

CARTA News

The Newsletter of the Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa

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CHEIKH MBACKE FAYE

on taking charge of a
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Applying the CARTA model to Countdown 2030, a Cohort Five fellow targets maternal and child health outcomes

By Eunice Kilonzo, CARTA communications officer

He mostly works quietly behind his desk. He only wakes up for short coffee breaks or for his prayers. But most times, his eyes are fixed on his computer typing away. Unknown to many, he is looking at one email or another, poring over budgets or making calls.

Cheikh Mbackè Faye, CARTA Cohort Five fellow, is leading a component of a global multi-country project—19 countries from Eastern and Southern Africa and 20 countries from West and Central Africa. The project—Countdown to 2030—tracks the coverage of health interventions that are proven to reduce maternal, newborn and child mortality.

The soft-spoken fellow attributes key skills gained as a CARTA fellow as being in his role of leading the USD\$ 600,000 project, which in three years seeks to improve the health of at least 500 million mothers and children in nearly 40 African countries.

Faye says he brings with him three lessons from CARTA to his new role: “One, leadership which is critical in this multi-country and multi-partner project. Two, leveraging on CARTA network, in particular in the Eastern and Southern Africa region, has also helped me a lot. Three, a strong research analytical background, which I am building as a CARTA fellow, is essential in setting-up the data generation and its use.”

The project began in July 2017 and will end in June 2020. It is nested at APHRC and will address the current deficits in knowledge, research, and expertise in the continent through opportunities for research capacity strengthening and skills in data analysis.

The work aligns with Faye’s own research at the University of Witwatersrand. His research is on maternal characteristics, reproductive behaviors, breastfeeding practices and nutritional outcomes among children under five years under age five in Nairobi’s informal settlements.

Faye’s PhD supervisor, Prof. Sharon Fonn, who is also CARTA’s co-director, says she was not surprised by his taking up the leadership role in the project.

“As a supervisor one gets to see different parts of a person, than is perhaps on show, day-to-day. It thus comes as no surprise to see him in a leadership role. Leadership comes to people through their inherent qualities and skills they learn,” she said.

Prof. Fonn says she was recently at a conference in Sweden where Faye was invited to give a presentation on data sharing.

“Standing in front of the audience was someone who communicated his deep knowledge and significant experience on the topic that have come from investing many hours of hard work. But perhaps what allowed him to communicate best with the audience was his passion about data sharing. These are things that make for great research leaders: knowing and caring. I was impressed and proud, though the pride was misplaced these skills and qualities are his own,” she added.

Therefore, Faye stands in good stead to steer the global initiative that will also equip

government officers and academics with skills to be accountable, identify knowledge gaps, and proposes new actions to achieve universal coverage for women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health.

The Countdown model where government officials and African academic institutions are put together and work together for evidence-based decision-making, seems to be the way to go in reducing health inequalities and improving the well-being of least advantaged populations in Africa.

So far APHRC has hosted two workshops in partnership with Countdown 2030 where participants were supported to build their data analysis skills through hands-on sessions on coding through a statistical software called STATA, data analysis and interpretation, and introductions to an array of analytical tools that countries may use to develop their country profiles ahead of the next workshop in mid-2018.

The other Countdown to 2030 team members are Estelle Sidze who is the Co-PI, Danielle Doughman, Benedict Orindi, and Martin Kavao, all staff at APHRC.

Four facts about: Cheikh Faye



- He holds a Master’s degree in Statistics (2001) from the Houari Boumediene University of Sciences and Technology (Algiers, Algeria).
- His experience includes research on reproductive health (behavioral surveys on HIV/STI in Senegal and Mauritania, post-abortion care, family planning) and poverty.
- He joined the APHRC in 2010 as the Country Manager for the Measurement, Learning and Evaluation (MLE) project in Senegal.
- He is currently acting as a Senior Research Officer working with the Data Measurement and Evaluation (DME) unit.

CARTA Charting the course for regional standards in post-graduate training

By Eunice Kilonzo, CARTA communications officer

There is a limited number of senior university lecturers and researchers with the right skill sets to meet an expanding demand for postgraduate training and mentorship programs in the East African region. This has had a negative impact on the universities' capacity to sustainably educate the next generation of lecturers and researchers.

The first-of-its-kind regional workshop on postgraduate studies from April 23-25, 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda was convened by the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), with the support of German



Prof. Peter Ngure, CARTA program manager awards a certificate of participation to Dr. Leon R. Mugabo from the University of Rwanda on April 25, 2018.

Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the African Population and Health Research Center – through CARTA. It brought together higher education actors from the East African Community partner states of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

Rwanda's Minister for Education Eugene Mutimura opened the three-day workshop that also reviewed the draft harmonized standards and guidelines for postgraduate studies in the region. Helmut Blumbach, from DAAD; Mike Kuria, IUCEA Deputy Executive Secretary; Ken Obura Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of East African Community and Northern Corridor Development – Kenya; Phil Cotton, Vice Chancellor University of Rwanda; and APHRC's Evelyn Gitau and Peter Ngure.

Prof. Ngure discussed the research funding gaps and landscape in the region and the continent at large. The participants were called to partner and collaborate to ensure that the standards and guidelines were adopted and implemented by participating institutions. These and other recommendations will be presented by IUCEA, to vice chancellors, deputy vice chancellors, and commissions of university education among other policy makers. Ultimately, the harmonized standards and guidelines, which will guide and level the training of postgraduate studies in the region, will be institutionalised by the participating institutions and countries.

Participants at the three-day meeting appreciated and borrowed heavily from the CARTA model of doctoral training, including the Joint

Advanced Seminars, tracking of PhD students, training of supervisors, and mobility of students.

Lucas Zinner from the University of Vienna/ Professionals in Doctoral Education (PRIDE) network shared European experiences for enhancing the quality of doctoral education, while CARTA facilitators included Adamson Muula from the University of Malawi and Ademola Ajuwon from the University of Ibadan spoke about quality supervision.

A committee of experts presented the draft harmonized standards and guidelines for postgraduate studies at the meeting and called upon the higher education professionals to review, provide feedback and amend.

Each participant pledged to review and find innovative ways to improve postgraduate training at their institutions based on their needs. In particular, deans and directors of graduate school discussed the central role of IUCEA in coordinating the development of higher education and research in the East African Community. They were keen to find areas to improve networking and collaboration among universities, mobility of academic staff and students, and promotion and maintenance of quality education. The heads of institutions also expressed interest in joining the CARTA program and to adopt its model.

The meeting resolved there was need for new innovative solutions to address the structure of PhD training, quality of supervision, responding on the demands of the market and the completion rates in the region.

Considering the influence and mandate of IUCEA, CARTA Program Manager Peter Ngure said it was imperative that CARTA draws up a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to officially cement the collaboration and joint initiatives around postgraduate studies between both parties. This way, it will allow CARTA partner institutions to take advantage of the opportunities and platforms available through this collaboration.

The workshop, that was well-covered in the Rwandese and international media, was officially closed by Prof. Alexandre Lyambabaje, the Executive Secretary IUCEA.



Prof. Mike Kuria, IUCEA Deputy Executive Secretary guides the group participants of attending the first-of-its-kind regional workshop on Postgraduate studies.

The way forward on the Standards and Guidelines on Postgraduate Studies in the region:

1. IUCEA Secretariat will facilitate the team to consolidate the comments received from the participants and refine the document by end of May 2018.
2. Have the draft Standards and Guidelines be considered by the IUCEA Quality Assurance Committee and thereafter be forwarded to the Executive Committee for approval by July 2018.

The specific resolutions from the workshop were:

1. IUCEA, CARTA and DAAD will endeavour to make the training on Quality Supervision of Postgraduate Studies regional, regular, with credits and be certified. IUCEA will work with National Councils and Councils for recognition and certification of the program.
2. IUCEA to work jointly with CARTA to mobilise funds for multiplication and sustainability of the programme at regional and national levels.
3. To make use of IUCEA staff mobility programme to support institutional and national multiplication activities.
4. Carry out capacity building training workshops for Training of Trainers (ToTs) for regional, national and institutional multiplication activities.
5. Design feedback mechanism and carry out monitoring/follow-up of implementation of decisions and outputs of the workshop.

With an innovation in immunization, Folusho Balogun gets ready to meet the Grand Challenge

CARTA Cohort Five fellow Folusho Balogun was in May awarded a \$100,000 Grand Challenges (GC) Exploration grant for an innovative intervention she thinks will help children in Ibadan, Nigeria, complete the recommended number of vaccines before they reach age five.

The GC program, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), is a highly competitive seed money program for global health and development interventions

Successful projects are eligible for follow-on funding of up to USD \$1 million.

The project, which is conducted in urban slums in Ibadan with a population of nearly 3.5million people, hypothesizes that in providing formal training and support to older women in communities, their influence will radiate outward to new mothers and encourage them to bring their children to be immunized. The World Health Organization



CARTA Cohort Five fellow Folusho Balogun from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

recommended routine immunization schedule includes at least seven vaccines by the time they are five years due to a myriad of reasons that Balogun seeks to address. However, this schedule is not followed through or achieved in Ibadan and thus children are exposed to serious illness or death from vaccine-

preventable disease.

“Traditionally, older women are great influencers in decision making about child care in Africa but they are not recognized in the formal healthcare setting” said Balogun, whose doctoral degree is related to adolescent immunisation in Nigeria.

“It is a great opportunity for me to contribute to solve the problem of poor immunization uptake among infants.”

Balogun was one of 35 researchers from 17 countries to win the GC initial grant of USD \$100,000.

The GC award marks the latest in a series of accolades for Balogun, who expects to complete her CARTA fellowship by October 2018.

In 2017 she earned the UNESCO-MARS Best African Women Researcher 2017 award for her work on cervical cancer and HPV vaccine for adolescents in Nigeria.

BIARI in Nairobi



Group photo of participants of the one-week-long first-ever Africa-based Brown International Advanced Research Institutes (BIARI), at the African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC) in Nairobi, Kenya from June 3-9, 2018.

APHRC hosted 10 CARTA fellows, secretariat staff and ADDRF fellows for the first-ever Africa-based Brown International Advanced Research Institutes (BIARI), at APHRC in Nairobi, Kenya from June 3-9, 2018. The workshop's theme was Health and Social Change in Africa.

Fellows drawn from Cohorts One, Two and Three and representing four of the eight carta partner universities, spent a week discussing the breadth and depth of the social changes that are sweeping sub-Saharan Africa — and the dramatic effects such changes are wreaking for human health.

For example, demographic processes such as declining fertility, rapid rural-to-urban migration, and increased longevity significantly influence patterns of risk and the burden of disease. In addition, they place new demands on health systems and infrastructure. Political-economic and social transformations such as urbanization, evolving opportunities for and habits of consumption, and rising inequality

also shape health-related contexts, behaviors, and access to care. Violent conflicts, cross-border migration, and environmental threats can significantly reconfigure both exposure and resulting outcomes.

Further, health and disease patterns are themselves engines in social change. Epidemics or perceived health threats can trigger significant human responses that have effects beyond their impact on health. For example, HIV and AIDS have arguably changed the social landscape of gender and sexuality across much of the continent. The fellows joined the others to tackle causes and possible solution of the rise of non-communicable diseases such cancer and diabetes. The recent Ebola epidemic in West Africa not only triggered changes in rituals such a burial ceremonies, it also caused major debates about the legacies of colonialism, the nature of contemporary North-South relations, and the differential value placed on human lives. In short, social responses to health problems can be a revealing window onto society more generally.

Lessons I learned about heart disease

By Angeline Chepchirchir, Cohort Three fellow from the University of Nairobi

“It was a great honor for me to present a poster at the US Conference in April 4-7, 2018 whose theme was to educate, share skills and inspire a renewed passion for cardiovascular disease care.

The poster presentations offered me an opportunity to gained extremely valuable skills for my clinical practice, academic and research career. I also picked lessons on how to share findings from my research and ideas on cardiovascular risk reduction and disease management.

I shared stories and experiences during break sessions with fellow attendees from Africa who are now based in the US. The experiences

were on comparison of cardiovascular disease care in the two regions. I gathered that Africa hasn't done much in the area of cardiovascular disease studies and that lack of data on this topic is a reality yet cardiovascular disease is a time bomb in the African continent.

I gained insights on research perspectives, best approaches in presentation of findings and critical steps taken to effectively influence policy using data. The conference was also an opportunity to network and make new professional contacts and friends while learning and having fun.

I thank CARTA for the sponsored opportunity.”

Meet Cohort Eight



Adeniji Folashayo Ikenna Peter
University of Ibadan



Adeomi Adeleye Abiodun
Obafemi Awolowo University



Akinwaare Margaret Omowaleola
University of Ibadan



Angella Musewa
Makerere University



Atiba Foluso Ayobami
University of Ibadan



Esan Oluwaseun Taiwo
Obafemi Awolowo University



Farlane Lindwe
University of the Witwatersrand



Gumede Siphamandla
University of the Witwatersrand



Habimana Jean de Dieu
University of Rwanda



Kafu Catherine
Moi University



Maleyo Agnes Jemuge
Moi University



Masamba Leo
University of Malawi



Maseko Lebogang Johanna
University of the Witwatersrand

The gender distribution of CARTA Cohort Eight Fellows

10
male



16
female



Meet Cohort Eight



▲ Mbindyo Christine Minoo
University of Nairobi



▲ Mobolaji Jacob Wale
Obafemi Awolowo University



▲ Mulaga Atupele Ngina
University of Malawi



▲ Murererehe Julienne
University of Rwanda



▲ Mwaniki Samuel Waweru
University of Nairobi



▲ Ntirenganya Faustin
University of Rwanda



▲ Oyelade Oyeyemi Olajumoke
Obafemi Awolowo University



▲ Peter Getrude Shepelo
University of Nairobi



▲ Popoola Oluwafemi Akinyele
University of Ibadan



▲ Anne Maina
University of Nairobi



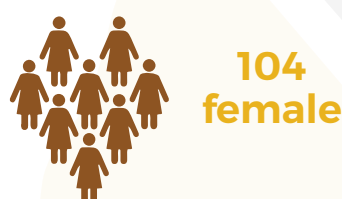
▲ Doris Kwesiga
Makerere University



▲ Rutayisire Robert
University of Rwanda



▲ Tushemerirwe Florence Basiimwa
Makerere University



Gender distribution of all CARTA fellows

Uganda's University hosts 60 CARTA PhD Fellows from 13 African Institutions

By Prof. Buyinza Mukadasi, CARTA Board Chair

Makerere University was pleased to once again welcome to Uganda representatives from the CARTA team including fellows, trainers and senior university officials for the month-long residential Joint Advanced Seminars 1 (Cohort Eight) & 4 (Cohort Five). The fifty-four (54) fellows were at the Makerere University School of Public Health in Kampala from March 5-28. Makerere University Vice Chancellor Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe officiated the opening ceremony of the JASes.

The fellows were drawn from the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), APHRC, Makerere University, University of Nairobi, Moi University, University of Ibadan, Obafemi Awolowo University, University of Rwanda, University of Malawi and Ifakara Health Institute.

The JASes are a hallmark of the CARTA program as they are tailor-made for the doctoral students in their PhD studies and beyond. JAS 1 builds critical thinking, technical skills, and other core research competencies in the new fellows introducing them to the essential concepts and seminal articles ahead of their doctoral studies. JAS 4 address the professional development including skills necessary to manage and teach large classes, raise and manage



➤ Cohort Eight fellows following through a presentation during the month-long Joint Advanced Seminar at the Makerere University School of Public Health in March, 2018.

research funds; grant writing; and research management. JAS 4 is also an opportunity for senior fellows to mentor junior fellows drawn from JAS 1.

On the third week of JAS 4, on March 20, Cohort Five fellows participated in the 5th Annual Joint Advanced Seminars Conference. The 26 fellows each had 10 minutes to highlight a section of their doctoral research where they got feedback on areas to improve on and how to further their research. The conference was opened by Prof. David Owiny, the deputy director, Directorate of Research and Graduate Training at Makerere University.

About 25 Cohort Five fellows, who are in the homestretch of their doctoral journey, expressed their gratitude to CARTA and to Makerere University for the high level of scholarship, the support and the quality

educational resources provided to them throughout their PhD journeys.

Makerere has hosted JAS workshops since 2017 and the CARTA Board in March this year approved and entrusted the University to host the JASes for the next two years (2019 & 2020).

CARTA graduates from Makerere University

- Charles Drago Kato (Cohort Three)
- Andrew Tamale (Cohort Four)
- Tumwiine Gabriel (Cohort Two)
- Stephen Wandera (Cohort Two)

Others still pursuing their doctoral studies

- Godwin Anywar (Cohort Six)
- Fred Maniragaba (Cohort Five)

CARTA fellows equipped with skills to use data management software for research

By Eunice Kilonzo, CARTA communications officer

Thirty five CARTA fellows, in Cohort Seven and Eight participated in the inaugural three-day regional Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) data management training workshop. The training from May 8-10, 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya was on REDCap, the secure web application for

building and managing online surveys and databases.

The fellows from the East and Southern Africa region learned how to use the software for data collection and analysis in their doctoral research. The three-day intensive training was led by CARTA's

monitoring and evaluation officer, Emmanuel Otukpa, and was co-facilitated by an expert on the software, Mapule Nhlapho, from the University of the Witwatersrand Biomedical Informatics Center.

The fellows now have skills on longitudinal data collection along with advanced data

management techniques. They were also taken through the entire lifecycle of a REDCap project – from initial setup to data entry and export.

CARTA program manager Prof. Peter Ngure said in his opening remarks: “The sessions revolved around reporting and project management, data resolution workflow as well as use of the REDCap offline mobile app.”



Some of the thirty five CARTA fellows who attended the inaugural three-day regional (REDCap) data management training workshop.

Northern Partners pledge to collaborate further to support CARTA Fellows

By Emma Bergstedt, CARTA northern partners' coordinator



The 19 participants who attended the two-day meeting in Basel, Switzerland from June 11-12, 2018 where they discussed issues of placements for CARTA PhD and postdoctoral fellows among others.

The first-ever northern partner meeting was held in Basel, Switzerland from June 11-12, 2018 where key discussions were how to beef up efforts to support CARTA fellows and graduates (new and existing)

It was a good avenue for the northern partners to understand the needs and future challenges for the consortium. Given that the Consortium has extended and developed over the last decade such as the fact that PhD fellows are increasing in numbers and the post-doctoral cohorts will become a growing constituency.

There have been new northern partner members who needed orientation and an historic overview of CARTA. At the meeting, the participants discussed the placements for PhD and postdoctoral fellows, and proposal writing and others. Key areas and goals of collaboration were mapped out as well as the action plan and strategy

to achieve these goals developed.

Some of the key outcome of the two-day meeting were on the placements for PhD and postdoctoral fellows; continued support on grant and proposal writing workshops; as well as mapping of areas and goals of collaboration. The convening also reflected on the future role of Northern Partners in CARTA.

In attendance were Prof. Sharon Fonn (CARTA Co-director), Prof. Peter Ngure (CARTA Program Manager) and Dr Evelyn Gitau (APHRC Director, Research Capacity Strengthening). The others were representatives from all Northern Partner institutions—**Brown University, CCGHR (coalition of 24 member universities), Swiss TPH, Umeå University, University of Gothenburg, University of Warwick, University of Bergen, and Uppsala Monitoring Centre**. There were also observers from prospective Northern Partners.

New Partnerships

Uppsala Monitoring Center (UMC), Sweden

Prof. Sharon Fonn, CARTA Co-Director, held talks with the Uppsala Monitoring Center (UMC) in the first week of April this year in regards to the contract for UMC to join CARTA. UMC pledged to fund one extra fellow whose research will be on pharmacovigilance. In addition, UMC will link CARTA to the national monitoring centers who shared topics they would like CARTA to cover. These Centers could be potential places where CARTA postdoctoral fellows could be hosted.

University of Bergen, Norway

Prof. Thorkild Tylleskär from the University of Bergen facilitated a fruitful meeting between CARTA Co-Director, Prof. Sharon Fonn and members of the Norwegian University. From the engagement it was agreed that there should be concrete plans for CARTA to be part of a European Union network on postgraduate education. The University of Bergen is already a member and CARTA would work with them to submit their request for membership in the next round of applications.

Two CARTA graduates recognized for their excellence in science

By Eunice Kilonzo, CARTA communications officer

CARTA graduates Francis Fagbamigbe Adeniyi (Cohort Two) and Charles Drago Kato (Cohort Three) attended the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) Affiliates Conference.

The two are among 25 early career scientists in the United Kingdom from August 6-8, 2018. They were selected for the AAS Affiliates Program: a prestigious opportunity for early career African scientists under age 40 to receive mentorship and opportunities to develop into world class research leaders.

Each AAS scholar will receive financial support to participate in conferences, symposia and workshops: all of which, together, aim to ensure that research translates into action at the community level. Scholars will also receive additional mentorship to improve their publication records, in order to contribute to the growing body of evidence generated by African scientists.



CARTA Cohort Two graduate Francis Fagbamigbe Adeniyi from the University of Ibadan.

“the most competitive pool yet with an overwhelming number of nominations from across the five regions of the continent”

AAS, a pan-African organization with headquarters in Kenya, described this round of selection as having been “the most competitive pool yet with an overwhelming number of nominations from across the five regions of the continent.” AAS aims to drive sustainable development in Africa through science technology and innovation.

“We welcome the new cohort, among whom are some of the brilliant minds from the continent,” AAS Executive Director Prof. Nelson Torto says. “The AAS is committed to ensuring that they are provided with the opportunities they need to develop their careers and contribute to the development of the continent”.

The AAS set up the Affiliates program in 2015 to recognise, mentor and help early career professionals to develop into world class research leaders. Through a donation from AAS Fellow and Senior Advisor Kevin Marsh, the Academy set up a fund in 2017 to promote the professional development of Affiliates and other early career scientists to help attract and retain them on the continent.

Francis Fagbamigbe Adeniyi is a researcher and lecturer of Medical Statistics and holds a PhD in Biostatistics from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria through the CARTA PhD fellowship. He has over 55 publications in peer-reviewed journals and was a recipient of the 2014 Medical Education Partnership Initiative in Nigeria (MEPIN).

Charles Drago Kato is a lecturer at the School of Biosecurity, Biotechnical and Laboratory Sciences at Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda. Dr. Kato attained his PhD from Makerere University in Clinical Immunology and Molecular Genetics with support from CARTA and Afrique One Consortium in 2016. His research interests are in biomarkers of disease co-infections and host-parasite interactions in infectious and zoonotic diseases for understanding disease



CARTA Cohort Three graduate Charles Drago Kato from Makerere University, Uganda.

“We welcome the new cohort who represent some of the brilliant minds from the continent. The AAS is committed to ensuring that they are provided with the opportunities they need to develop their careers and contribute to the development of the continent”

epidemiology, improving diagnostics and designing better therapeutic interventions.

CARTA program manager Prof. Peter Nguire said that the news “endorses our efforts towards nurturing, supporting, training, mentoring and developing research leaders in Africa.”

The AAS affiliates represent disciplines such as mathematical science, cultural sciences, humanities and social sciences, medical and health sciences, agricultural sciences, biosciences and geological, environmental, earth and space sciences. The affiliates are drawn from Benin, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Tunisia, South Africa, Uganda, Ethiopia, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

The WHO paper highlights, in part that, substandard and falsified medical products in countries and their use by patients threatens to undermine progress towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. Such products may be of poor quality, unsafe or ineffective, threatening the health of those that take them



CARTA fellow appointed in national pharmacy board as his research contributes to global evidence on substandard and falsified medicines

By Eunice Kilonzo, CARTA communications officer

CARTA cohort five fellow Felix Khuluza from the University of Malawi has been appointed by the State President of Malawi Arthur Peter Mutharika to the National Board of Directors of Pharmacy Medicines and Poisons Board (PMPB). His appointment, announced on July 13, means Khuluza and the other 10 members of the policy making institution will be involved in the registration of all pharmaceutical personnel. They will also assist in the promotion and improvement of the health of the population of Malawi mainly by controlling the registration and retention of medicines and allied substances.

Khuluza's name and skills in pharmacovigilance were also recognised in January this year when two of his published papers from his doctoral research on the quality of medicine available in his home country of Malawi were included in a new World Health Organization (WHO) global report on substandard and falsified medicines.

The report, *Study on the public health and socioeconomic impact of substandard and falsified medical products*, is a systematic review of more than 100 papers released between 2007-2016 on the public health and socioeconomic impact of substandard and falsified medical products.

The publications by the CARTA fellow who is also a lecturer in the University of Malawi, Department of Pharmacy are:

Khuluza, F (2014) "In-vitro evaluation of the quality of Paracetamol and Co-trimoxazole tablets used in Malawi based on pharmacopeial standards," Malawi Medical Journal, 26(2):38:41.

Khuluza F, Kigera S, Jaehnke RWO, Heide L (2016) "Use of thin-layer chromatography to detect counterfeit sulfadoxine/pyrimethamine tablets with the wrong active ingredient in Malawi," Malaria Journal, 15:215.

The WHO paper highlights substandard and falsified medical products in countries and their use by patients threatens to undermine progress towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. Such products may be of poor quality, unsafe or ineffective, threatening the health of those that take them. The paper further notes that the problem of substandard and falsified medical products continues to increase, as globalized manufacturing and distribution systems become ever more complex.

Khuluza's work has been used extensively in Malawi to develop improved pharmacovigilance. In 2017, he worked on a study of the quality of oxytocics in Malawi, funded by GIZ.

In addition in 2017, the fellow was involved in writing grant proposal for the study of quality of oxytocics in Malawi where a grant of €95,000 was awarded from GIZ. In the same year, the Pharmacy Department at the University of Malawi won a consultancy to implement the introduction of Pharmacy Assistants training in new colleges in Malawi. Khuluza was involved in the consultancy, from conceptualisation phase to implementation phase, as a Deputy Team Leader.

Khuluza's doctoral study on substandard drugs in Malawi was funded through the CARTA PhD fellowship and was supervised by Prof. Lutz Heide (University of Malawi) and Prof. Ulrike Holzgrabe (University of Würzburg, Germany).

We represented CARTA at the India Alliance Conference

By Judith Mageni Cohort Three fellow from Moi University



✎ Judith Mageni Cohort Three fellow from Moi University joins other participants of the India Alliance Conference in Mumbai, India including Dr. Simon Kay, Wellcome Trust Head of International Operations and Partnerships and Cohort Five fellow Emmanuel Kaindoa.

“I was one of two CARTA fellows representing the initiative at the recent India Alliance Conference in Mumbai, and was honored to be able to deliver my poster to an academic audience.

The May 17-19 conference was an opportunity to share ideas with global researchers about the cutting edge science from peers who are researchers from the India Alliance and other Africa DELTAS fellows.

We discussed potential collaborations with other fellows and the opportunities available such as the African Academy of Sciences Africa-India Mobility Fund. Dr. Simon Kay, Wellcome Trust Head of International Operations and Partnerships, interacted with the CARTA fellows—Emmanuel Kaindoa (Cohort Five fellow)—and we discussed opportunities for funding.

Most presentations were on basic science research with only about 20% from Public

AESA's mission is to catalyze investments, strategies and programs that promote the brightest minds in Africa, foster scientific excellence, inspire research leadership and accelerate innovation in ways that will improve lives and shift the center of gravity for African science to Africa.

Health. On the morning of May 18, I made my poster presentation. During the poster session, I interacted with various people among them an editor of the British medical journals, the Lancet. I met a fellow

in dentistry who is keen to pursue India – Africa partnerships. However, this is not my forte and I thus promised to link him up with a member of faculty from the school of dentistry once home.

We had an evening session with the other DELTAS fellows from Africa and explored opportunities for collaboration once we leave the meeting. The last day was marked by more presentations and networking sessions with fellows, editors of various journals and other attendees. Overall, the meeting was useful and timely especially the networking opportunities were also very handy and I have talked to so many fellows including those from Africa. We hope to keep the communication open and share.

The conference was organised by The Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa (AESA). ”

CARTA Program updates

Enter

Dr. Florah Karimi - CARTA Program Manager



CARTA is pleased to welcome Dr. Florah Karimi who joins CARTA as a new program manager. Dr. Karimi earned her doctoral degree in the Psychology of Education from the University of South Africa.

Dr. Karimi brings to APHRC, and CARTA, a wealth of skills and knowledge in quality assurance in universities in the African region, including engagement in the development of policies, regulations, standards and guidelines and benchmarks for university education. She was the Kenyan focal person for World Bank projects relating to university education in the continent.

She will work with the CARTA secretariat to support the implementation of the CARTA program to strengthen doctoral training in Africa, through provision of support to staff and faculty of partner universities in doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships; strengthening of research, supervision and management capacities among faculty and administrators of African universities. She was previously the technical advisor, to the Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Education in Kenya, on university education matters. Prior to which she was the Deputy Vice Chancellor at Pan Africa Christian University and, earlier on, the Deputy Commission Secretary of Commission for University Education in Kenya.

She holds a Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Education, from Kenyatta University.

Janet Moraa - CARTA Senior Program Accountant

CARTA is pleased to welcome Janet Moraa who is responsible for the financial management of APHRC's Research Capacity Strengthening Division. She also offers supervisory support to the Program Accountants in the Center.

Janet holds a Masters and a Bachelors of Arts degrees in Economics from the University of Nairobi and is a Certified Public Accountant of Kenya. She joined APHRC in September 2017 prior to which she worked at the World Wide for Nature (WWF) Regional office as a program accountant supporting various projects across the African region.



Exit

Prof. Peter Ngure - CARTA Program Manager



Peter Ngure has announced his resignation as the program manager for CARTA. He leaves the Center in August 2018 after three productive years in the role. The Center will always appreciate the steady hand he has brought to CARTA, working in close collaboration with both our northern partners and Africa-based partner institutions.

It is his commitment and engagement that has made the program what it is today. Peter has helped build up a team that will support the fellows, partners and each other even in his absence. Going forward, the CARTA programme will continue to be managed in strong partnership between Wits and APHRC, with the network of institutional focal points providing counsel, guidance and support. CARTA Co-directors: Prof. Sharon Fonn, CARTA Co- Director and Dr. Joseph Gichuru, Deputy Executive Director, APHRC said they are confident that the programme will continue to deliver on its mission of developing a body of confident, able and African research leaders to drive Africa's development agenda for population health.

"We wish him all the best in the next chapter of his career and hope he will continue to be a great CARTA supporter and ambassador," said a letter by the co-directors.



CARTA Alumni Watch

Anne M. Khisa - CARTA Post-Doctoral Fellow, Research Capacity strengthening, APHRC

"I joined the research capacity strengthening division of APHRC in March 2018 for my post-doctoral fellowship. My main focus is on conducting research on higher education. Currently, I am conducting preliminary research that will help the Higher Education Research (HER) unit at the Center to develop some its major research programs.

I am currently looking at the supervision and mentorship of women students enrolled in doctoral programs in sub-Saharan Africa. The paper from this research focuses on the aspects of doctoral training that are likely to influence how women complete their PhD training. It will also look at whether these experiences influence whether they remain within science research careers.

I will also look at a critical analysis of the research and other outputs of fellows in CARTA PhD fellowship program, through a gender lense. The paper will focus on CARTA graduates to document whether there any gender differences in their performance. Such as time taken to completions of PhD, research publications resulting from the PhD, post doc training and other research grants won after PhD.

I am keen in this fellowship to explore what contributes to, or hinders, the ability of



✕ CARTA Post-Doctoral Fellow, Research Capacity strengthening, APHRC Anne M. Khisa.

women in sub-Saharan Africa to achieve optimal success in research in public or population healthin Sub Saharan Africa (SSA).

Just one in three researchers in SSA is female, which is of great concern because women need to be drivers of science not just subjects of scientific enquiry. My research uses It is premised on ideas such as the pipeline model and varnish box models to hat explainunpack the systematic decline

of female participation from the earliest levels of why few women participate in earlier levels of basic training in Science, Technology, Mathematics and Engineering (STEM), and why few women remain in science careers at doctoral and post-doctoral level.

I want my work to help find answers not only to why female participation declines but also to generate solutions. As it is important to attract and retain more women bigger numbers of women participating in science scientific and research careers.

We have a long way to go to fill the gender gap in science in sub-Saharan Africa, which UNESCO estimates is at 34 years. Being able to contribute to Africa's own body of evidence on gender gaps in higher education means that I am helping to fill that gap, so that in my lifetime, both girls and boys from around the continent will have equal opportunities to pursue and succeed in scientific careers. The current gender disparities must thus be examined and addressed using scientific evidence."

Anne was a Cohort Three Fellow based at the University of Nairobi.

CARTA Alumni Numbers

| Institutions | Completed doctoral training | Attended graduate workshop |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| University of Ibadan | 8 | 2 |
| Obafemi Awolowo University | 11 | 7 |
| APHRC | 1 | - |
| Makerere University | 5 | 2 |
| University of the Witwatersrand | 6 | 2 |
| University of Nairobi | 3 | 1 |
| Moi University | 5 | 1 |
| University of Malawi | 10 | 6 |
| University of Dar Es Salaam | 3 | - |
| Ifakara Health Institute | 1 | - |
| University Of Rwanda | 3 | 3 |
| Total | 56 | 24 |



Publications

579



Peer reviewed articles
as of June 2018

ENGENDERING A CONDUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES: ASSESSING AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTIVE FACILITIES IN NIGERIA.

Macellina Y. Ijadunola; Cohort Six fellow from Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife, Nigeria.
LINK TO THE PAPER: [10.1080/17483107.2018.1449017](https://doi.org/10.1080/17483107.2018.1449017)



1. What background information would someone who is completely unfamiliar with your field need to know to understand the findings in your paper?

Tertiary education for students with disabilities is aimed at enabling them to learn in the least restrictive manner possible so that they are empowered to contribute maximally to national development. Nigerian students with physical disabilities (SWD), like their counterparts who are physically fit, may require university education as a means of self-actualization. In order to achieve this aim, assistive devices are required for students with disabilities. Assistive devices and facilities are items or building designs needed for students living with disabilities to help them move around and adapt to the environment. These include special hostel accommodation, lecture halls with ramps and railings to make movement easy for individuals using wheelchairs, crutches and braces. They also need assistive technologies such as: hearing aids for students with hearing impairment and low vision aids for those with visual impairment; specialized library facilities including Braille textbooks among others.

2. What research question did you set out to answer and why?

This research sought to answer the questions: What assistive devices are available to aid learning among university disabled students?

This is so as to urge universities to have an official policy on students with disabilities and implement it. The policy should address special considerations for disabled students, such as having an updated register for students with disability, having examination questions in large fonts for students with visual disabilities and providing special counselling services for students with disabilities among others.

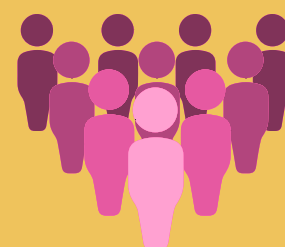


3. What are the most important findings of your paper?

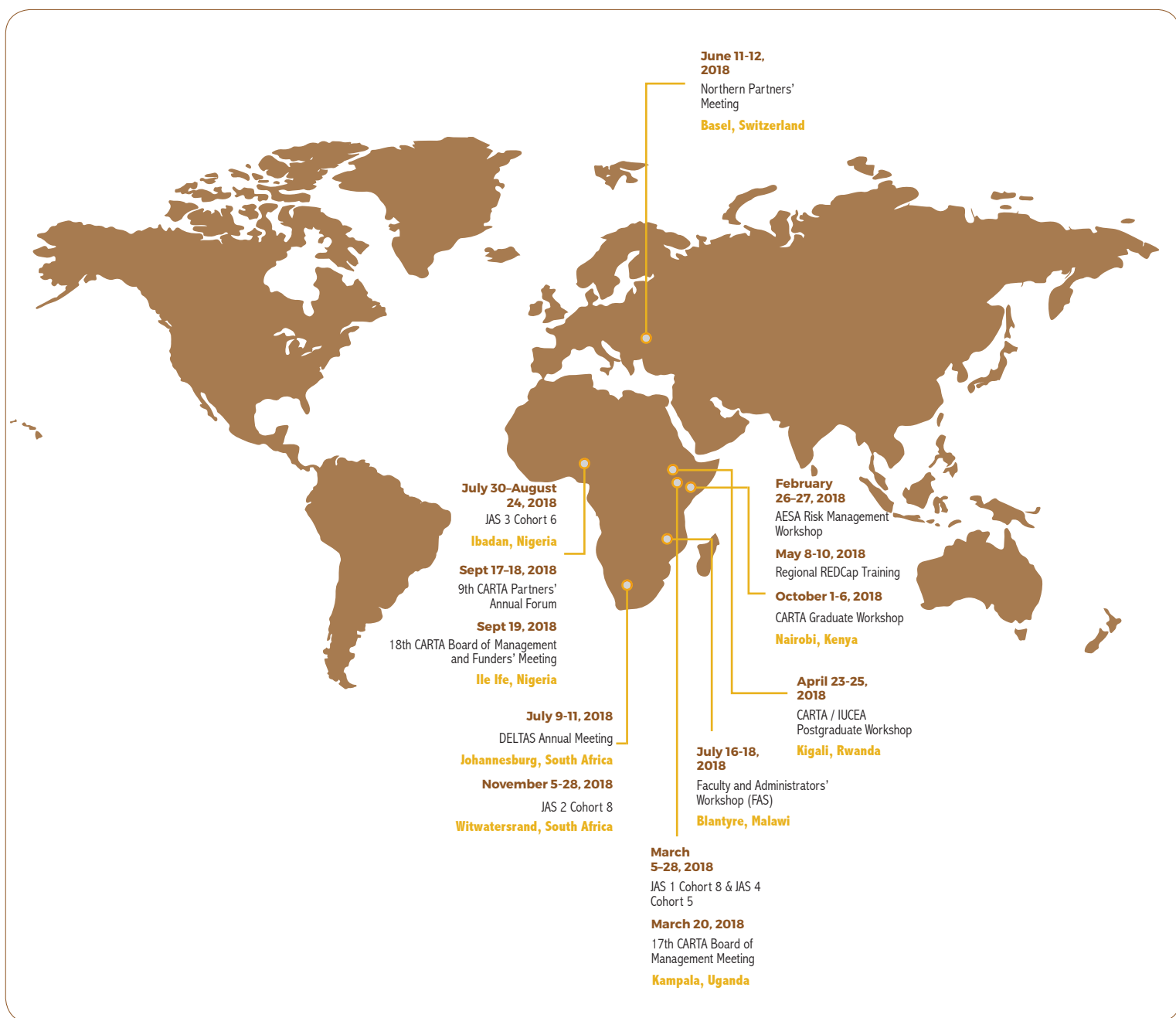
The study was conducted in Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile Ife Nigeria using a mixed methods approach. About seven in 10 respondents had mobility impairment, while others had visual and hearing impairment. Only the university's administrative building had a functioning elevator. Slightly more than half of the lecture theatres have public address systems, while only two have special entrances and exits with ramps for SWD. Almost all respondents were unaware of facilities that aid learning and facilities for library use. University officials were aware of assistive facilities for SWD but do not know the actual number of SWD.

4. Who might eventually benefit from the findings of your study, and what would need to be done before we could achieve these benefits?

We recommend that the university should develop and implement an official policy on students with disabilities. More resources should be allocated towards providing assistive facilities for students with physical disabilities and the university should partner with both government parastatals and non-governmental organizations to improve the welfare and inclusiveness of students with disabilities by providing scholarships and other study incentives. In addition, the design of buildings on university campus should be made disability friendly and a disability register should be open for SWD on campus.



CALENDAR of events



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