



AMPATH Research Program has Long-Term Impact

By 2010, sub-Saharan Africa will have over 53 million orphaned children, of whom 30% will be orphaned by AIDS. Half of orphaned children today are adolescents and two-thirds of these are double orphans.

Evidence suggests that being an orphan can place children at high risk of economic and sexual exploitation, sexual risk taking behavior, excessive drug and

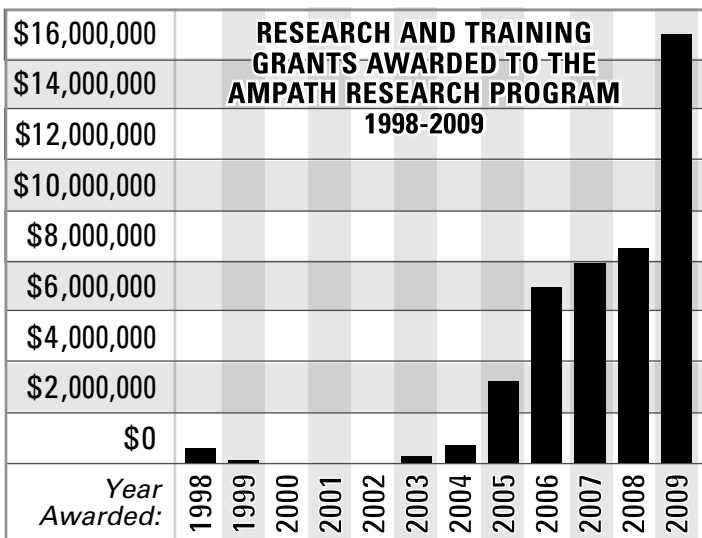
alcohol use, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, malnutrition, and tuberculosis. To improve the health and well-being of children orphaned and separated from their parents, Dr. Paula Braitstein of Indiana University and Dr. David Ayuku of Moi University are leading a team of investigators determined to better understand their living conditions and the effect of the environment on children's physical and mental health over time. This exciting project is one in a portfolio of studies conducted as part of the AMPATH Research Program.

The AMPATH Research Program, currently led by Dr. William Tierney of Indiana University (IU) and Dr. Winstone Nyandiko of Moi University, was born in 1998. The research program was built on a solid foundation with an eye toward sustainability. A research office

was established at Moi University. Both a Research and Sponsored Programs office and an Institutional Review Board were established at Moi University to provide oversight for research and grant funds. The laboratory capacity was enhanced to support research projects. This infrastructure has allowed the program to grow from a single research project to more than 70 active projects with research funding in excess of \$40 M. There are currently more than 19 universities participating in the research program. More than 125 publications have resulted from these collaborations.

The program structure has been adapted over the years to deal with its tremendous growth. Initially, there was one full-time IU researcher working and living in Kenya. Now, there are 5 co-field directors for Research; three are full-time in Kenya. To facilitate collaboration, the program is organized into 9 research working groups (adult medicine, public health & primary care, reproductive health, pediatrics, oncology, tuberculosis, economics, social & behavioral science, and prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV) and 7 cores (operations, data management, biostatistics, clinical informatics, pharmacy, laboratory, and bioethics). Additionally, each project must have both a North American and Kenyan principal investigator.

In October 2010, the AMPATH Research Program will enter a new era of change when Dr. Tom Inui of Indiana University becomes the new Research Program Director.



Nearly a third of the 53 million children orphaned in sub-Saharan Africa is due to AIDS.

- Front cover photos by Tyagan Miller

Kenyan Students and Registrars Travel to North America

A total of 15 Moi University School of Medicine (MUSM) fifth year students came to North America this spring to experience first-hand the nuances of being a medical student in the U.S. and Canada and to explore their dreams. For the past 14 years, Moi students have visited Indiana University School of Medicine as well as member institutions of the AMPATH Consortium. The students spent approximately six weeks at their respective schools (see sidebar at right). At IU, the students were assigned to 3 patient teams on the internal medicine wards at Wishard Hospital. All students have returned to continue and complete their 5th year at MUSM.

On June 1st, within days of the departure of our Kenyan medical students, Nadia Aliyan and Beatrice Njogu, both Masters in Medicine (MMED) registrars from Kenya arrived in Indianapolis. Both Nadia and Beatrice will rotate for 6 months on the sub-specialties of Radiology, Intensive Care, Cardiology, Renal and Infectious Disease, with an additional month for an elective rotation. Stephen Kalya, also a MMED registrar, is spending his 6 months at the University of Utah studying the same specialties.

Masters in Pediatrics (MPED) registrars, Paul Binott, Philip Cheptinga and Audrey Chepkemoi, will arrive in Indianapolis in late July and will spend 4 months concentrating in pediatric specialties including Hematology, Intensive Care, Neonatal ICU, Cardiology and Nephrology.

All Masters registrars will return to Kenya on December 2. While here, they are encouraged to explore the Greater Indianapolis and nearby areas. If you are interested in hosting them for an evening or an outing, please call Ron Pettigrew at 317-630-8695 or email rpettigr@iupui.edu.



Jenifer and Harriet, students who visited Providence Portland

KENYAN STUDENTS IN NORTH AMERICA:

Brown University: Caroline Mukaindo, Prisca Mungla, Mbarak Nuru, Sahara Shurie

Duke University: Margaret Mwanja, Hilda Nabiswa

Indiana University (Indianapolis): Evans Charana, Benard Chirchir, Godfrey Wamukoya

Lehigh Valley University: Wanyoike Mwangi, Dennis Otieno

Providence Portland (Portland, OR): Jenifer Kahuthu, Harriet Sitti

University of Toronto (Canada): Tirop Korir, David Rutha

University of Utah (Salt Lake City): Einstein Chemengu, Charles David

A KENYAN REGISTRAR'S PERSPECTIVE

By: *Nadia Aliyan*



The year 2010 has promised to be a year full of surprises. By January, I had cleared my first year of my residency in Medicine and was looking forward to starting the second. With very limited resources available at the government hospital where I was trained it was going to be a repeat of the rotations I did last year - mainly the general wards, HIV and TB clinics. But the IU partnership with my university opened a portal into the real world of medicine. In my country, especially in the rural areas, hospitals cannot cater to most of the medical needs taken for granted elsewhere. In a few weeks, I have learned more than a few years could teach me back home. From the intensive/critical care units to the radiology department, I have witnessed a medical organization where no skill or effort is spared to save lives. There is so much to take home – to my colleagues and to my patients.

And in all the layers of the medical arena, there is the Hoosier hospitality where everyone has one true objective...and that is to help.

To all the friends I have made in this short time. Thank you. Asante.

Save the Date for The 2010 Kenya Gala: An AMPATH Bazaar!

Mark it on your calendars!
The next Kenya Gala will take place on **OCTOBER 23, 2010** at the Downtown Marriott in Indianapolis.

It promises to be a fun-filled event celebrating the 20th anniversary of our historic partnership with **Moi University and Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital!**

AD SPACE AVAILABLE FOR THE 2010 KENYA GALA PROGRAM!

If you would like to advertise a company or organization, share pictures from your time in Kenya, or acknowledge colleagues or mentors you served with or who are involved in AMPATH, please contact Megan Miller at mejmill@iupui.edu or 317-630-6882. Cost for ads are: full page - \$200, half page - \$100, quarter page - \$50.

Advocates Help Voices to be Heard



Indiana lawyers and judges who met with their counterparts in Kenya, included, from left, Milkah Cheptinga, Avril Rua, Eric Gumbo, Prof. Vincent Mutai, Indiana Court of Appeals Judge Patricia Riley and IU School of Law-Indianapolis Dean Gary Roberts.



Indiana lawyers and friends raised funds in a "Race for LACE" during the 500 Festival Mini-Marathon

In a small room at the AMPATH Centre, Jane nervously eyed the visitors from Indiana, smoothed her long black and white skirt, and launched into her story.

"I am a rape survivor," she said in Kiswahili-accented English. "I was assaulted by my uncle in March, and I ended up being HIV-positive." Tears filled her eyes, but she continued to speak.

After the attack, Jane (not her real name) went to the hospital and then to the police. But in Kenya, corruption and gender discrimination cause many sexual assault cases to be dropped early in the process. The prosecutor in Jane's case first ignored her, and then suggested she abandon the case.

"But then Milkah came to my aid, and she pushed things along in court," Jane said, gesturing at Milkah Cheptinga and smiling for the first time.

Cheptinga is the legal director of the Legal Aid Centre of Eldoret (LACE), which works in close association with AMPATH. Cheptinga and volunteer Kenyan lawyers and law students represent low-income clients like Jane for free in cases involving family disputes, gender-based violence, and estate matters.

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Some LACE clients have been pushed off their land by greedy in-laws, some have been discriminated against because they are HIV-positive. Others have been left destitute and homeless after going without spousal support for young children. In all these areas of the law, most Kenyans have strong rights on paper yet no hope of enforcing those rights without an attorney.

Since LACE's founding in September of 2008, the program has already represented over 300 persons like Jane, all of whom are affected by HIV/AIDS. This innovative integration of health care and human rights led to LACE being invited to present overviews of the program at the 2010 International AIDS Conference in Vienna and the 2010 conference of the American Public Health Association.

Thanks to support from Open Society Initiative of East Africa, Rotary Club of Indianapolis, Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis, and the Indiana legal community, which launched an annual "Race for LACE" fundraiser, LACE plans to build on its success by adding rural-based paralegals, enhanced community rights education, and advanced education for human rights-oriented Kenyan law graduates.

But the core goal will remain the pursuit of justice for clients like Jane. LACE leaned on the once-reluctant prosecutor and helped Jane obtain medical evidence, so now her attacker is jailed and facing several serious charges. "I am so grateful to Milkah and LACE," Jane said to the Indiana law delegation as she finished telling her story.

Now it was Milkah's turn to smile. "Once the court sees that someone like Jane has an advocate on her side pushing hard, things start to move the right way."

For more information about LACE, see: www.ampathkenya.org/lace.html.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



AMPATH Research Program has Long-Term Impact.. 1

Kenyan Students and Registrars Travel to N. America 2

A Registrar's Perspective 2

Advocates Help Voices to be Heard. 3

Going Google 4

Going Google

Cutting edge technology from Silicon Valley is being deployed in the rural outreaches of western Kenya, now that AMPATH is using Google's open source mobile operating system (Android) to develop a revolutionary new data collection tool for Home-based Counseling and Testing (HCT).

For the past two years, AMPATH's HCT counselors have been using a Palm Pilot and separate GPS unit to capture and record patient information. This required counselors to key in a 10 - digit identifier for each patient, wait up to two minutes to get location coordinates, and at the end of each day return to the clinic to upload

their information to a central database. The new Android based G1 phones have GPS integrated into the handset and can record location coordinates in just seconds. The phone's camera can scan patient identification barcodes rather than require numbers to be entered by hand – reducing time spent collecting data and the incidence of data entry errors that occur when the numbers are input manually. And perhaps most importantly, the phones can upload data automatically from the field using a cellular network. This new mobile data collection tool will allow AMPATH to transmit data collected in the field directly into their medical records system. Soon data managers in the central office will be able to track data in real time. Real time data tracking is expected to improve health outcomes and reduce program costs. Additionally, the Android platform provides AMPATH with significant room to grow new functionalities into the technology as they are needed.

AMPATH now has 125 G1 phones in Eldoret and another 125 on the way. HCT counselors in Burnt Forest are currently out in the field with the devices and are quickly ramping up, having visited over 15,000 households.

(left) Counselors use the new Google G1 phone for data collection

