

CARTA

newsletter

Building a vibrant multidisciplinary African Academy that is able to lead world class research that makes positive impact on Population and Public Health

MEETINGS OF CARTA ORGANS

Board of Management Meeting

The CARTA Board of Management conducts regular meetings to address issues related to the program.

On March 24, 2011, the Board held a teleconference to discuss the implementation of the CARTA program. In attendance were Dr Alex Ezeh, professors Sharon Fonn, Ogoh Alubo, Akinyinka Omigbodun and Frances Griffiths, who participated in the meeting from Nairobi, Kenya; Dr Wilson Mandala who joined in from Blantyre, Malawi; and Dr Honorati Masanja from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Key issues discussed during the teleconference included the terms and conditions of the CARTA fellowships and fundraising.

Patrons' Advisory Group

The inaugural meeting of CARTA's Patrons Advisory Group (PAG) was held on March 22-23, 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya. The Group brings together high-profile individuals with strong commitment to higher education, institutional development and research capacity strengthening in sub-Saharan Africa. The Group will provide advice to the CARTA Board of Management and Executive Directorate and serve as ambassadors of CARTA. Members will also support fundraising efforts and provide entry into Departments/Ministries of Health and Education and other regional governmental and non-governmental bodies.

In attendance were Hon Bob McMullan, Hon Clare Short, Prof Jimmy Whitworth, Prof Hannah Akuffo, Dr Hassan Mshinda and Ms. Joyce Mook. Three members, Prof Adebayo Olukoshi, Prof Mthuli Ncube and Prof Omotade Aina, were unable to attend the meeting, but reaffirmed their commitment to making the program a success. During the meeting, the members deliberated on various issues af-

fecting the CARTA program. They also had an opportunity to meet the first cohort of CARTA fellows who were participating in the first Joint Advanced Seminar (JAS) in Nairobi. During their visit, PAG members encouraged the fellows to pursue their doctoral studies with dedication.

The fellows represented by Rose Opiyo and Babatunde (a.k.a. Tunde) Adedokun, expressed their appreciation of the CARTA program.

Continued on page 2 >>



Rose Opiyo during the JAS 1 Session in Nairobi, March-April 2011

For more information please visit

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<http://www.cartafrica.org>

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Inside this issue:

Meetings of the CARTA Organs	1
Training Workshops	2
News from the Secretariat	4
Awards by CARTA Teams	5
CARTA Fellows, Cohort 1	6
Upcoming Events	8

« Continued from page 1

Tunde gave the following poem in praise of the CARTA program:

What great idea is CARTA
Defining a new chapter
On the continent of Africa
Networking Africa's best talents & researchers
Converting rookie lecturers into renowned scholars
Greenhorns to past masters
Realigning research on the continent on the right path
Ultimately changing the countries income per capita
As young researchers supplant the Continent's retiring teachers
Raising hope for the great continent of Africa
From Kenya to Rwanda
Nigeria to Uganda
All hail the program called CARTA



Babatunde (Center) with Carolynne (Right) and Nicole (Left) at a session during the JAS 1 in Nairobi

CARTA Funders' meeting

A meeting of the funders of the CARTA program was held in Nairobi on March 23 – 24, 2011. CARTA funders had an opportunity to meet with the newly-inaugurated PAG and share thoughts, plans and ideas on how to engage with CARTA. The funders who attended the meeting were the Carnegie Foundation of New York, Google.org the Ford Foundation, the Wellcome Trust and the MacArthur Foundation.

TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Faculty and Administrators Workshop



Administrators and Faculty training session held in March 2011

A training workshop for university faculty and staff was held in Nairobi from March 9 – 11, 2011. Participants and facilitators came from the nine CARTA institutions and the northern partners. The workshop brought together a total of 42 participants, including librarians, bursars, post-graduate training coordinators and faculty members.

The training workshop is the first in a series designed to foster institutional transformation and improve the research and training environment at African universities. Topics covered during the workshop include Developing and Implementing an Institutional Research Strategy; Research Governance and Management; and Identifying Sources of Funding for Research.



Group Photograph of the Faculty and Administrators, March 2011, Nairobi, Kenya

Joint Advanced Seminar 1

A residential Joint Advanced Seminar 1 (JAS 1) for the first cohort of 25 CARTA fellows was held in Nairobi from March 14 to April 8, 2011. CARTA fellows are supposed to undertake a series of Joint Advanced Seminars (JAS) as part of their PhD fellowships. JAS courses are jointly led by regional and international experts who expose fellows to critical research skills; key theories and concepts, seminal readings and research methods of disciplines relevant to public and population health; and establish networks of researchers for scientific collaborations, professional support, and mutually beneficial exchange of scientific resources.

A total of four Joint Advanced Seminars are planned during the course of their PhD fellowship, each covering a specific topic. JAS 1 is planned to build critical thinking, develop technical skills and other core research competencies.

JAS 1 focused on providing a good grounding in multi-disciplinary research with emphasis on the basic concepts in Public and Population Health, Epidemiology, Demography, Social Sciences, etc. A refresher course for the fellows' supervisors was also held on April 2-3, 2011.



Groupwork session in progress



JAS 1 participants pose for a group photograph

NEWS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Staffing

CARTA's Program Manager, Prof Ogoh Alubo, left the program in April 2011 to attend to urgent matters at home. The CARTA Secretariat wishes him well in his next assignment.

CARTA Teams With ESE: O to Deliver Online Writing Workshop Program

CARTA has teamed up with ESE:O to deliver an online writing workshop for CARTA fellows. ESE:O, a non-profit organization based in Santiago, Chile involved in research capacity building with a strong focus on scientific writing, manages the program.

The writing workshop is designed to serve as a follow-up to the first Joint Advanced Seminar and as preparation for the second Joint Advanced Seminar. Facilitators provide virtual writing support as fellows prepare the literature review section of the doctoral research protocol. The online platform also provides forum discussion board that allows fellows to network and collaborate with each other and their facilitators.



Prof Ogoh Alubo

Facilitators provide virtual writing support as fellows prepare the literature review section of the doctoral research protocol

New APHRC Office Block

The African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) has moved to its wholly-owned new ultra-modern headquarters, the APHRC Campus. The Campus is located in Kitisuru in the outskirts of Nairobi and houses all of the Center's departments and programs.

The campus is close to key organizations based in Nairobi. These include the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) and the American Embassy, both located in Gigiri. The Campus is located along Kirawa Road, off Peponi Road, and only a few meters from the International School of Kenya (ISK). The new facility offers spacious offices and

training facilities within a serene working environment.

Full operations at the new campus commenced on June 2, 2011.

New contact details for the Center are:

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Front side of the new APHRC Office Block

CARTA Team Wins Vice-Chancellor's Academic Citizenship Team Award

CARTA's Deputy Director, Prof Sharon Fonn of the University of the Witwatersrand School of Public Health, and Prof Kathleen Kahn of the Rural Health in Transition and Agincourt Research Unit, won the 2011 Team Award of the University of Witwatersrand's Vice-Chancellor's Academic Citizenship Team Award.

The Team Award recognizes the role the duo played in setting up the CARTA Program. Their efforts in collaboration and involvement in the conception, planning and setting up of the CARTA program inspired the panel of judges to recognize their contributions saying that the collaboration had *"evidence of influencing academic citizenship beyond their core responsibilities to re-build and strengthen capacity of African universities and the entire civil society in enhancing communities of practice across Africa."* The announcement was carried out in the WITS News on June 9, 2011. The Director of CARTA, Alex Ezeh, and the



Prof Sharon Fonn (Left) flanked by Dr Alex Ezeh, Prof Alubo, Dr Chimaraoke and Dr Kabiru, leading a JAS 1 Session April 2011

entire CARTA community joined others in recognizing the rare feat achieved by Prof Fonn and Prof Kahn. News of the award elicited a flood of messages of congratulations from all over the world. Writing from the University of Ibadan, Prof Akinyinka Omigbodun, the Chair of the Board of Management of CARTA said: *"This is to extend my hearty congratulations to you and your team for this recognition of the sterling work you are doing. Wishing you more feathers to your caps!"*

Claude-Leon-Wits Distinguished Scholars Funding

Margaret Thorogood (University of Warwick) won the Claude-Leon-Wits Distinguished Scholars funding for a five-week visit to Johannesburg in November 2011. Margaret will be running the next Joint Advanced Seminar (JAS2), a four-week methodology course.



Margaret Thorogood

CARTA New website re-launched



The new CARTA website homepage

CARTA partnered with Google.org to re-design the CARTA website, <http://www.cartafrica.org>, using Google technology. The re-designed website was re-launched in April 2011 in time for the first Joint Advanced Seminar. All fellows participated in a training session on the new site facilitated by Steven Ehrenberg and Jeremiah Kamau, both from Google. Fellows were introduced to the key features of the site including an online discussion board that ensures that fellows, their supervisors, and the Secretariat remain in touch. Fellows also received training on various Google technologies including: Google calendar for events scheduling; and Google Docs, which enables multiple users to edit



Google team led by Corrie Conrad discussing information technology issues at the CARTA Office, University of Nairobi

the same document in real-time, and simultaneously allows users to interact via chat facilities. To foster information sharing among the fellows and their supervisors, the training was extended to the Fellows' supervisors who also attended part of the JAS 1 training.

Use of the Google platform for the CARTA website has made communication easy. There are close to 3,000 email accounts for CARTA use, each with a storage capacity of over seven mega bytes. Security of e-mails sent and received is guaranteed with strong spam and virus filters.

CARTA is very grateful to Google.org and hopes that the use of Google technologies in the site will culminate in a smooth implementation of the CARTA program.

Summer Course on Longitudinal Studies for CARTA Fellows

Two Fellows in the first cohort, Celine Niwemahoro from the National University of Rwanda and Joshua Akinyemi from the University of Ibadan (Nigeria), participated at the summer course on Longitudinal Data Management and Analysis in Boulder, Colorado, USA July 11-22, 2011. Both CARTA fellows found the course very useful in their PhD studies. Upon their return, the CARTA fellows expressed their delight in their participation with Joshua saying that *"The course is highly beneficial as I have learnt the rudiment of Stata and its usage for longitudinal data analysis. The experience will greatly benefit my doctoral thesis."*



Celine Niwemahoro



Joshua Akinyemi

Summer Course on Cancer Epidemiology

A CARTA Fellow, Fresier Chidyaonga-Maseko, attended the Summer Course in Cancer Epidemiology at the University of Nicosia in Cyprus in July 2011. This was part of the annual Cancer Prevention



Fresier Chidyaonga-Maseko with other participants at the Summer Course on Cancer Epidemiology in Nicosia, Cyprus

Conference and was jointly organized by the Department of Epidemiology in the School of Public Health at Michigan University and the Department of Life and Health Sciences at University of Nicosia.

CARTA Fellows Cohort 2



Pre JAS 2 cohort 2 online assignment webpage

The selection of the second cohort of CARTA fellows started with a call for preliminary applications, which was issued on February 15, 2011 with a deadline on April 15, 2011. Over 70 applications were received from partner institutions, out of which 46 applicants were nominated to proceed to the next stage of selection.

Nominated applicants have to undertake an online-based set of literacy, numeracy and critical thinking tasks known as the pre-Joint Advanced Seminar (pre-JAS) between June 1 and July 15, 2011. They must also submit a full application package, which includes an outline of their research proposal. The final selection of fellows will be conducted during the Partners Forum on August 17, 2011. Successful fellows will be informed of the outcome by August 31, 2011.

CARTA Fellows, Cohort 1



Victoria Mathew Mwakalinga, Ifakara Health Institute

Research title: Integrated geographical tools can enable targeted urban planning interventions to control malaria and lymphatic filariasis



Teresa Njeri Kinyari, University of Nairobi

Research title: Commercial Alcohol Consumption, HIV Risk Perception and Risky Sexual Behavior among Bar Patrons in Nairobi



Peter Maturi Mwamba, University of Nairobi

Research title: Role of Arboviruses in the causation of African Endemic Burkitt's Lymphoma



Fresier Francis
Chidyaonga Maseko,
University of Malawi



Research title: Maximizing utilization of cervical cancer prevention services in South East Health Zone of Malawi. What would it take?



Rose Okoyo Opiyo,
University of Nairobi



Research title: Effect of Omega-3 Fatty Acids (Fish Oil) Supplementation along with Diet on Depression and Nutrition Status of HIV-Seropositive and HIV-Seronegative Pregnant Mothers among Low-income Urban Population in Nairobi



Wells Robert Utembe,
University of Malawi



Research title: Assessment of occurrence, profile, distribution and exposure to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in Malawi



Mphatso Steve
Kamndaya,
University of Malawi



Research title: Modeling indoor air pollution to improve health delivery systems and public health in Malawi



Esnat Dorothy Chirwa,
University of Malawi



Research title: Modeling longitudinal child growth within the Birth to Twenty (Soweto) and Lungwena(Mangochi, Malawi) cohorts



François Niragire,
National University of
Rwanda



Research title: Spatial modeling of the relationship between HIV prevalence and socioeconomic determinants of child mortality in Rwanda



Dieudonne Uwizeye,
National University of
Rwanda



Research title: Review of Environmental and Population Health Challenges in the Rwandan Towns and Innovative Mitigation Strategies for Improved and Sustainable Life



Kanyiva Muindi,
African Population and
Health Research Center



Research title: Indoor air Pollution and Pneumonia Morbidity and Mortality among under-5 Children in Nairobi Slums



Taofeek Oluwale Awotidibe,
Obafemi Awolowo University



Research title: Cardiovascular Risk Profile And Physical Activity Level of Residents of a Semi – Urban Community In Nigeria



Celine Niwemahoro,
National University of Rwanda



Research title: Premarital Fertility and Use of Health Care: Effect on HIV and Prevention Mother-To-Child Transmission (PMTCT) in Rwanda



Joseph Matovu,
Makerere University



Research title: Couples' Voluntary HIV Counseling and Testing Uptake, HIV Status Disclosure, and Sexual Risk Behavior among Married Couples in Rakai, Uganda



Sulaimon Atolagbe
Afolabi, University of the
Witwatersrand



Research title: License to move: A longitudinal study of migration and its relation to HIV and TB in high mortality post-apartheid South Africa



Nicole Claire De Wet,
University of the
Witwatersrand



Research title: Domestic Violence and child health outcomes: An investigation into the relationship between frequency of abuse and negative child health outcomes in two African countries



Peter Suwirakwenda
Nyasulu, University of the
Witwatersrand



Research title: Surveillance of antimicrobial susceptibility patterns among pathogens isolated in public sector hospitals associated with academic institutions, South Africa during a 5 year period 2005-2009



Sunday Adepoju Adedini, Obafemi Awolowo University



Research title: Multilevel Analysis of Determinants of Infant and Child Mortality in West Africa



Joshua Odunayo Akinyemi, University of Ibadan



Research title: Levels, Trends and Differentials of Infant and Child Mortality in Nigeria: 1990 - 2008



Kennedy S Naviava Otjombe, University of the Witwatersrand



Research title: Use of frailty modeling with arbitrary censoring in determining predictors of mortality for a hospitalized HIV positive population in South Africa



Sulaimon Taiwo Adedokun, Obafemi Awolowo University



Research title: Maternal and Socio-demographic Correlates of Under-five Mortality in Yobe State, Nigeria



Esther Clyde Nabakwe, Moi University



Research title: Socio-cultural and economic determinants of HIV mothers' knowledge, attitude and practice of current WHO infant feeding policy and the impact on infants' outcome



Caroline Sultan Sambai, Moi University



Research title: Television Drama as in Kenya and the Framing of Issues of HIV/AIDS and sexuality



Jacqueline Halima Mgumia, University of Dar es Salaam



Research title: Meanings Attached to Marriages of People Living with HIV in Tanzania



Babatunde Olubayo Adedokun, University of Ibadan



Research title: Joint modelling of CD4 counts and time to loss to follow up among HIV patients attending antiretroviral clinics in Nigeria

UPCOMING EVENTS

Joint Advanced Seminar Curriculum Development Meeting

A meeting to finalize the curriculum for the second Joint Advanced Seminar (JAS) for the first cohort of CARTA fellows will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from August 14 -16, 2011. The second seminar will focus on data management and analyses and will be held at the University of the Witwatersrand in late 2011.

CARTA Partners Forum

The CARTA Partners Forum will hold a meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, on August 17, 2011. During the meeting, Partners will select the second cohort of CARTA fellows.

CARTA Board of Management

The CARTA Board of Management will hold a meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa from August 18 - 19, 2011.

Joint Advanced Seminar (JAS) 2 for Cohort 1

The Joint Advanced Seminar (JAS) 2 for cohort 1, will be held from 21st November 2011 - 16th December 2011 at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.