

REPORT OF VISIT TO KABALE UNIVERSITY

November 17-25, 2007

Team from U.S. National Library of Medicine:

Julia Royall, Chief, Office of International Programs, NLM, and Fulbright Scholar

Sara Mbagi, Medical Librarian, Albert Cook Library, Makerere University

Harriet Kisakye, Clinical Nurse; Nurse/Counselor for Makerere University-Walter Reed AIDS Vaccine Clinical Trial

Owen Royall-Kahin, technology consultant

This report chronicles the meetings held, recommendations for follow-up, and costs incurred.

November 17 Arrival in Kabale

Introductory meeting with Julius Kimuli, Director of ICT, our host in the absence of Dr. Joy Kwesiga who was attending CHOGM.

November 18 Visit to Kabale University

Tour of university and introductory meetings with Mr. Kimuli; Rev. Canon Karibwije, Registrar; Paddy Atuha, lecturer, Guidance and Counseling; Francis Ssekito, Masters student in Library & Information Science at Makerere University who is from Kabale.

November 19 Visit to Kabale Regional Referral Hospital

Rev. Karibwije kindly arranged a meeting with Deputy Dr. Michael Osinde-Odongo (Medical Superintendent Sam Tumwesigire was at CHOGM.) Five districts feed into this hospital which features general medicine, surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics-gynecology; emergency medicine; as well as a psychiatric unit, a dentist, and an ophthalmologist. Originally constructed in the 1930s, the hospital now includes several special units built by various donors (including Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation for mother to child transmission of AIDS, Indian brothers originally from Kabale for pediatrics, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief /PEPFAR/USAID, and World Bank for psychiatry) Dr. Osinde gave us a brief tour and expressed interest in working with KU on short courses and practica.

From Julia, he requested textbooks and computers. She told him about free electronic access to NLM databases, full text articles, and books. Further, it was mentioned that a connected computer in the tearoom, currently located in their small library, could provide access to medical information for staff.

Visit to District Health Office – We went to the DHO unannounced and were greeted warmly by Acting Director Mrs. Jane Mbonigaba, Ag. DDHS, and a public health worker. (Director Dr. Patrick Tusiime was not in.) Both spoke highly of the Health Services Management course at Kabale University and would be happy to collaborate on

health related short courses and practica. Mrs. Mbonigaba said, “Every health worker should attend that course; it is so good!” As this district has about 100 health centers, cooperation could result in a very productive and mutually beneficial relationship. Incidentally, this DHO has a good HMIS database.

Visit to Hamurwa Health Center IV in Rubanda East Constituency - Again, we appeared without an appointment and were kindly met by Tushabomwe Benon, a clinical officer for over 25 years, whose field is reproductive health. At this health center, he supervises 11 other centers. Although there are plans to expand to a hospital, the center at present has no electricity or water; the latter is due to nearby road construction dismantling pipes but it was not clear why they had no electricity. They reported to have a digital database and a lab on site. As it is a government health center, all healthcare and drugs are free except for the mother pack (plastic sheet and gloves for mother-to-be must be purchased by the family.)

They have tracked interventions – for example, latrine coverage was reported at 93% (target was 90%,) and diseases associated with poor sanitation have gone down (diarrhea is not a problem). Mosquito nets have reportedly been distributed to pregnant mothers and under 5s; whether or not people are using them is not clear. Wall spraying with ICON has caused decline in malaria in the months following the spraying – cases have dropped from 200 per week to fewer than 100 during the first two months after spraying. Malaria is the number one health problem, followed by respiratory diseases.

The Center is familiar with KU’s Health Services Management courses and has been a center for training nurses. Again, collaboration with KU could probably prove fruitful here.

Mr. Tushabomwe said the center was understaffed, primarily due to lack of accommodation. (This, by the way, was a comment I heard at the national meeting of district health officers; for lack of accommodation for staff, a nation’s health suffers.) The health center was busy, and Mr. Tushabomwe said that most people go there due to the services they receive. We noted many posters for health education in Rukiga language.

Brief stop at Kakore Health Center II (Catholic) for purpose of poster distribution.

November 20

Met with Paddy Atuha, who holds a Diploma in Addiction and Counseling, and discussed peer counseling, outreach (using films, for example), addiction counseling and how to approach groups of young males who stand around in trading centers and do not work. He stressed the prevention of negative coping, the mechanisms that lead to addiction and pointed out KU’s desire to treat the problem in order to prevent the disease of addiction.

We talked about students and their practicum venues (prison next door, for example; could also explore a relationship with the referral hospital's psychiatric unit.) He stated that schools don't have trained counselors and that teachers should be trained to counsel.

In a discussion of HIV, Mr. Atuha told us that HIV was higher in the 15-25 age bracket. School children are well-informed through their teachers. Dropouts need help through their peer groups. It was thought that doctors don't have the time for counseling and haven't been trained in it.

Harriet Kisakye spoke with a classroom of students – approximately 20-25 – about counseling; asked the students what they considered their challenges; answered questions on confidentiality and talked the students through an example involving a smoker; and motivated the students toward participation in the counseling profession.

The team spent more time at the library and met with librarian Henry Kamau.

Wisdom of the Warden

Quite by chance, I was able to have a good discussion with the warden of St. John's Church of Uganda Bugongi. For me, this discussion underscored the need to consult with community leaders to get accurate sense of on-the-ground reality. For example, there are various bednet distribution programs, but she reported the reality is the nets are sold almost as soon as they are given out. Consultants like the warden could be brought on board in a variety of ways – as community counselors, leaders of short courses, members of a community advisory board, to name just a few.

Library

The Library is situated in the former home of the Saza Chief and has been connected to the adjacent building.

The current collection is in great need of upgrading and needs to be professionally organized so that retrieval is possible. At present, books are not cataloged and classified.

To insure that the library maintains its professional purpose, a security guard is needed to prevent theft, and cell phone use should be prohibited.

The library should be one of the first spaces connected to the Internet. This will promote its importance as an information hot spot. As it is not yet connected to the Internet, students will suffer from inability to access the vast electronic resources available, many for free.

To be useful and efficient, the processing room needs to be organized.

It would be difficult for the current staff to be expert in all subjects of library science. Perhaps, KU can augment with lecturers from East African School of Library and Information Science.

Teaching students with one set of cataloging tools is problematic. They need practical application, not just theory.

The current KU librarian does not yet have an MLS (Masters of Library Science). Perhaps he could be encouraged by KU to obtain this important professional credential.

Mr. Francis Ssekito is pursuing his Masters under Dr. Maria Musoke, University Librarian at Makerere University. He can be assisted and mentored (online and in person) when necessary by Sara Mbaga as he is traveling back and forth between Kampala and Kabale.

In general, Ms Mbaga can be available for consultation (online and off line) on organizing the library and making it an active, proactive center for information

Counseling

Practica with supervisors are needed in order to increase the vitality of this program.

Books are important, but students needed to be guided to use them.

In KU's career guidance program, it could be useful to have visiting lecturers give talks to student counselors.

Mr. Atuha asked Ms. Kisakye to be a visiting lecturer, and she is willing to serve in this capacity as well as a consultant for starting counseling outreach.

It will be a challenge to penetrate groups of idle young men with peer counseling, and potential peer counselors will need to be identified. But the resources are several:

Outreach portion can use community leaders like warden at St. John's Church of Uganda Bugongi.

A connection with the DHO could be formed in which KU conducts small workshops with health workers on the topic of addiction.

Creating a collaboration with the psychiatry unit at the Kabale Regional Referral Hospital could bring professional medical expertise to the discussion table and to the advisory committee.

The director of the program needs support, so that his ideas can be implemented.

The U.S. National Library of Medicine will consider the possibility of collaborating with KU on a MedlinePlus African tutorial on addiction.

Information Technology

University must have Internet connectivity yesterday. Only one computer is connected. If memory serves me correctly, Charles Mbire has said that a lower MTN rate was possible for university.

Computer lab is full - 20 or more - but none was connected.

Owen Royall-Kahin showed Mr. Kimuli programs of free software and sent him the URLs, so that he can obtain them without charge by downloading them from the web. Not only is this software advantageous because it comes at no cost to the University, but it is not susceptible to viruses which can result in lost time, lost work, lost equipment and additional expenditures on technical support. This software includes: OpenOffice.org (word processing, powerpoint, spread sheets, drawing), VLC media player (multimedia player), and GIMP (image manipulation). Owen can be available to Julius online as needed.

MedlinePlus African tutorial on malaria was distributed in hard copy booklet and poster versions to:

Kabale University
St. John's Church of Uganda Bugongi
Kabale Regional Referral Hospital
District Health Office
Hamurwa Health Center IV
Kakore Health Center II
Mbire's artemesia factory

Next Visit

If KU desires another visit by this team, the residency should be programmed so that all available time is fully used. Perhaps this means a shorter residency – the time offered for this one was one week.

Team members would like to see what follow-up has taken place since last visit and meet more faculty members. By chance, we did meet a professor of maths who was quite interesting to talk with regarding the start up phase of a new university.

The team would hope to see development of short courses which feed community needs. This strategy could serve community development, career development of students, and financial development of the university.

Julia has taken packets of information on KU to give to a board member at University of Stellenbosch and George Washington University, both potential partners. If there is interest and these partnerships are to be developed, it would be necessary for KU to be clear about exactly what projects/activities/exchanges/donations the partnerships would comprise and how these would contribute to the development of Kabale University.

Costs incurred

Food and catering	580,800 Ugandan Shillings*
Fuel and additional driver	514,000 Ugandan Shillings*
Accommodation kindly provided by Dr. Rugunda	
Car and driver provided by Julia for Kampala-Kabale round trip and within Kabale area	
All team members contributed their time	

*National Library of Medicine project funds

To: Drs. Joy Kwesiga, Ruhakana Rugunda, James Tumwine