KCCC), providing health education, counseling, and psychosocial support through both organizations. While based in the Mpigi district, he organized community mobilization and sensitization activities, provided counseling for community members, specifically around the topic of improving social functioning, and coordinated collaborations across different health departments and with community-based non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Troubled by the rising trend of injuries reported by both the media and public health reports, Ntaate enrolled in the MPH program and plans to study factors that affect access to care, treatment, and management of trauma and injuries in rural areas.





Consultative Workshop in Training in Chronic Consequences of Trauma, Injuries, and Disabilities in Kampala



In November 2012, we held our first workshop - a “*Consultative Workshop in Training in Chronic Consequences of Trauma, Injuries and Disabilities in Uganda,*” at the Protea Hotel in Kampala. This workshop included a diverse range of participants including faculty members from different schools within MU, departments within Mulago Hospital, and various private and public sector organizations such as the Ugandan Ministry of Health and the Uganda Police.

Dr. Olive Kobusingye, together with MUSPH faculty Drs. Lynn Atuyambe, David Guwatudde, and Nazarius Mbona Tumwesigye, and Drs. Abdulgafoor Bachani and Kent Stevens from JHU, facilitated the workshop.

The two day workshop served five major purposes: (1) presenting detailed information on the Chronic TRIAD program, (2) discussing how Chronic TRIAD fits into the MUSPH MPH training program, (3) learning more about intentional and unintentional injuries and disability, (4) discussing more specific trauma, injury, and disability topical areas through small groups, and (5) facilitating a discussion on training through an expert panel.

The workshop raised the profile of the Chronic TRIAD program both within, and outside MU. It initiated the process of increasing trauma, injury and disability core knowledge across MU faculty, resulted in the renewed commitment of several affiliated faculty members to teach, and triggered a motivation to help develop the Chronic TRIAD program at MU. Participants from outside MU were excited to be involved at this initial stage and signaled willingness to offer mentorship for potential practicum projects by Chronic TRIAD trainees. We

Chronic TRIAD Profile: David Guwatudde

David Guwatudde, B.Stat, MSc, PhD. is a key member of the Chronic TRIAD team with a great deal of experience designing and managing academic programs. He is an Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at MUSPH. He has previously served as chair for the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and is now the Deputy Dean at the School of Public Health, overseeing academic activities.

Dr. Guwatudde has also worked with the Injury Control Center in Uganda (ICCU), and was a key member during the early days of its formation. Additionally he was involved in ICCU’s research activities from 1995 to 2000. His current research interests include studying the epidemiology of non-communicable diseases in Uganda, including injuries and the role of nutrition on key health outcomes.



Contact Us and Recent Publications



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Recent Publications

Ackaah W, Afukaar F, Agyemang W, et al. The use of non-standard motorcycle helmets in low- and middle-income countries: a multicentre study. *Injury Prevention*. November 9, 2012 2012.

Chichom Mefire A, Etoundi Mballa GA, Azabji Kenfack M, Juillard C, Stevens K. Hospital-based injury data from level III institution in Cameroon: retrospective analysis of the present registration system. *Injury*. 2013; 44(1): 139-43.

Herbert HK, van As AB, Bachani AM, Mtambeka P, Stevens KA, Millar AJ, et al. Patterns of pediatric injury in South Africa: an analysis of hospital data between 1997 and 2006. *J Trauma Acute Care Surg*. 2012; 73(1): 168-74.

Hyder AA, Tran N, Bachani AM, Bishai D, Peden M. Saving 1000 children a day: The potential of child and adolescent injury prevention. In: Merrick J, ed. *Child and Adolescent Health Yearbook 2012*. Jerusalem: Nova Science Publishers; 2012:317-330.

Tumwesigye NM, Kyomuhendo GB, Greenfield TK, Wanyenze RK. Problem drinking and physical intimate partner violence against women: evidence from a national survey in Uganda. *BMC Public Health*. 2012;12(1): 399.



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