

CARTA News

The newsletter of the Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa

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CARTA Fellows graduate



Nicole and Sunday on their graduation day



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Two Cohort 1 CARTA Fellows, Nicole De Wet and Sunday Adedini, received their PhD certificates during a graduation ceremony held on November 21, 2013 at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

The two graduates are full-time staff in CARTA Partner-Institutions based in Africa where they are expected to return and remain actively engaged in research and training. Their return to their institutions and stay in the region are in accordance with CARTA's aim of retaining well-trained scholars who can support the future growth of the African academy. Research by these two graduates has appeared in high-caliber peer-reviewed journals such as the *Maternal and Child Health* and *African Population Studies*.



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Program Updates

Sida Results-Based management training workshop

Building on the January 28 – 29, 2013 workshop held at the APHRC Campus, Nairobi, CARTA, with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), carried out a second and final workshop on Results-Based Management (RBM) on September 10 and 11, 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya. The RBM framework is a program management strategy focusing on performance and achievement of outputs, outcomes and results. The RBM will be a critical factor in ensuring the success of the CARTA program. It enables program implementers



 Dr. Barni Nor of Sida contributes during the RBM training session in Nairobi, Kenya

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to look beyond activities and outputs and focus more on actual results. The aim of the workshop was therefore to capacity-build Partner-Institutions in the utilization of the RBM framework in program implementation and reporting. As part of the training, Partner-Institutions participated in the preparation of the CARTA RBM log frame, producing clear and agreed results-chain for the expected results of the program.

Frederick Williams of Associates for International Management Services (AIMS) facilitated the RBM workshop, which was attended by over 20 participants from CARTA Partner-Institutions. Other participants at the workshop were representatives from CARTA funders such as Barni Nor, Research Advisor – Health, FORSK – Research Cooperation Unit, Department for Global Cooperation, Sida and Jane Kengaya-Kayondo, Special Advisor for Africa, Wellcome Trust.

8th CARTA Board of Management Meeting



 CARTA Board Meeting September 2013. Seated from left - Samson Kinyanjui, Anne Nangulu Akinyinka Omigbodon, Sharon Fonn and Alex Ezech. Standing from left Chimaraoke Izugbara, Wilson Mandala, Mercy Machiya and Emmanuel Bellon

The CARTA Board of Management (BOM) held its 8th meeting on September 14, 2013. During the meeting, the Board reviewed and approved CARTA's work plan and budget for 2014. Other approvals by the Board included the CARTA graduation

policy and the admission of Umea University, Sweden as the 8th Northern Partner-Institution.

In attendance at the CARTA BOM for the first time were the newly-elected members to the Board comprising Moi University represented by Ann Nangulu and KEMRI Wellcome Trust, Kilifi represented by Samson Kinyanjui. Two CARTA funders, Wellcome Trust and Sida, attended the BOM as observers. Wellcome Trust was represented by Jane Kengaya-Kayondo while Barni Nor, Research Advisor – Health, FORSK – Research Cooperation Unit, Department for Global Cooperation, represented Sida. Both Kengaya-Kayondo and Nor expressed satisfaction with the implementation of the CARTA program. The Board also approved the date and venue for its next meeting as September 19, 2014 in Malawi.

CARTA Fellow wins a prestigious award

Simbarashe Takuva is a cohort 2 CARTA Fellow based at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. He is currently the Project Lead and Medical Epidemiologist at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) for HIV and STI surveillance activities in South Africa. CARTANews talked to Simbarashe to hear more on his PhD research. Interestingly, an oral abstract on the genetic component of this project was presented in December 2013 at the International Conference for AIDS and STIs in Africa. Further, a poster from this PhD project has been accepted for the 21st Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2014), the world's foremost gathering of HIV/AIDS research scientists, clinicians, and policy makers, to be held in Boston, USA, in early 2014. He has already received a Young Investigator's Award for this abstract.

1 Please tell us what you are studying and what your work entails.

I am currently undergoing doctoral training in Public Health (Epidemiology) at the School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) in Johannesburg. I also supervise and teach MSc students in Epidemiology at Wits and the University of Pretoria. I am sure that the CARTA-sponsored PhD training program is strengthening my competencies in conducting rigorous clinical research in order to improve outcomes among patients.

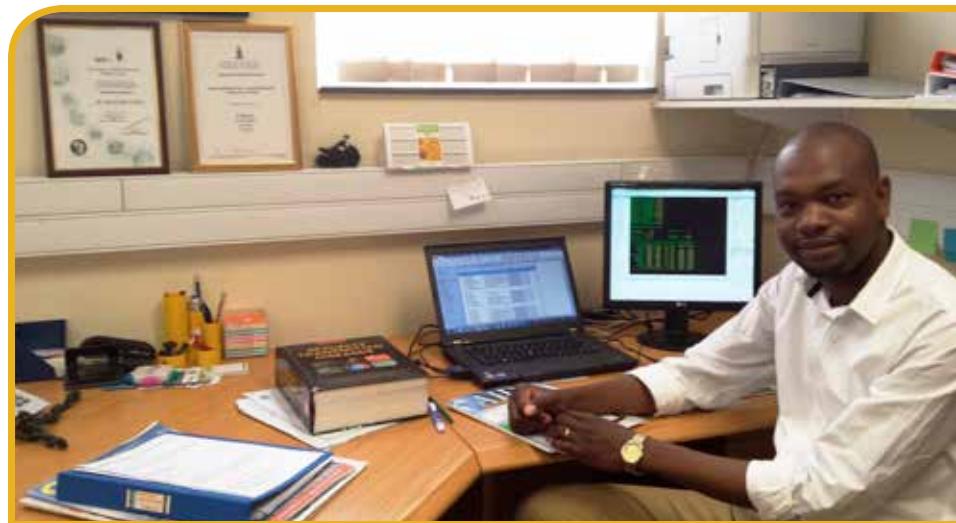
2 What does your doctoral research focus on?

My PhD study is by publication. I do it in collaboration with the Clinical HIV Research Unit, a research entity of the University of the Witwatersrand. The research focuses on the clinical and genetic epidemiology of vitamin D among HIV patients in South Africa. Vitamin D is a steroid hormone and potent immunomodulator whose actions are modulated by the vitamin D receptor.

The prevalence of vitamin D deficiency and its correlates is unclear in the HIV population initiating antiretroviral therapy in resource-limited settings. Also, vitamin D deficiency may be common and associated with significant morbidity, possible susceptibility to HIV and even HIV disease progression. While there is accumulating evidence that certain genetic factors may be associated with susceptibility to infectious diseases, these factors however may play different roles in different populations. Genotype frequencies of these genetic factors differ between populations and may contribute to inconsistent associations with disease development. Hence, it is important to study these in our own population. While a number of environmental and host factors have been identified as risk factors for poor HIV treatment outcomes, understanding the burden of this deficiency and its correlates in this patient population is therefore paramount in order to inform public health strategies to address this micronutrient deficiency.

3 What is the significance of your study?

The data from my study will provide useful insights on the potential role of vitamin D supplementation as a simple, inexpensive public health intervention for HIV-infected persons in order to improve their treatment outcomes and susceptibility to disease. Also, by examining



Simbarashe Takuva

the genetic polymorphisms, this project has potential to provide mechanistic insights into pathways by which vitamin D may modulate host response to HIV infection itself and to opportunistic infections which cause morbidity and mortality in HIV-infected people.

4 What challenges do you face in your work and studies?

One of the major challenges is balancing my PhD work with my current employment at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), which in itself is a very demanding job. I have had to grasp new methods and techniques in short time-frames. As the Lead Medical Epidemiologist for the Centre for HIV and STI at the NICD, I am tasked with directing the epidemiological components of large scale HIV and STI surveillance programmes in South Africa and other parts of the southern African region. This includes measuring HIV drug resistance, HIV incidence, STI anti-microbial susceptibility patterns, components of the antenatal HIV and STI surveys and mathematical modelling the HIV epidemic in South Africa.

5 Last words

I am fortunate to be working under supervisors who have an astounding depth of knowledge in their areas of expertise. My supervisors are Tobias Chirwa, a brilliant teacher, biostatistician-epidemiologist, and current head of epidemiology and biostatistics at Wits School of Public Health; and Patrick MacPhail, a distinguished haemato-oncologist who has contributed immensely to the ways HIV infected patients are clinically managed in South Africa and other resource-limited settings; and Adrian Martineau, a leading authority on vitamin D and infection from the Queen Mary University of London acts as secondary supervisor. Outside of work and academics, I am a supporter of Orlando Pirates Football Club. I also enjoy camping and fishing.

CARTA visits ANAFE



Seated Mercy Machiya (left) and Aissetou Drama Yaye, Standing from left - Makau Ngola, Thomas Yebei, Alfred Odour and James Aucha.

CARTA program staff paid a visit to the African Network for Agriculture, Agroforestry and Natural Resources Education (ANAFE) on October 29, 2013. ANAFE is a network of 134 member institutions (universities and colleges)

in 35 African countries teaching agriculture and natural resource sciences. ANAFE is supported by the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) and Sida.

The purpose of the visit was to learn about ANAFE's approach to the Results-Based Management (RBM) logical framework and understand ways in which the framework contributes to effective outcome reporting for ANAFE. The visit aimed at promoting cross-learning among Sida supported institutions, to develop synergies and interrogate possible areas of collaboration given the similarities between CARTA and ANAFE.

ANAFE was represented by Aissetou Drama Yaye, the Executive Secretary, James Aucha, the Programme Officer and Alfred Oduor, the Communications Officer. The CARTA team comprised Mercy Machiya, the Program Manager, Makau Ngola, Communications Officer and Thomas Yebei, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer. Yaye gave an historical background of ANAFE and the relationship ANAFE has with different funders including Sida. She detailed the steps taken in the development of the ANAFE RBM logical framework citing the invaluable guidance given by Associates for International Management Services (AIMS). The discussions focused on Sida's engagement with ANAFE in the development of the ANAFE RBM framework.

Visit by the Carnegie Corporation of New York

Ms. Andrea Johnson, the Program Officer, Higher Education and Libraries in Africa, International Program, Carnegie Corporation of New York, paid a visit to the CARTA Secretariat at the APHRC Campus on November 07, 2013. Ms. Johnson was briefed

on the program's achievements, plans and challenges. The visit accorded CARTA an opportunity to learn more about the Corporation's plans for higher education in Africa.



Ms. Andrea Johnson, second right explaining Carnegie's plans for higher education in Africa to CARTA staff.

CARTA Partners' Forum, 2013

CARTA held its Partners' Forum (PAF) from September 12 - 14, 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya. The Partners' Forum is an annual event that brings together CARTA Partner-Institutions represented by their respective Focal Persons. The meeting provided an opportunity for Partners to select the fourth cohort of CARTA Fellows. A total of 27 applicants were selected for the award. The meeting also deliberated on various CARTA program

activities and reviewed various CARTA policies for approval by the Board. In addition, it provided a forum for sharing best practices on the management of the CARTA processes and activities at the institutional level.

CARTA funders Wellcome Trust and Sida attended in an observer capacity. Below is a full list of selected Fellows and their areas of research:



Mutua Michael Mbithi
African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC)

Study topic:
Abortion and Post Abortion Care in Kenya



Olusanya B. Ayokunnu
University of Ibadan

Study topic:
Assessment of the magnitude, causes and risk factors of childhood blindness in Oyo state, Nigeria



Oluwaseun Oladapo Akinyemi
University of Ibadan

Study topic:
Analysis of Maternal Health Policies in Nigeria: Challenges and Lessons



Alonge Ayodele John
University of Ibadan

Study topic:
Efficacy of Social Media and Mobile Technology Use for HIV/AIDS Knowledge and Prevention among Teenagers in South-West Nigeria



Moshi Irene Richard
Ifakara Health Institute

Study topic:
Exploring relationships between outdoor human activities and persistent malaria transmission in rural Tanzanian populations



Mayora Chrispus
Makerere University

Study topic:
Scaling up Community Health workers (CHWs) program in Uganda: Implications for Human Resources for Health Management (HRHM)



Matovu Flavia Kiweewa
Makerere University

Study topic:
Bone Mineral Density Study in Young Adult Women on Depot-medroxyprogesterone at the Mulago FP Clinic, Uganda



Zakumumpa Henry
Makerere University

Study topic:
Characterizing the sustainability of donor-funded ART programs in Uganda:



Tamale Andrew
Makerere University

Study topic:
Risk Assessment of mercury and lead along the fish value chain in the lake Victoria Basin



Mbuthia G. Wambura
Moi University

Study topic:
Assessment of the impact of community health workers programme in the control of tuberculosis in remote pastoralists communities -Kenya



Karani Joel Magutah
Moi University

Study topic:
Cardio-respiratory fitness trends in physically healthy Kenyan Populace from rural and Urban set-ups



Sitienei J. Chepchirchir
Moi University

Study topic:
Multilevel Community Participation in Health Facilities, Western Kenya



Sawe C. Jepkoech
Moi University

Study topic:
Assess the Impact of Community strategy program in Nutritional Status of children under five years in Uasin Gishu County



Mukara K. Batamuliza
University of Rwanda

Study topic:
Audiology: Planning and policies for improved care in resource limited settings – the case of Rwanda



Mapayi Boladale Moyosore
Obafemi Awolowo University

Study topic:
Integration of FP Services into Mental Health services: An Assessment of Psychosocial Correlates of uptake and continuance of mentally ill females at the Psychiatric Clinic of OAU Teaching Hospital



Ayamolowo Sunday Joseph

Obafemi Awolowo University

Study topic:

Burden and coping pattern of pregnant teenagers and teenage mothers in selected primary health care centres in Ekiti state, Nigeria



Taiwo Modupe Oladunni

Obafemi Awolowo University

Study topic:

Relationship between Psychological well-being and HAART adherence among HIV/AIDS infected persons in three nationally designated treatment centers in Southwest Nigeria



Damian Respicius Shumbusho

University of Dar es Salaam

Study topic:

Financial Accountability in Rural Public Health: The Case of Maternal Health in Kigoma and Rukwa Regions



Kassim Mohamed

University of Dar es Salaam

Study topic:

Maternal Health Information Needs and Information Seeking Behavior of Women of Reproductive Age in Rural Tanzania



Tembo Lackson Harrison

University of Malawi

Study topic:

Assessing the effect of HIV/AIDS on bone microstructure and composition on bone tissue.



Malenga Tumaini

University of Malawi

Study topic:

Determining the predominant motivations that promote transactional sex in densely populated areas in Malawi.



Mutai Winnie Chepkurui

University of Nairobi

Study topic:

Molecular epidemiology of Clostridium difficile among patients in Kenyatta National Hospital



Mukungu Nillian Ayuma

University of Nairobi

Study topic:

Antimalarial activity of plants used for treating malaria in rural western Kenya



Chikandwa A.Takuranenhamo

University of the Witwatersrand

Study topic:

The effects of HIV infection and treatment on the epidemiology of sexually transmitted infections in men in South Africa



Nieuwoudt S Jewett

University of the Witwatersrand

Study topic:

The role of social capital in health seeking and maternal and child health outcomes of urban migrants in Johannesburg, South Africa



Hartmann Dieter

University of the Witwatersrand

Study topic:

Determining a framework of benchmarks for efficient healthcare delivery in South Africa.



Dube Nkosiyazi

University of the Witwatersrand

Study topic:

Exploring the experiences and social complexity associated with non/disclosure of HIV status to children born HIV positive living at Child and Youth Care Centres in South Africa

The selected Fellows will undertake online assignments starting October 1, 2013 in readiness for the Joint Advanced Seminar 1 (JAS 1) in March, 2014 when they will be formally admitted to the CARTA PhD fellowship program. The assignments will focus on critical reading, group work, interviewing and critical reflections skills. These tasks are to be undertaken until February 15, 2014.



Uche Abanihe Isiugo of University of Ibadan, Nigeria, presenting the institution's Annual Report to the Partners' Forum.



Anne Katahoire, Makerere University Focal Person, presenting the institution's Annual Report to the Partners' Forum.

Learning Together - Northern Partner's experience

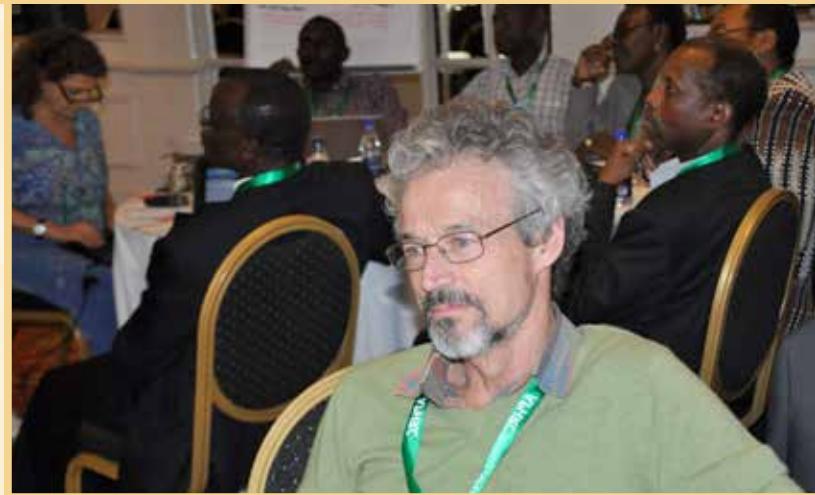
Donald C. Cole, Associate Professor, University of Toronto and the Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research (CCGHR) talks about his journey with the CARTA program and how it has transformed him.

I first came into contact with CARTA in late 2008 at a meeting in Ottawa, Canada hosted by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) where we, as CCGHR leadership, listened to CARTA's Executive Director Alex Ezech pitch for support for a new Africa-led doctoral training initiative. I was captivated by CARTA's vision partly because of having worked with Latin American and East African public health research colleagues for some years and having struggled with reciprocity in relationships due to the usual funding arrangements and national university research training challenges.

Fortunately, I was on sabbatical leave so I had the time to take Alex up on his invitation to work with APHRC colleagues in Nairobi on the initial implementation planning for CARTA in early 2009. Sitting in the March 2009 Nairobi SSA (Sub-Saharan Africa) Partners' meeting as the only Northern Partner representative, I was deeply moved by the candid accounts of my colleagues of their past experiences with high-income country partners and their funders. Their descriptions of the challenges in constructing respectful relationships which built SSA research training capacities reinforced my own commitment to SSA-led efforts, consistent with CCGHR values, but sometimes at odds with my own university funding priorities.

At the June 2009 Bellagio meeting, we shared curriculum ideas for Joint Advanced Seminar 1 (JAS1) and JAS 2 across a wide range of SSA and northern Partner-Institutions. I learned a lot about existing resources, particularly from Special Programme for Research & Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) colleagues. We struggled with how to be helpful to incoming Fellows with a wide range of existing skills and experience. We also grappled with how to not only include professional development and research training components but also how to link them across the JAS sessions. The second part of the meeting with funders was a real eye-opener for me, hearing their interests; what they were looking for in performance, and which Partners they felt they could work with (or not) based on their mandates and histories. I brought back all of these lessons to my own university when I resumed directorship of our Collaborative PhD Program in Global Health.

My academic interest in evaluation of health research capacity strengthening (RCS) increased with my work in CARTA. We were successful in obtaining funds for a scoping review of peer-reviewed literature, although unfortunately, the eruption of the Icelandic volcano foiled our plans for a meeting by disrupting our travel schedule! In June 2010, I was back in Nairobi with colleagues hammering out the JAS 1 curriculum in two days of intense meetings. We also had our first full interaction with the RAND Europe evaluation team, experienced their difficulties in appreciating our skills in evaluation, and began negotiation of an acceptable approach to monitoring the development of CARTA. This led to some CARTA funding for me and a University of Toronto doctoral student to further develop monitoring and evaluation tools. While doing this, we gained a fuller appreciation of both the complexity of CARTA, and the need for a lighter approach to taking stock of how CARTA progressed.



 Donald C. Cole

In March 2011, we launched our first JAS 1 with me as the coordinator on the first week; a challenging trans-Atlantic task. I was so impressed by the eagerness of the Fellows to learn, the heterogeneity of their skills and the roller coaster process of the JAS 1 which saw us adapting as we went; incorporating feedback from the Fellows and facilitators, handing over to the next weekly facilitator, Kathleen Kahn and even missing a dinner invitation from Alex! We systematized the design and feedback for a poster at the joint Canadian-US Conference on Global Health, stimulating discussions of comparisons with other US programs. Interestingly, an open debate occurred about the ongoing shift from northern to SSA leadership in capacity strengthening programs; the Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI) program and the African Institutions Initiative (AII) being well- funded examples of that shift.

Building on experiences with monitoring and evaluation in CARTA, I applied to the Canadian Institutes for Health Research with ESSENCE and Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine colleagues for funding to examine grey literature; evaluation reports on health RCS and canvas evaluators on frameworks for evaluation. Starting in April 2011, it provided a wonderful opportunity to examine a wide range of approaches to evaluation, including that taken in a RAND annual report on CARTA. I brought this background to the June 2012 All Directors and Northern Partners' meeting in London hosted by Wellcome Trust (WT) where I learned not only about the variety of approaches other consortia were taking to RCS, but also the tensions around evaluation and publishing of results; a real stimulus for us to be writing up our CARTA experiences!

Shortly thereafter in 2012, we were hosted by the University of Warwick to reflect upon the various JAS sessions that had been held so far and advance curricula for future JAS sessions. I also worked with Moi University colleagues and others on the first draft of JAS IV which involved thinking through how we were preparing our Fellows to lead in the application of the CARTA philosophy; engage with stakeholders and continue developing their research programs. In addition, a group of us brainstormed about challenges in supervision and specifically how to extend the virtual work of ESE:O colleagues and the supervisors' training to an ongoing approach to support and mentorship. With funding from the Canadian Global Health Research Initiative in early 2013, we were able to pull together a set of stories

on global health research mentorship, including ESE:O's with CARTA. You can view these articles on the CCGHR website at <http://ccghr.ca/members/working-groups/mentorship/>

In March 2013, the University of Dar es Salaam hosted JAS 1 where I initiated my first engagement with a CARTA Fellow Ms. Providence Jepchirchir Kiptoo and joined the supervisory team of Moi University colleagues. Through the AMPATH collaboration, we facilitated Providence's successful application for a Commonwealth Scholarship to visit the University of Toronto on a research and study visit. It has been a pleasure working with her more directly through

her inter JAS 1-2 literature review, linking her with Canadian colleagues who are experts in pesticide exposure assessment and reproductive epidemiology; and bouncing ideas around on Skype calls with Moi university colleagues.

In May 2013, we were hosted by the University of Gothenburg where we engaged in a wonderful discussion around JAS 3, made some plans for publications in keeping with the developing board policy, did some idea generation for the Wellcome Trust renewal (my first involvement in a CARTA grant!) and brainstormed about assessment of supervisor-mentoring experiences to date. September 2013 marked our first full day on JAS 4 planning

in which I am now leading the Educator role in the horizontal module. I am doing this with some help from a Masters degree student whom I am funding to work with me and other CARTA colleagues.

So as you can see, CARTA has become a key place for me to learn and contribute. In 2014, I look forward to leading a group developing mentorship guidelines and also to our first combined JAS 1 & 4 in March. I am also looking forward to spending some of my sabbatical time writing up my CARTA experiences on how we have innovated in doctoral training and institutional development to strengthen population and public health research in Africa.

CARTA Fellows leading the way

CARTA Fellow wins best postgraduate student oral presentation

Herbert Longwe, a cohort 2 Fellow studying at the University of Malawi, has won the best postgraduate student oral presentation at the joint College of Medicine – National Aids Commission of Malawi Research Dissemination Conference. This annual event is hosted by the College of Medicine (CoM) to disseminate findings by researchers from the College of Medicine,

local research institutions and international collaborators. The event took place from November 22 - 23, 2013 at Crossroads Hotel, Lilongwe. The theme of the conference was 'Towards 2015: Success and Challenges of Health and HIV & AIDS Research in the Context of Millennium Goals'. Herbert was happy to have won the award and attributed his success to his association with CARTA

CARTA at the 6th MIM Pan-African Malaria Conference, Durban, South Africa

The 6th Multilateral Initiative on Malaria (MIM) Pan-African Malaria Conference took place from October, 6-11, 2013, at the International Convention Centre, Durban, South Africa. The theme of the conference was "Moving towards malaria elimination: Investing in research and control". Participants at the conference included CARTA Deputy Director, Sharon Fonn and two CARTA Fellows, Victoria Mwakalinga (cohort 1) and Herbert Longwe (cohort 2) who both made poster presentations.

Melvin Ojo Agunbiade at the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP).

A cohort 3 fellow, Melvin Ojo Agunbiade of the Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), presented a paper titled "Sexual exploitations, concealment and adolescent mothers' agency in a semi-urban community in Southwest Nigeria" at the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP). The conference was held from August 9 - 11, 2013 in New York. CARTA and the Lee Scholar Support Fund supported his participation.

Scientific Symposium for Emerging Scholars in Health, July 15 -17, Nairobi, Kenya

Four CARTA Fellows participated at the Scientific Symposium for Emerging Scholars in Health, held from July 15 – 17, 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya. The symposium was organized by the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC). It primarily brought together past and current fellows of the African Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellowship (ADDRF) which is administered by APHRC. Other researchers in the region also participated in the event. Both oral and poster presentations were made during the symposium. The CARTA fellows who participated in the Symposium are as follows:

Joel Olayiwola Faronbi (cohort 3) made a poster presentation entitled "Perceived health and social need and access to health care among the elderly in a rural community in South West, Nigeria". He also made an oral presentation titled "Perception, occurrence and prevention of elderly abuse among residents of Owo, Ondo State, Nigeria".

Mphatso Kamndaya (cohort 1) made an oral presentation entitled "Material deprivation and youth sexual behavior in urban informal settlements, Malawi: Preliminary findings".

Peter Mwamtobe (cohort 2) gave an oral presentation on "Impact of multi-intervention campaigns on the Malaria epidemics in Malawi".

Taofeek Awotidebe (cohort 1) made an oral presentation entitled "Effect of cardiac rehabilitation exercise of physical function in patients with chronic heart failure" and a poster presentation on "Assessment of health-related quality of life, socio-economic status and physical activity in apparently healthy adults".

The symposium featured pre-conference workshops where participants were taught effective presentation and public speaking, research leadership and management, academic supervision and mentorship, media engagement and research communication tools development, grant proposal development skills, and were introduced to health systems research.

International Symposium on Intra- urban Dynamics and Health Conference, September 11 – 13, 2013

Dieudonne Uwizeye, a cohort 1 Fellow attended the International Symposium on Intra- urban Dynamics and Health Conference whose theme was "Ville et Santé". The conference took place from September 11 – 13, 2013 at the University of Paris- Ouest Nanterre La Défense" Paris, France. Dieudonne presented a paper entitled "Analysis of space dimensions and environmental factors to determine diarrhea risk variations in slums of Huye town, in Rwanda."

9th PHASA conference and the inaugural conference of the AFPHA

The 9th Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) conference and the inaugural conference of the African Federation of Public Health Associations (AFPHA) were held in Cape Town, South Africa, on September 24 - 27, 2013.

The conference "Africa's Public Health Legacy - Beyond the MDGs" targeted policy makers, public health academics and students, health professionals, health service managers and individuals from non- governmental and community-based health organizations. CARTA fellows Linda Alinane Mapando (Cohort 2) and Anne Khisa (Cohort 3) participated in the conference. Linda gave a poster presentation on "Strategies for male involvement in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV services in Blantyre, Malawi" and Anne made a poster presentation entitled "Factors that contribute to obstetric fistulae formation in rural Kenya: A grounded theory approach"

Other presentations by CARTA fellows included "Intermittent missing physical growth measurements: Is it necessary to impute?" by Esnat Chirwa (cohort 1) and "Material Deprivation and Consumerism: Factors Influencing Sexual Risk Behavior Among Young People In Urban Slums in Blantyre, Malawi" by Mphatso Kamnandaya (cohort 1).

27th International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) International Population Conference, Busan, Korea August 26-31, 2013

Three CARTA Fellows, Nicole de Wet, Sulaimon Afolabi and Stephen Ojiambo Wandera attended and made presentations at the XXVII International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) International Population Conference held from August 26 – 31, 2013 in Busan, Korea. Stephen Wandera presented a poster entitled "Intergenerational solidarity in and after marriage crises: Older women as safety nets for younger women in Uganda" during the population aging and intergenerational relations session. Sulaimon's presentation was entitled "A longitudinal study of the relationship between AIDS/TB mortality and migration in the context of other causes of death in rural South Africa," presented during the HIV/AIDS and STDs regular session. Nicole presented three papers: Youth mortality due to HIV/ AIDS in South Africa, 2006 – 2009; Adolescent mortality in South Africa: An analysis of unnatural and violent causes of death by sex, 2006- 2009; and Determinants of adolescent mortality in South Africa, 2006 -2009.

Joint Advanced Seminars

Joint Advanced Seminar 3, Cohort 1, 2013

CARTA'S Joint Advanced Seminar 3 (JAS 3) was held in Ibadan, Nigeria from July 29 to August 22, 2013. This was CARTA's first JAS 3 training and the first JAS organized and hosted by the University of Ibadan.

JAS 3 focuses on scientific writing. Prior to attending JAS 3, Fellows are expected to be at an advanced stage in their PhD research. The pre JAS 3 tasks involve collecting research data for presentation during the JAS and for refinement and analysis leading to the writing of their dissertations. This particular training session comprised general sessions; diagnostic sessions and forward planning; writing and analysis sessions; manuscript clubs and mock defenses; support clinics; and group therapy. Other sessions addressed the peer- review process, writing scientific articles, writing for journal publications and ranking journals and pitching articles. Fellows also received hands-on support to enable them complete their writing of their dissertations.



Nicole de Wet (left) and Celine Niwemahoro during JAS 3 session in Ibadan, Nigeria.



Maurice Mutisya taking fellows through a data analysis session during JAS 2

Joint Advanced Seminar 2, Cohort 3, 2013.

Cohort 3 Fellows attended their Joint Advanced Seminar 2 at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa from November 18 to December 12, 2013. The seminar brought together a total of 23 Fellows and was held for the first time in the newly-built complex of the Wits School of Public Health. JAS 2 focuses on data management and analysis. Facilitators for the sessions were drawn from different CARTA Partner-Institutions. In tandem with CARTA's goal to ensure that Fellows utilize and disseminate skills and competencies acquired from CARTA trainings, Maurice Mutisya a cohort 2 Fellow participated in the workshop as a facilitator in qualitative data analysis. JAS 2 equipped the Fellows with the skills to collect data and conduct quality analysis for their PhD study.

Training workshop for Supervisors of Cohort 3 Fellows

CARTA held training for supervisors of cohort 3 Fellows at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg from November 25 - 27, 2013. Supervisors shared and learned best practices and emerging trends in graduate supervision during the sessions. They held one-on-one sessions and consultations with

their students to discuss expectations in the supervision process. The supervisors also listened to presentations by the Fellows on their research proposals. The workshop was led by Goran Bondjers of the University of Gothenburg.

CARTA and INDEPTH meet

CARTA and the International Network for the Demographic Evaluation of Populations and their Health (INDEPTH) held a meeting on October 29, 2013 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The discussions focused on the possible involvement of researchers from INDEPTH sites in CARTA activities. Participants at the meeting included, Alex Ezech (CARTA & APHRC), Sharon Fonn (Wits and CARTA), Tom Williams (KEMRI Wellcome Trust Kilifi), Kathleen Kahn and Rhian Evans (Agincourt MRC/Wits Rural Public Health and Health Transitions Research Unit), Honorati Masanja (Ifakara Health Institute and Martin Bangha (INDEPTH Secretariat).

Meeting participants agreed that there is need to fully exploit the capacity of the INDEPTH sites as a resource for CARTA. INDEPTH sites have the potential to nest CARTA fellows' research, provide them supervisors, and furnish them hands-on research support and training. INDEPTH sites are also potential post-doctoral placement institutions for CARTA fellows.



4th CARTA Faculty and Administrators' workshop session

4th CARTA Faculty and Administrators' Workshop

CARTA is committed to building the capacity of the staff at its Partner-institutions to support academic and research activities. This is in tandem with CARTA's goal of strengthening institutional capacity building at Partner institutions. A well-trained cadre of staff will effectively contribute to learning and research in Partner-Institutions. CARTA conducted its 4th Faculty and Administrators' workshop on September 16 -18, 2013. The workshop involved about 100 faculty and staff of CARTA African partner-institutions and were drawn from academic departments, libraries, information technology units, research management, public relations and communication departments. The workshop was held in Nairobi, Kenya. Facilitators at the workshop included Akinyinka Omigbodun, University of Ibadan; Margaret Thorogood and Peter Hedges both from the University of Warwick; Alex Ezech, APHRC, and Robin Drennan, University of the Witwatersrand.

Staff Updates

New CARTA Program Manager



Mercy Machiya

Mercy Machiya joined CARTA as the Program Manager. Before joining CARTA, Mercy held various senior positions including Program Director at The Leadership Centre, Namibia; Manager for marketing new projects at the Mananga Management Centre in Swaziland; and Administrator, District Health Services in Zimbabwe. Mercy brings to CARTA a wealth of international experience spanning two decades. She has recorded impressive achievements in project management; monitoring and evaluation; leadership and institutional capacity development. She has also served on regional and international boards and contributed to various technical advisory committees. The CARTA Secretariat welcomes Mercy on board and wishes her the best in her new position.

New CARTA Program Assistant



Grace Ndege

Grace Ndege joined the CARTA Program as the Program Assistant. She fills the bilingual gap in the CARTA team as she is proficient in both English and French languages. The CARTA Secretariat welcomes Grace on board and wishes her the best in her new position.

Publications by CARTA fellows from June – December 2013

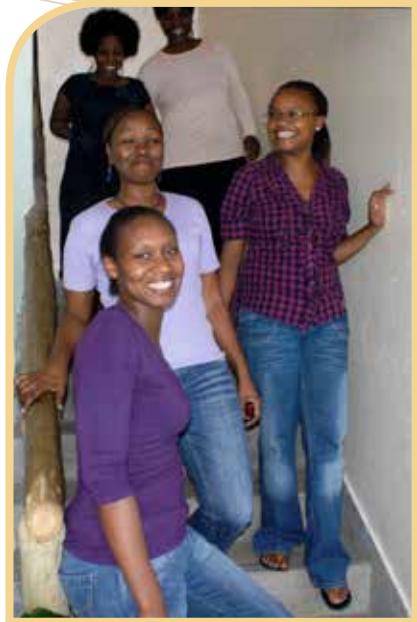
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CARTA Staff Retreat in pictures

CARTA staff convened at the serene Maanzoni Lodge in Athi River, Kenya from October 2 - 4, 2013 for a retreat. The retreat brought together the CARTA team to review the program implementation in the year 2013 and also to plan activities for the year 2014.



 CARTA team poses for a group photo



 Staff share a light moment as they take a break from sessions



 Caroline Kabiru in action



 Evelyne Kemunto, Eva Kiragu and Thomas Yebei in a group exercise



 CARTA program staff at Maanzoni Lodge, Athi River

Upcoming Events

- Call for PhD Applications, Cohort 5, February 15, 2014
- JAS 1 Cohort 4, March 10 – April 4, 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya
- JAS 4 Cohort 1
- Funders' meeting, March 31, 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya
- CARTA Board of Management Meeting, April 1, 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya
- Fellowship Reporting Deadline, March 31, 2014
- Partners' Reporting Deadline, March 31, 2014



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