

CARTANews

The newsletter of the Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa

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CARTA Holds Annual Partners' Meeting

Twenty-five Cohort 3 CARTA Fellows selected



CARTA Partners group photograph, Ibadan, August 2012

In all, 25 Cohort 3 CARTA fellows were selected at the consortium's partners annual general meeting held at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, in August last year.

The selection was based on their performance in different online selection examinations and tests administered by CARTA. Other considerations for the award of the fellowship included the fellows' teaching history and record, quality of their research proposal and reports from their referees.

The selected candidates undertook online assignments within the framework of the pre-Joint Advanced Seminar Part 2 (Pre-JAS 2). They were expected to submit the assignments by February 15, 2013 to prepare them for the Joint Advanced Seminar 1 (JAS 1) that was scheduled to be held in March 2013.

One key activity that takes place during the partners meeting is the selection of the next cohort of CARTA PhD fellows.

In 2012, partners helped in the selection of 25 Cohort 3 CARTA fellows.

The CARTA Partners annual general meeting, held at the University of Ibadan's Centre for Sustainable Development on August 27th -29th, 2012, was opened by Prof. Akinyinka Omigbodun of the University of Ibadan. Prof. Omigbodun is also chairperson of the CARTA Board of Management.

In his opening speech, Prof. Omigbodun welcomed CARTA partners to Ibadan and wished them a successful meeting.

When partners meet, they review various activities of the program as implemented by the Secretariat and at the CARTA institutions and progress is reported.

All institutions got at least a fellow in the fellowship. Following the selection criteria, the maximum number an educational institution can have is four, while a research institution can only have one. In 2012, the University of Ibadan and Moi University got the maximum possible fellows selected.

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Cohort 3 CARTA PhD Fellows - List of Research Areas



Stephen Pentz
University of the Witwatersrand



Adesola Oluwafunmilola Sangowawa
University of Ibadan

Research area:
Epidemiology and costs of injuries



Adeyinka Olufolake Adefolarin
University of Ibadan

Research area:
Maternal mental health and fetal outcomes



Olusegun Emmanuel Thomas
University of Ibadan

Research area:
Design, synthesis and genotoxicity evaluation of non-toxic azo dyes

Research area:
Healing the Divide: migration, urbanity and traditional African traditional healing



Nahya Salim Masoud
Ifakara Health Institute

Research area:
Malaria and other co-infections among children



Kato Charles Drago
Makerere University

Research area:
Cytokine responses & parasite genotypes associated with the pathogenesis of human African trypanosomiasis (HAT)



Kyomuhendo Marjorie Niyitegeka
Makerere University

Research area:
Family planning communication in Uganda



Oluwaseun Ireti Obasola
University of Ibadan

Research area:
ICT and the provision of health information



Fredrick Okoth Okaka
Moi University

Research area:
Perceptions of climate change and health



Judith Nekesa Mangeni
Moi University

Research area:
Detection, linkage to care and control of hypertension in rural Kenya; a comparison of the effectiveness of two community based strategies.



Providence Jepchirchir Kiptoo
Moi University

Research area:
Pesticide exposures and birth outcomes



Evangeline Wawira Njiru
Moi University

Research area:
Cancer care



Massudi Hakizamungu
National University of Rwanda

Research area:
Predictors of Contraceptive Use among Adolescents.



Joel Olayiwola Faronbi
Obafemi Awolowo University

Research area:
Quality of life, burden and coping strategies of caregivers of the elderly



Ojo Melvin Agunbiade
Obafemi Awolowo University

Research area:
Attitudes towards sexuality in later life



Emmanuel Sebahutu
National University of Rwanda

Research area:
Women's sexual and reproductive rights



Anitha Philbert
University of Dar es Salaam

Research area:
Insecticide resistance in malaria vectors



Charles Masulani Mwale
University of Malawi

Research area:
Mental health service delivery for people living with AIDS (PLWAs) in Malawi



Save Kumwenda
University of Malawi

Research area:
Pathogen survival in different physical and biochemical conditions in ecological sanitation latrines and their associated health risks..



Olufunmilayo Olufunmilola Banjo
Obafemi Awolowo University

Research area:
Sectoral employment, fertility dynamics and contraceptive use



Angelina Chepchirchir
University of Nairobi

Research area:
Pathogen burden and individual variability in immune response



Anne Majuma Khisa
University of Nairobi

Research area:
Health seeking behaviour and reintegration of patients with obstetric fistula in Kenya



Nicolette Naidoo
University of the Witwatersrand

Research area:
Health and retention in care in adult HIV positive patients



Tonney Stophen Nyirenda
University of Malawi

Research area:
Adaptive immunity to nontyphoidal salmonella



Samanta Lalla-Edward
University of the Witwatersrand

Research area:
Health profile of truck drivers accessing trucker specific health facilities in South Africa.

What made Moi University Shine?

Representation per institution shows that some institutions that had no fellow in Cohort 2, such as Moi University, scooped the maximum number of slots an institution can have in a single intake. This remarkable achievement by Moi University meant that something must have contributed to the remarkable results.

And what was it that Moi did to gain maximum slots in the CARTA fellowships for cohort 3?

According to CARTA Focal Persons at Moi University, Prof. Anne Nangulu and Dr. Diana Menya, failure to secure a CARTA fellowship in Cohort 2 Call for the year 2011/2012 meant that things had to be done strategically. The university reassessed its approach in preparation for the CARTA fellowships competition. CARTA



Moi University Focal persons Dr. Diana Menya (left) and Prof. Anne Nangulu (center) with University of Nairobi Focal person Dr. Lawrence Ikamari

Committee members at the University led by Dr. Diana Menya and Prof. Anne Nangulu disseminated information on the fellowships widely in the institution. They also organized a mini workshop for review of applicants' research ideas. The efforts translated in the high quality of applications submitted by students from Moi University.

Partners elect new CARTA Board Members

Moi University and KEMRI Wellcome Trust, Kilifi, have joined the CARTA Board of Management. Moi University garnered majority of the votes cast for the position of an academic institution while KEMRI Wellcome Trust, Kilifi, sailed through unopposed as the representative of research institutions on the Board of Management.

The election of Moi University and KEMRI Wellcome Trust, Kilifi, followed the end of the period of service for the National University of Rwanda (NUR) and the Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) on the CARTA Board. A replacement for each was needed. NUR, an academic institution, was to be replaced by another academic institution while that replacing IHI was to be replaced by a research institution.



Moi University Board Member Prof. Anne Nangulu

Moi University focal persons, Prof. Anne Nangulu and Dr. Diana Menya, thanked members of the Partners' Forum who voted for their institution and promised to continue working with the CARTA board to advance the mission of the consortium.

On his part, Dr. Samson Kinyanjui, representing KEMRI Wellcome Trust, Kilifi, expressed gratitude to members and pledged KEMRI's continued support to CARTA. He recalled that KEMRI hosted CARTA fellows Cohort 2 during JAS 1 and promised to foster enhanced collaboration between CARTA and KEMRI.



Board Member Dr. Samson Kinyanjui



CARTA Board of Management at Ibadan, Nigeria

Meeting of the CARTA Board of Management

The CARTA Board of Management has approved the selection of 25 Cohort 3 fellows.

At the 6th management meeting held at the Centre for Sustainable Development at the University of Ibadan on August 29, 2012, the CARTA board also welcomed the newly elected members and reviewed CARTA Program of activities besides approving the consortium's work plan for 2013.

The Board Chair, Prof. Akinyinka Omigbodun, welcomed Moi University and KEMRI Wellcome Trust, Kilifi, to their first CARTA Board of Management meeting.

The CARTA Board of Management membership comprises the Chair, Secretary, CARTA Director and Deputy Director and four members. The current Chair is Prof. Akinyinka Omigbodun while the Secretary to the Board is the CARTA Program Manager, Dr. Wilson Wasike. CARTA Director and Deputy Director Dr. Alex Ezeh and Prof. Sharon Fonn, respectively, sit on the board. The four members of the Board are Moi University, rep-

resented by Prof. Anne Nangulu; the University of Malawi, represented by Dr. Wilson Mandala; the University of Gothenburg, represented by Prof. Göran Bondjers; and KEMRI Wellcome Trust, Kilifi, represented by Dr. Samson Kinyanjui. See table showing the current members of the CARTA Board of Management.



Prof. Akinyinka Omigbodun
- Board Chair, University of Ibadan



Dr. Alex Ezeh, Executive
Director, African Population
and Health Research Center
(APHRC), CARTA Director



Prof. Sharon Fonn – Deputy
Director, University of the
Witwatersrand



Prof. Anne Nangulu – Member
Moi University



Dr. Samuel Kinyanjui –
Member KEMRI Wellcome
Trust Kilifi



Prof. Göran Bondjers- Member
Northern Partners



Dr. Wilson Mandala – Member
University of Malawi



Dr. Wilson Wasike - Board
Secretary and Program Manager

CARTA Board pays a visit to the Vice Chancellor, University of Ibadan



CARTA Board Members join Prof. Arinola Sanya (front row, fourth from left), Deputy Vice-Chancellor Administration for a photograph

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Administration at the University of Ibadan has lauded CARTA's efforts to build research capacity aimed at influencing policy in sub-Saharan institutions.

Prof. Arinola Sanya was speaking to the members of the CARTA Board of Management who paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, University of Ibadan, Professor Isaac Folorunso Adewole, last August. She termed the board's visit a great honor to the University of Ibadan and praised the consortium for strengthening research capacity in the realm of health in Africa.

In welcoming the visiting CARTA delegation on August 29, 2012, Prof. Sanya wished the CARTA delegation a warm stay in Nigeria.

Senior management staff at the University of Ibadan joined Prof. Sanya in welcoming the CARTA delegation. Prof. Adewole, the Vice-Chancellor, was away on official duty. Other officers of the University of Ibadan present were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. A. I. Olayinka; the Registrar, Mr. O. I. Olukoya; the University Librarian, Dr. B. A. Oladele; the Director of Public Communication, Mr. O. M. Oladejo; and the Principal Assistant Registrar, Vice Chancellor's Office, Dr. F. I. Etadon.

The CARTA delegation was led by the Director Dr. Alex Ezeh, Deputy Director, Prof. Sharon Fonn and the Chair to the CARTA board, Prof. Akinyinka Omigbodun. It included Professor Uche Isiugo-Abanihe, the CARTA focal person, Ibadan; Dr. Rama B. Rao, National University of Rwanda; Dr. Wilson S. K. Wasike, APHRC; Prof. Anne Nangulu, Moi University; Prof. Adamson Muula, University of Malawi and Dr. Honorati Masanja, Ifakara Health Institute, Tanzania.

CARTA facilities at the University College of Medicine, University of Ibadan

Board Members suspended their deliberations in the afternoon of August 28th, 2012 to visit various CARTA facilities at the University of Ibadan's School of Medicine where the Joint Advanced Seminar 3 (JAS 3) for Cohort 1 is scheduled to be held in August 2013.

Members viewed the CARTA postgraduate seminar room and assessed its suitability for use in JAS 3 in August 29 2013. Members were satisfied with the preparations on the room to host JAS 3. They noted that a few improvements needed to be made to render the room completely ready for JAS 3.

The visit presented an opportunity for the Board Members to see the Forgarty International Center sponsored teleconferencing facility for global health and geo resources management commissioned by Prof. Omigbodun on July 2nd, 2010. Forgarty International Center supports and facilitates global health research conducted by U.S. and international investigators, building partnerships between health research institutions in the U.S. and abroad, and training the next generation of scientists to address global health needs. For



CARTA Board tours CARTA Seminar room at the University of Ibadan

more information on Forgarty visit their website <http://www.fic.nih.gov/About/Pages/default.aspx>. The facilities will be available for use by CARTA fellows during their JAS 3 session in Ibadan.

3rd Faculty and Administrators' Workshop

CARTA faculty and administrators emerged as better professionals following a workshop at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

The Faculty and Administrators' Workshop held on August 30 – September 1st, 2012, was aimed at making consortium staff perform better in their work. A total of 90 participants from the partner institutions attended the workshop.

The workshop had plenary sessions and four parallel specialized sessions, including sessions for librarians, faculty, information technology personnel and finance. Plenary sessions included presentations of general interest, while the parallel sessions had presentations aimed at improving the work of the specific personnel targeting to achieve better ways of working for the benefit of the CARTA community in the partner institutions.

Presentations at the plenary tackled topics designed to strengthen and manage re-



Faculty and administrators training session, Ibadan, Nigeria

search in African universities. These topics included 'Challenge of Creating Research-Active African Universities,' 'Research Governance and Management,' 'Identifying Sources of Funding for Research,' 'Writing Grant Proposals,' and 'Recruitment and Enrollment of Postgraduate Students.'

Parallel sessions were held for the cadres of staff participating, each dwelling on a relevant and applicable topic in their field. Participants included junior faculty members, Administrative staff and Information, Communication and Technology personnel.

The workshop was the second to be held in the year, the first one having been

held on February 30 – March 1, 2012 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Participants found the workshop content, mode of presentation and the interactions the organization accorded by bringing them together very useful. Said Prof. Muumbo of Moi University: "We appreciate your efforts at CARTA to bring people together. I believe this will create a lot of networks as we've begun to notice (with the Librarians). I look forward to seeing one such workshop for ICT techies!"

On her part, Dinnah Natukunda of Makerere University's School of Public Health, observed, "I am sure all the participants gained a lot from the workshop. We will use the knowledge acquired for the betterment and development of ourselves as well as our institutions."

Chair of the CARTA BOM becomes a Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Science.



Prof. Akinyinka Omigbodun

Professor Akinyinka Omigbodun the eighth Provost of the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan has added an extra feather to his illustrious career.

Prof. Omigbodun, the Chair of the CARTA Board of Management, has been admitted to the prestigious Nigerian Academy of Science (NAS) as a Fellow. It is highest scientific honor society in Nigeria.

Prof. Omigbodun broke the good news during the CARTA Board of Management meeting held at the Centre for Sustainable Development (CESDEV) of the University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria from August 27, -29, 2012. He joins a list of 183 other renowned scholars in science and technology who have been inducted into the Academy since it was chartered more than 35 years ago.

He told CARTA board that his contribution to scholarship and particularly his role in CARTA contributed to the recognition. NAS was inaugurated on January 8, 1977 by a group of 45 foundation fellows comprising distinguished scientists in pure and applied sciences in Nigeria.

Membership to NAS is initiated through submission of a nomination form by a fellow also in the same field as a principal nominator, between June and July each year. A screening process by sectional committees culminates in recommendation to the council for shortlisting. The general assembly sits to vote and those who score at least half of the votes cast are admitted.

Clearly, Prof. Omigbodun excelled in the nomination process for him to have been elected as a Fellow of Academy of Science (FAS). CARTA BOM

congratulated him on this achievement and noted that his admission to NAS was a recognition of the vital role CARTA was playing in the continent in developing an innovative paradigm for PhD training and in strengthening the capacity of partner institutions to conduct and lead internationally competitive research in Africa.

In his academic career, Prof. Omigbodun has won several prestigious awards and recognition, in addition to holding key leadership positions. He has been a member of the Council of the West African College of Surgeons and of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria. The latter regulates professional medical and dental practice in Nigeria. He has been the Chief Coordinator of Courses for the West African College of Surgeons since 2002. He is also the Coordinator of the West African Network for Biomedical Education.

Prof. Omigbodun was appointed the Chairman of the Board of Management of the Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA) in June 2010.

First CARTA Vice Chancellors' Meeting



Prof. Loyiso Nongxa Vice Chancellor, University of the Witwatersrand, during the Vice Chancellors' meeting, Johannesburg, South Africa

The success recorded by CARTA is testimony to the entire world that Africans are ready to lead research in Africa, Prof. Loyiso Nongxa says.

Prof. Nongxa, the Vice Chancellor, University of the Witwatersrand, said this when hosting a two-day vice-chancellors meeting of CARTA institutions. The vice chancellors, who converged at the University of the Witwatersrand on November 19 – 20, 2012, had met to deliberate on ways to support and strengthen CARTA activities in their institutions. They resolved to support CARTA fellows from their institutions to enable them to concentrate in their studies.

The vice chancellors support was also extended to the management of CARTA affairs within their institutions. Vice Chancellors also pledged to follow the affairs of CARTA in their institutions keenly and to address any challenges to ensure smooth execution of the program.

Those at the meeting included Prof. Emmanuel Fabiano, Vice-Chancellor, University of Malawi; Prof. John

Ddumba-Ssentamu, Vice-Chancellor, Makerere University; Prof. Rwekaza Sympho Mukandala, Vice-Chancellor, University of Dar es Salaam; Prof. George A.O. Magoha, Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi; Prof. Mbonye Manasse, Vice-Rector in Charge of Academics, National University of Rwanda; Prof. Idowu Bamitale Omole, Vice-Chancellor, Obafemi Awolowo University; and Prof. Richard Mibei, Vice-Chancellor, Moi University. Prof. I.F. Adewole, Vice-Chancellor, University of Ibadan was represented by Prof. A. I. Olayinka, Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs. CARTA's northern partners, the Government of South Africa and donors also attended the meeting.

In his welcome message, the CARTA Director, Dr. Alex Ezeh, told the vice chancellors that bringing them together was one way of achieving synergy in PhD training in Africa. He said CARTA had developed innovative programs aimed at improving capacity to conduct research in African universities and in PhD training. Members of CARTA institutions have attended training courses earmarked for the university administrators and the teaching staff. CARTA has realized that the infrastructure in the universities needs to be improved and is doing that by providing funds to upgrade infrastructure, including construction of buildings, purchasing of equipment and facilities such as furniture and information technology tools and internet connectivity. The vice-chancellors were also informed that CARTA conducts capacity development on university administrative staff, chief among them registrars, bursars, librarians, information technology staff and others, ensuring emergence in African universities, of a cadre of committed staff confident in what they do. Workshops targeting junior faculty members whose PhDs are less than five years old are conducted by experienced personnel drawn both from the South and the North where they are equipped with productive teaching skills.

Dr. Ezeh further said that the universities had pledged commitment to support CARTA by working together with the consortium through CARTA focal persons.

CARTA Vice Chancellors' Meet with fellows

The vice-chancellors took time-off on November 201, 2012 to meet with the CARTA fellows during their JAS 2 session. Fellows' representative Adebolajo Adewunmi Adeyemo-Bola, presented issues identified by the fellows for the attention of the vice-chancellors. He paid accolades to the CARTA program, particularly singling out the meeting between vice-chancellors and fellows. He explained the rationale and logic of the CARTA program and noted that Cohort 2 fellows were working hard to meet the rigorous deliverables of the program.

Bola said he had been mandated by the fellows to tell the VCs that they liked the CARTA program and called on the VCs to support it wholeheartedly. He also called on the VCs to adopt the CARTA model in graduate training at their universities. Bola noted that the fellows faced a number of challenges at their home universities, and urged the VCs to address them.



Prof. Rwekaza S. Mukandala, Vice Chancellor, University of Dar es Salaam (center) with Fellows Humphrey Shao and Evaline Mcharo

Fellows and Vice Chancellors' Closed Sessions

Participants at the meeting broke out into closed sessions in which VCs met with fellows from their respective universities. The VCs of the Universities of Ibadan, Ife (OAU), Makerere, Moi, and Malawi reported back on their interactions with fellows during the sessions.

In their remarks, the VCs expressed satisfaction with the reports they had received from the fellows, acknowledged the problems facing them, and pledged their individual and institutional support to CARTA.

Dr Emmanuel Fabiano, Vice Chancellor (left), University of Malawi in a closed session with Fellows



They promised to address the institutional challenges confronting the fellows. The VCs also promised to pay particular attention to issues of teaching load, tuition fees, supervision, library support, and dedicated research time for doctoral fellows. They requested CARTA and the fellows to regularly up-

date them on their progress and developments in the program.

In their different notes of appreciation, several CARTA fellows also thanked the VCs for honoring the invitation by CARTA. Many of them noted that the meeting offered them the first opportunity to see and discuss on a one-on-one with their VCs.

JAS 2 Cohort 2, November 12 – December 6, 2012

Cohort 2 held a Joint Advanced Seminar Part 2 (JAS 2) meeting at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa from November 12 – December 6, 2012. JAS 2 is one among four seminars in the life of the CARTA fellowship, where emphasis of the training is on data analysis and management. Fellows are taken through software packages for both qualitative and quantitative data management and analyses with practical sessions using real research data. Earlier in the year, Cohort 2 fellows had converged in Nairobi, Kenya, for JAS 1 for four weeks. During JAS 1, fellows were taught critical thinking, technical skills and other core research competencies. The sessions were facilitated by experienced academicians drawn from CARTA partner institutions. JAS 3 and 4 will follow later in the course of their CARTA fellowship.

CARTA Conference on Public Health

Fellows had an opportunity to participate at an international conference as part of the JAS 2. To this end, the consortium organized, the CARTA Public Health Conference where renowned researchers made presentations of their research findings.

The keynote address, on November 27th, 2012, was delivered by Prof. Ademola Ajuwon, of the University of Ibadan, who spoke on the role of patent medicine vendors in the delivery of injectable contraceptives in Ibadan, Nigeria. There were oral sessions on communicable and non-communicable diseases, the challenges of health care in South Africa and on developing responsive health systems. A poster presenta-

tion session helped to entrench ideas learned during the JAS session on poster design.

CARTA fellows found the conference very helpful and drew a comparison between research in South Africa and their countries of origin. Said John Njenga, a Fellow from the University of Nairobi after the attending the conference: "I loved the workshop. I learned a few lessons: How to organize a good conference, the importance of knowing the target before making a presentation, timing of presentation to fit the allocated time, and the flow of the presentation. I was impressed with the amount of research being done in South Africa and the collaboration with various government agencies to translate research to action."

Touring Sites of the City of Gold

Some fellows were in Johannesburg for the first time. In the spirit of comradeship, the PhD scholars seized the opportunity to visit interesting places in the city during weekends. On Saturday November 17th, 2012, they toured the house at number 8115 in Orlando West, Soweto, South Africa, where Mandela lived between 1946 and 1962. It was a great moment for the fellows to see for themselves the historical building turned into a museum and managed by the Soweto Heritage Trust.

Another place of interest was the Hector Pieterse Memorial and Museum erected in memory of Hector Pieterse, a 13-year-old boy who was killed on June 16, 1976 together with 400 others, in company of about 20,000 students protesting against apartheid in South African schools. The visit by CARTA fellows was historic as well as emotional as some broke down on seeing the photograph of Hector's lifeless body carried by Mbuyisa Makhubu, a fellow student, alongside Hector's wailing sister.

Cohort 2 Supervisors' Workshop

Supervisors for Cohort 2 fellows, held a capacity building workshop from November 19th – 21st, 2012 at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. A total of 21 supervisors from CARTA partner institutions attended. The workshop was led by Prof. Margaret Thorogood of the University of the Witwatersrand, Prof. Akinyinka Omigbodun, Prof. Göran Bondjers of Sahlgrenska Academy at Gothenburg University, and Hilary Geber, Centre for Learning, Teaching and Development, University of the Witwatersrand.

CARTA organizes supervisor workshops for every cohort and during the Joint Advanced Seminar (JAS). Supervisors of the fellows attending JAS are invited and hold their workshop concurrently. Supervision refresher courses on topics ranging from the role of supervisors, ethical issues in research, supervisors' role in research publications, psychological perspectives on the relationship between supervisor and fellow, and contract between supervisor and fellow among others, are delivered.

During these workshops, supervisors get the opportunity to interact with one another thus learning and sharing experiences in the field of PhD supervision. They create networks and a pool of supervisors able to supervise students from any CARTA institution in case expertise within the student's institution is not available.

Effective supervision is another area where CARTA is keen to bring about change in its partner institutions. It is expected, after undergoing through the workshop, the supervisors will employ innovative ways to effectively supervise their PhD students and graduate them in the stipulated time. In this respect, CARTA focused attention to training staff at partner institutions at PhD level. This strategy is aimed at expanding the base of PhD holders in Africa, which is noted to be low. Mentoring as a method is used in supervisor training. Experienced supervisors are brought in to mentor the up-coming ones.

CARTA also employs a student-supervisor contract which delineates each party's expected deliverables to be followed in the supervision process. One example given in recognizing the importance of the contract is that of a supervisor using undocumented means of supervision that leads to students taking longer to complete their PhD studies. Faced with diminishing morale, a student may end up dropping out of the program. Through the supervisor-student contract, CARTA has addressed such setbacks in supervision workshops, making the process attractive to both the supervisor and student. Supervisor-student contract sessions were covered at length during the workshop.

Supervisors meet with CARTA Vice Chancellors

CARTA supervisors interacted with CARTA vice-chancellors and shared ideas aimed at strengthening the consortium's activities at their institutions and especially those that touched on supervision and supervisor-student relationships.

By conducting capacity building on fellows' supervisors, CARTA hopes that the students will graduate in good time and help

to add to the pool of qualified researchers in Africa and build a critical mass of PhD holders in Africa.

A participating supervisor had this to say about the CARTA Supervisors Workshop: "Great program. I only wish I had done my PhD with CARTA," said Dr. Hellen Myezwa of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

The meeting was held on November 19th, 2012.

Supervisors and Fellows Joint Sessions

The seminar also created time for the supervisors to meet with fellows in joint sessions where presentations on writing and critical thinking, and organization for knowledge philosophy of public health, among others, were made. The interaction is quite beneficial to both supervisors and fellows which sets each party's expectations in the supervision process. Informally, another meeting presented itself in a joint dinner where further interactions helped clear hazy issues and ideas that may not have been handled in the formal research presentations.

Spotlight on CARTA Fellows

Sunday Adedini at the 2nd Asian Population Association (APA) Population Conference

Sunday Adedini, a CARTA Fellow Cohort 1 flew the CARTA flag high at the 2nd Asian Population Association (APA) Population Conference held in Bangkok Thailand, on August 26 – 29, 2012.

The conference was organized by, among others, the Asian population Association, the Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR) of the Mahidol University and the College for Population Studies (CPS) of Chulalongkorn University.

Adedini presented part of his PhD research paper in a presentation entitled "Unmet need for Family Planning: Implications for Child Survival in West Africa" in session 87 (Family Planning, Policy and Infant and Child Health) where he received very useful comments which he hopes to use in improving his PhD Research and the quality of the paper for publishing. He writes, "After the presentation, I got very useful comments from the participants who attended the session. These comments will be useful to improve the quality of the paper. In the next couple of weeks, it is my plan to submit the paper to an ISI-listed journal."

With global figure of 10 Million children under the age of five years dying each year, and 41% of the deaths occurring in sub-Saharan Africa, indications are that majority of the under-five fa-

talities are in sub-Saharan Africa. There is a recognition that family planning is a pillar to safe motherhood and improved child health outcomes, hence the question of exploring the link between child survival and unmet need for family planning. Sunday examined this question using 2008 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) and 2008 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey (GDHS). He concludes that the findings of this study suggest the importance of contraceptive use in the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goal Four in sub-Saharan Africa.

This is the second significant conference Sunday attended this year under the auspices of CARTA. Earlier in the year, Sunday attended the Population Association of America (PAA) Annual conference in San Francisco, United States, from May 3- 5, 2012. His final words are full of praise for the CARTA program. He writes, "It was good flying the flag of CARTA at the PAA conference and it was a pleasure presenting part of my PhD work at the PAA conference, as I also did early this year at the PAA annual meeting in San Francisco. I appreciate the financial support from CARTA which enabled me to attend the PAA conference."

Simbarashe Takuva's Poster Wins an Award

Dr. Simbarashe Takuva (Simba) won the best poster award of the University of the Witwatersrand on infectious diseases. Simba, as he is fondly called by his colleagues in Cohort 2, is also a PhD student of the University of Witwatersrand. His PhD research topic is "Epidemiological Studies of Impact of Vitamin D Status and Vitamin D Gene Polymorphisms on HIV Disease Progression and Tuberculosis Susceptibility among HIV-infected Patients."

Figure 17 Simbarashe Takuva (right) in a discussion with Caroline Kabiru (left), Moses Mutisya (standing) and Siphesihle Mtshali at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, November 2012.

Dr. Takuva prepared the poster based on a cohort on his PhD study. He was interested in understanding the burden of anemia in the cohort and also knowing if antiretroviral therapy initiation resulted in improvement of anemia or not and if there were any factors impeding this. Anemia in HIV is very important since it is known that anemic patients are at a much higher risk of death during the course of ART, independent of factors like viral load or CD4. Also some antiretroviral therapy

regimes have been shown to contribute to the incidence of anemia.

Interestingly, the study found that anemia was quite common in the Johannesburg cohort studied, at about 25.8%. Most incident cases of anemia occurred in the first four to six months, and beyond that anemia was rare. Also during ART, hemoglobin (Hb) counts overall increased regardless of ART regimen. This increase was seen even among patients on AZT which is known to contribute to anemia. In addition, the Hb increase was also seen regardless of CD4 count and the extent of improvement of anemia and Hb as similar across all CD4 strata.

Says Dr. Takuva, "We found this interesting as these findings offer useful insights on the use of Hb measurements (which are inexpensive and rapidly done) for deciding on ART initiation and also frequency of measurement." The CARTA Secretariat and the CARTA community at the University of the Witwatersrand wish Dr. Takuva the best of luck in his studies. The news on Simba's achievement is carried in the September 2012 issue of the Health Sciences Research News of the University of the Witwatersrand, Faculty of Health Sciences.

Nicole De Wet at the 7th International Conference of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences

Nicole De Wet, a Cohort 1 fellow attended the 7th International Conference of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences meeting from June 25 – 28, 2012 at the Universidad Albat Oliba CEU, Barcelona, Spain. She presented a paper

entitled “Levels and Causes of Adolescent Mortality in South Africa, 2001- 2007” which is part of her PhD research. Nicole observed that, overall, levels and numbers of adolescent mortality are not very high in South Africa but added that they were increasing with time.

Joseph Maurice Mutisya wins AU-TWAS prize in Basic Sciences Technology and Innovation, 2012

Joseph Maurice Mutisya, a CARTA fellow Cohort 2, has won the prestigious African Union Developing Countries Academy of Sciences (AU-TWAS) National Competition Scientific Awards 2012. Mutisya’s submission won the Basic Sciences Technology and Innovation category which has a prize money award and a certificate. The other category of the AU-TWAS prize is Life and Earth Sciences.

Each year, each participating country offers two prizes in each of the two fields to young scientists. The news came while Mutisya was at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, attending the Joint Advanced Seminar 2 (JAS 2) for his PhD fellowship by the Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA). The Director of the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC), Dr. Alex Ezech, congratulated Mr. Mutisya on the achievement.

In his application, Mr. Mutisya was required to give an account of his academic achievement as seen through the number of scientific publications in reputable journals and conferences attended. He indicated how his research work addressed important education and health issues affecting developing countries in the urban context. He observed that his work addressed issues ranging from access of education to quality and mortality among the urban poor living in informal settlements.

His research, he said, was crucial in informing countries’ commitments and success in meeting the Millennium Development Goals. “Some of the policy evidence generated has informed decision making such as funding by the central government through the ministries of education to support private schools for the poor. This is a great contribution to the discourse on improving the educational access, quality and health of not only the urban poor but also in the Kenya and Sub-Saharan Africa at large,” Maurice wrote.

Importantly for CARTA, Mr. Mutisya observed that his work in education and health has also earned him a CARTA PhD scholarship, and that his PhD thesis will combine the two. On the importance of the award, Maurice saw it as

contributing towards improved analytical and scientific skills on his part as well as in fostering better understanding of, and finding solutions to, the plight of the urban poor. Finally, the award will contribute greatly to his PhD studies in collecting more information necessary for policy and action.

Accompanied by the Director of Research at the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC), Dr. Moses Oketch, Mr. Mutisya received his award from the Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology (MOHEST), Hon. Prof. Margaret Kamar, at a ceremony held at the MOHEST offices on December 11, 2012. In attendance were vice-chancellors from leading Kenyan universities and directors of research institutions in Kenya.

In her speech, Prof. Kamar noted: “It is important to note that some of the most important strategic thrusts include developing a highly skilled human capacity and intensification of innovations in priority areas such as health, agriculture, information technology, renewable energy, water and sanitation, education, trade, industry and infrastructure.” She was re-affirming the need to strengthen one of CARTA’s strategic objective: To produce a critical mass of high-quality graduates trained to address the complex issues surrounding health and development in Africa.



Maurice Mutisya receives the award certificate from Hon. Prof. Margaret Kamar. Looking on is Dr. Moses Oketch (right)

Peter Nyasulu at the Infection Control Africa Network (ICAN) 4th Conference, Cape Town 27-29th November, 2012

Peter Nyasulu participated at the 4th Infection Control Africa Network (ICAN) Conference, in Cape Town on November 27-29, 2012 with a presentation based on his PhD work registered at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Peter’s presentation entitled “Antimicrobial Resistance among Clinical Isolates of Invasive Staphylococcus

aureus” is based on data from seven academic hospitals in South Africa collected over a 12-month period. In the discussions and conclusions, the study found that high rates of staphylococcus aureus resistance were observed among in-patients with staphylococcus aureus bacteraemia. The study also found that methicillin-resistant staphy-

lococcus aureus (MRSA) was 54.1%, but higher in <5 years at 63.3% compared to other ages $p < 0.001$. It was also observed that there was an enhanced infection control in hospital settings and recommended reinforcement of continued surveillance of antimicrobial resistance.

Peter is a CARTA fellow, Cohort 1 and teaches at the University of Witwatersrand.

APHRC Staff to co-supervise CARTA Fellow

Stephen Ojiambo Wandera a faculty member of Makerere University and a CARTA PhD fellow Cohort 2, will link up with Dr. Isabella Aboderin, a senior research scientist at the African Population and Research Center (APHRC), for support in his PhD studies. Dr. Aboderin will be Stephen's co-supervisor. Together with Prof. James Patrick Manyenye Ntozi of Makerere University, School of Statistics and Applied Economics, Dr. Aboderin who has immense experience in the field of aging, both in teaching and research, will steer Stephen in his PhD research.

Mr. Wandera's PhD research is on determinants of health care utilization among senior citizens in Uganda. Dr. Aboderin's research interest is in ageing in sub-Saharan Africa, focusing on four areas: ageing policy and development agendas, social determinants of health in old age, health systems and access to health care in old age, and

intergenerational support and family relationships.

While visiting APHRC on July 31st 2012, Mr. Wandera presented to an audience comprising experienced researchers at APHRC led by the Executive Director Dr. Alex Ezeh, an outline of his PhD research proposal and the design of the study. He received valuable feedback which he said was crucial in shaping the design of the research in the future.

CARTANews interviewed Stephen on the CARTA Mentorship program and got the following responses:

CARTANews: How do you feel now that you have a supervisor at APHRC to guide in your PhD studies?

Stephen: I feel privileged and honored to have a supervisor to guide me in my PhD studies. What makes it more interesting for me is that she is willing to be my co-supervisor. I feel I have a backup, guidance, and a sense of direction and belonging as well.

CARTANews: What do you hope to gain from her immense experience?

Stephen: Acquiring scientific writing skills, publication and scientific writing relevant to international standards, writing for policy communication, and learning from the giants in scientific world.

CARTANews: What else can you say about the CARTA co-supervision arrangement?

Stephen: The CARTA co-supervision is a brilliant arrangement for the fellows. It is a network that is critically needed by any PhD student on the African continent. I am really grateful about this initiative by the CARTA program. I encourage all the CARTA fellows to utilize this golden opportunity. All of us need co-supervision in academia. By standing on the shoulders of the giants, we shall be able to see far.

New Grants

MECOR Research Award

Adebola Adewunmi Adeyemo of the University of Ibadan and a CARTA fellow Cohort 2 has won a grant to support his PhD research. The American Thoracic Research (ATS) MECOR award assists graduates to transition from trainees to investigators. Adebola will use the award to study vestibular toxicity in patients undergoing tuberculosis re-treatment.

Snow Mountain Corporation

Austin Mtethiwa of the University of Malawi and a CARTA fellow Cohort 2 has won a grant to conduct research. This is a water quality research consultancy entitled "Determination of Domestic and Environmental Water Quality for Shire River (Kamuzu barrage) for Domestic and Environmental Use." It is funded by the Snow Mountain Corporation for a period of two months.

CARTA Visitors

Andrea Johnson, Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Andrea Johnson of the Carnegie Corporation of New York paid a visit to the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) on October 15, 2012.

Ms. Johnson is the Program Officer in the Carnegie Corporation of New York's International Program that works with higher education and libraries in Africa on the strategy to develop and retain the next generation of African academics. Dr. Alex Ezeh, the Executive Director, APHRC, received Ms. Johnson at APHRC and introduced her to the staff of the Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA), which receives support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

During the visit, Ms. Johnson was briefed on various CARTA activities, including the recently-held CARTA Partners' Forum, Board of Management and the training Workshop for CARTA Institutions' Administrators and Faculty held in August 2012 at the University of Ibadan.

Various ideas were floated to help in moving the expanding CARTA program forward, including fundraising. Appreciating Ms. Johnson's visit to APHRC, Dr. Ezeh said that the

visit accorded CARTA a learning opportunity. On her part, Ms. Johnson affirmed the Carnegie Corporation of New York's continued support to CARTA. She observed that her visit to CARTA helped in understanding the evolving nature of the program which, she said, was a unique model contributing positively to higher education in Africa.

Jane Kengeya – Kayondo, Wellcome Trust UK

Dr. Jane Kengeya-Kayondo, Special Adviser for Africa at the Wellcome Trust UK, visited the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) on December 11th, 2012 to acquaint herself with the running and management of the CARTA Program. CARTA Secretariat staff briefed her on the CARTA Program activities. Thereafter, an exchange of ideas on the best ways of running a program including fund raising, reporting, monitoring, learning and evaluation ensued.

Dr. Kengeya-Kayondo underscored the importance of maintaining a mix of donors and sustaining donor trust based on good leadership, transparency, and best practices. She expressed interest in attending the next CARTA Board of Management Meeting to be held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, March 2013.

Selected Publications by CARTA Fellows

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CARTA represented at the 6th African Institutions Initiative (All) Directors' Meeting

Wellcome Trust, a leading funder of the CARTA Program, convened the 6th African Institutions Initiative (All) Directors' Meeting in Accra, Ghana, on November 27 – 30, 2012. The meeting was attended by directors of consortia funded by Wellcome Trust and vice-chancellors of institutions with membership within the consortia.

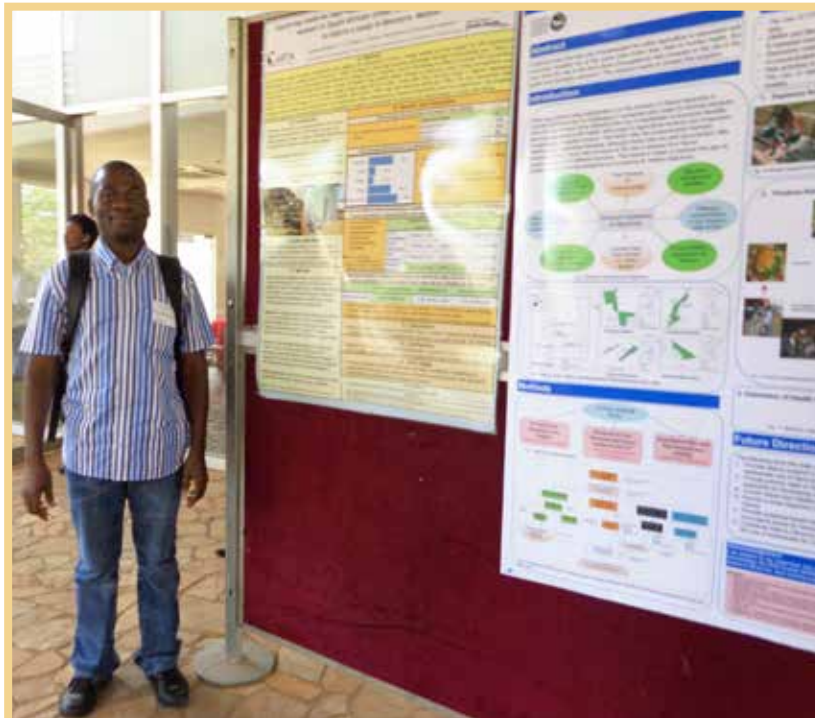
All is made up of 51 African institutions across sub-Saharan Africa. The initiative is led by seven African consortia which aims at building and strengthening health research capacity in Africa. CARTA is one of the seven consortia members of All. CARTA Director Dr. Alex Ezeh and the Program Manager, Dr. Wilson Wasike, attended.

During the meeting, Dr. Ezeh made a presentation on the CARTA Program highlighting progress registered so far, the strategic plans for the future and areas that CARTA institutions' vice-chancellors and heads of institutions agreed to support in the running and implementation of the CARTA Program during the first CARTA Vice Chancellors' Meeting held in Johannesburg, South Africa, November 19 – 20, 2012.

All incorporated in the program of the meeting, a special forum on November 29, 2012, dubbed the Science Day, where African researchers trained under the All initiative show-cased their scientific outputs. The Science Day provided the researchers with an opportunity to learn about All, the importance of building research capacity within African institutions and the vital role researchers can play in strengthening that capacity, especially within CARTA. It was also an opportunity for fellows to have Wellcome Trust assess their work to receive international recognition.

More than twenty quality submissions were received from CARTA PhD fellows for both oral and poster presentations to select one from each category. Nicole de Wet of the University of Witwatersrand won the oral category with a presentation entitled, "Determinants of Adolescent Mortality in South Africa". The poster categories were won by Babatunde Olubayo Adedokun of the University of Ibadan whose title was, "Is Early Marriage Protective of HIV Infection among Young Nigerian Women?" and Steve Mphatso Kamndaya of the University of Witwatersrand with a poster titled, "A Multi-Level Analysis of Material Deprivation, Individual-Level Factors and Youth Sexual Risk-Taking in South African Urban Informal Settlements".

CARTA fellows joined other fellows from other consortia to discuss common issues. Kamndaya noted the challenges of postdoctoral experience in the African context as well as mentoring and supervision. "It was interesting to note common challenges on this. Most fellows expressed similar challenges faced on supervision and mentoring. Fellows prepared a presentation on this," wrote Kamndaya after his participation.



Steve Mphatso Kamndaya by his poster at All

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Call for PhD Applications Cohort 4:** January 15, 2013, All institutions and the cyberspace
- JAS I Cohort 3:** March 4- March 29, 2013, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- Cohort 3 Supervisors' Training Workshop:** March 25 – 27, 2013, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- Board Meeting:** March 25, 2013, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- Pre Joint Advanced Seminar Part 1 Cohort 4:** June – July 2013, On line



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CARTA is a South-South partnership with South-North collaboration jointly led by the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) in Kenya and the University of the Witwatersrand (WITS) in South Africa. The Consortium consists of nine African universities, four African Research institutes and seven northern academic institutions.

