

TanZamBo CAPACITY BUILDING FOR HIV PREVENTION RESEARCH NETWORK

Dr Rosemary Musonda
TanZamBo PI
Lab Director/Research Associate



TanZamBo Network

- ▶ The Botswana–Tanzania–Zambia Capacity Building Network called TanZamBo (Tanzania Zambia Botswana)
- ▶ KCRI/KCMC, TDRC and BHP
- ▶ Mc Gill University in Montreal and Harvard University School of Public Health in Boston).
- ▶ The Botswana Harvard AIDS institute Partnership (BHP),(LLC) will serves as the lead Principal Recipient

PROJECT GOALS

- ▶ To develop sustainable HIV/AIDS prevention trial expertise in Botswana, Tanzania and Zambia with an emphasis on “learning by doing” using existing collaborations in Africa, Canada and the USA
- ▶ Or expanding the capacity of researchers to conduct various HIV/AIDS prevention trials including vaccines.

HOW THE GOALS WILL BE ACHIEVED

- ▶ The team members will use their comparative advantage in expertise and technology to strengthen the capacity of weaker institution in HIV prevention interventions such as the through “learning by doing
- ▶ This project will recruit young scientists for MSc degrees in Clinical Research or Biostatistics. In addition the project will also build capacity of post doctoral fellows who will be co managing the TanZamBo project at every site with site PIs

CONT. HOW TO ACHIEVE

- ▶ This project will recruit young scientists for MSc degrees in Clinical Research or Biostatistics.
- ▶ In addition the project will also build capacity of post doctoral fellows who will be co managing the TanZamBo project at every site with site PIs

OBJECTIVES TO BE PERSUED

- ▶ Strengthen clinical trials capacity through south south networking between BHP,KCMC,TDRC and north south networking with Mc Gill and Harvard universities;
- ▶ to expand capacity to conduct various HIV/AIDS prevention trials including vaccines using our comparative advantage for strength in expertise;
- ▶ to train several young scientist for Masters of Science degree in biomedical sciences, bioinformatics or biostatistics;

OBJECTIVES TO BE PERSUED

- ▶ to strengthen the capacity of post doctoral scientist in project management and supervision of young scientist in research activities;
- ▶ to build capacity in the weaker site particularly the through “learning by doing” and short term training
- ▶ to strengthen the capacity of institution review boards/ethics committee and
- ▶ to provide platforms for advocacy and dialogue with communities and policymakers to support HIV/AIDS prevention trials including HIV vaccine research and development in Africa.

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Long term training of research fellows for Master of Science Degree(MSc) and Post doctoral fellows: **MSc students** will be enrolled at the KCMC –Tumani University College for training in clinical research, microbiology or immunology.
- ▶ **Short Term Training:** A short course on biostatistics and epidemiology will be conducted at any of the African site for juniors as well as a newly established 3 months short course in Clinical trials Design under the McGoldrick fellowship for senior scientist to go to Harvard in Boston

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

- ▶ **Short Term Training:** A short course on biostatistics and epidemiology will be conducted at any of the African site for juniors as well as a newly established 3 months short course in Clinical trials Design under the McGoldrick fellowship for senior scientist to go to Harvard in Boston
- ▶ HSPH –HAI will offer short course on characterization of HIV–1 viral genome sequences that may be most important for vaccine designs to prevent acute and early infections.

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

- ▶ The Mc Gill AIDS centre Group will provide training in advanced laboratory methods for i) virological markers as trial end points ii) HIV sequence signature matching iii) ultra sensitive Viral load assays using dried blood spots iv) and drug resistance genotyping for K65R mutations with emphasis on “learning by doing”.
- ▶ Other courses will include clinical effectiveness, advanced HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, training in GCP, GCLP quality management systems and grant writing and these courses will be held locally with co funds from other capacity training grants such as EDCTP.

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

- ▶ **Networking activities:** Attachments in Harvard in Boston (2–6 months) to learn specific techniques such as PCR amplification, sequencing, real-time PCR, virus isolation, and co-culture; and functional immunologic assays (ELISPOT and intracellular cytokine staining); and statistical management of trial data. South South networking will include attachment to BHHRL Botswana sites to gain experience in trial design, setting up longitudinal cohort for acute infections studies and incidence determinations;

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Community engagement and training in HIV prevention research: This will involve community advisory board (CAB) engagement in HIV prevention research training in basic facts, in prevention technologies and HIV vaccine issues, ethical issues; support to CABs in community sensitization activities;
- ▶ training in leadership, advocacy skills for HIV prevention **Strengthening of Review Boards**: This will include refresher training of institutional and national review boards or ethics committees in human subject research with respect ethic and informed consents in prevention trials.

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

- ▶ **Creating Platforms for dialogue with policy makers and researcher for advocacy on HIV/AIDS prevention research and trials.** This will be done through joint meeting with SADC secretariat and to target SADC parliamentary
- ▶ **Monitoring and Evaluation of the TanZamBo network:** The project will assemble a team of experts to come and monitor and peer review the project activities and project outcomes and process indicators set in the activity plan.

Summary of the approaches and expected outcome

- ▶ Long term training of research fellows for Master of Science Degree (MSc) and Post doctoral fellows: **Expected outcomes:** Increased human capital to conduct research in HIV prevention in Africa and ability to compete for grants and become investigators.
- ▶ **Short Term Training** in biostatistics and epidemiology, in clinical trials design, advanced laboratory techniques HIV/AIDS management and GCP/GCLP and QA/QC, project and data management and other clinical trials related trainings. **Expected outcomes:** strong competent cadre of scientist/ researchers with increased capacity to publish in peer review journals

Summary of the approaches and expected outcome

- **Networking activities:** Training attachments for specific training or techniques, exchange programs, joint projects, information sharing on research protocols and findings. **Expected outcome:** Strong networks of researchers, with joint publications.
- Infrastructure capacity improvement clinical and laboratory facilities: **Expected outcome:** Improved efficiency, quality of results and research environment
- Infrastructure capacity improvement clinical and laboratory facilities: **Expected outcome:** Improved efficiency, quality of results and research environment

Summary of the approaches and expected outcome

- ▶ Community engagement and training in **Expected outcome** HIV prevention research: **Expected outcome:** To have informed and supportive communities.

- ▶ Strengthening of Review Boards: **Expected outcome:** Increased capacity and efficiency in reviewing proposals.

- ▶ Creating Platforms for dialogue with policy makers and researcher for advocacy on HIV/AIDS prevention research

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- ▶ 3 MSc STUDENTS HAVE COMPLETED THEIR COURSE AT KCMC AND READY TO BEGIN THEIR RESEARCH PROJECTS–IN MICROBIOLOGY, IMMUNOLOGY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY
- ▶ A FULL PROJECT RESEARCH PROPOSAL WAS DEVELOPED AND FUNDED UNDER A COMPLIMENTARY GRANT AWARDED TO THE CONSOTIUM RECENTLY

- ▶ A joint steering committee meeting was held in Gaborone in June to review the progress of the project and to draft the research protocol for the net work project.
- ▶ Training Workshop on laboratory monitoring of HIV drug resistance was held in Gaborone, with Joint facilitation between KCRI, TDRC and BHP Co funded by EDCTP–TESA.
- ▶ A two weeks course on Fundamentals of Biostatistics was conducted in July 2012 a jointly with Harvard School of Public Health.

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- ▶ This week Dr Gibson Kibiki and the Team from KCRI and KCMC organized the first TanZamBo Health Research Ethics Workshop with more than 30 participants with various multiple disciplines in Health Research and post graduate students and post docs. Facilitated by the leaders of the academic and research institutions and those in regulatory authorities in Tanzania.
- ▶ These are important milestone for the TanZamBo Consortium.

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- ▶ 3 Journalists from TanZamBo Countries, Tanzania, Zambia and Botswana and two senior leaders in HIV prevention research attended a Workshop in June 2012 on “Mediating HIV Prevention research” a workshop held in Johannesburg by AVAC, AIVI, UNAIDS, ZAMCOM etc. This gave researchers and reporters an opportunity to learn on how to work together and explain the basic ethics in the conduct of clinical trials in East and Southern Africa

THANKS, ASANTE SANA, TO THE TEAM

- ▶ G Kibiki, M Essex, V Norvitsky M Wainberg, MMulenga, V DeGruttola & L.Okui, Simani Gaseitsiwe, S. Moyo, H Busmann, R Handema, J Makhema, M Mmalane, R Madison, B Nyombi, S Moyo, H Bussmani, A Ogwu, E Kussaga, J Malama, L, Simbeye, D Amenigy, L.Lekoko, Carrie Kachoria, Parmod Chandna, The KCMC Ethics committee, Research Community leadership in Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana, Students KCRI, TDRC, BHP