

FORUM REPORT 2022

Forum on Child and Adolescent Global Health and Capacity Building
June 20-30, 2022
Kampala and Masaka, Uganda



SECURING OUR
CHILDREN'S
FUTURE TODAY



National Institutes
of Health

Acknowledgements

FORUM SPONSORS

International Center for Child Health and Development (ICHAD)

Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, USA

SMART Africa Center

Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, USA

Brown School

Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, USA

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)

Eunice Kennedy National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)

Fogarty International Center (FIC)

Maryland, USA

Office of the Provost

Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, USA

Makerere University

Kampala, Uganda

McDonnell International Scholars Academy

Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, USA

Reach the Youth

Kampala, Uganda

The International Center for Child Health and Development (ICHAD) and SMART Africa Center are funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis. The content presented at this conference and in this report is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not represent the official views of the NIH.

The International Center for Child Health and Development (ICHAD) and SMART Africa Center hosted their sixth annual conference, the Forum on Child and Adolescent Global Health and Capacity Building. It was held

on June 20-30, 2022 in Kampala and Masaka, Uganda. The Forum sought to bring together vibrant global collaborators as well as key community and governmental partners.

All attendees had the common objective of:

- Addressing child, adolescent, and family health issues through research
- Celebrating the launch of new NIH-funded research projects and a research training program
- Acknowledging the accomplishments of our research trainees
- Providing research training sessions
- Sharing results from ICHAD's multiple ongoing research projects focusing on child and adolescent health and mental health in the context of economic security.

Forum Attendees

The Forum was led by ICHAD Director Dr. Fred Ssewamala and program directors Dr. Noeline Nakasujja and Dr. Mary McKay, as well as co-Principal Investigators Dr. Vincent Sezibera, Dr. Muthoni Mathai, Dr. Yesim Tozan, and Dr. Keng-Yen Huang. Over 30 trainees from ICHAD's four NIH-funded research training programs—[ACHIEVE](#), [CHILD-GRF](#), [LEAD](#), and [RRT](#)—participated. Co-investigators, featured faculty presenters, implementing partners, other stakeholders from across Uganda, the United States, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, and other nations. ICHAD also welcomed representatives from the Ministry of Health, Makerere University, and USAID Mission in Uganda, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and District-level government. Community-level representatives including school teachers/head teachers, parents, community health workers (CHWs) from several ICHAD studies, religious leaders, NGO representatives, researchers, and potential collaborators were in attendance as well.

Forum Highlights

- Keynote speech from Hon. Jane Ruth Aceng, Uganda Minister of Health
- Keynote addresses from:
 - Vice Chancellor Barnabas Nawangwe, Makerere University
 - Mr. Richard Nelson, USAID Mission Director, Uganda
 - Rt. Rev. Bishop Serverus Jjumba, Masaka Diocese
 - The honorable Florence Namayanja, Mayor of Masaka City
- Remarks by Kurt Dirks, Global Vice Chancellor, Washington University in St. Louis, and UnJa Hayes, Program Official, NIH Fogarty International Center
- Launch of the new ACHIEVE global research training program
- Final presentations by cohort 1 of CHILD-GRF trainees nearing the end of their three year-appointments in the program
- Scientific panels featuring trainees from our four training programs
- Launch of four new NIH-funded research studies, including M-Suubi, Obuvumu, Bridges-R2 and Suubi4Stronger Families
- Stakeholder meetings where the ICHAD team presented research findings for both school-based and clinic-based studies
- Panel discussions featuring the perspectives of study participants
- Site visits to schools, health clinics, and community sites where intervention research is conducted
- Participation in a community collaborative board meeting for the Kyaterekera study
- Sightseeing excursions to enjoy the lush beauty, delicious cuisine, and warm and vibrant culture of Uganda.

Institutional Partnerships and Policy Impact

The first two days (June 20-21, 2022) of the Forum highlighted ICHAD's institutional partnerships in Uganda and the policy impact of ICHAD's work in the health and education sectors across the globe.

Partnership with Makerere University

The Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, Professor Barnabas Nawangwe, delivered a keynote speech where he emphasized the importance of creating a new generation of rigorously trained researchers who can advance the science of global health research and evidence-based practice to effectively address society's needs. With that in mind, he shared insight about the University's new strategic plan (2020-2030) that seeks to transform Makerere University into a more research-intensive university and solidify Makerere's position as Uganda's engine of development.



Dr. Fred Ssewamala (left) and Dr. Noeline Nakasujja (right) welcome Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe (center) during his keynote address

Vice Chancellor Nawangwe spoke about the benefits of partnering with Washington University in St. Louis through the McDonnell International Scholars Academy that included not only training students to have a global mindset but also providing them opportunities to develop a network of relationships with individuals from varied disciplines. To date, five ICHAD alumni have been awarded the McDonnell Scholars Academy fellowship since Makerere University joined the Academy's network in 2020, with more coming in the pipeline.

Another ongoing partnership is conducting innovative applied intervention research and training programs, including two NIH-funded research training programs:

- *Child Mental Health in HIV-Impacted Low-Resource Settings in Developing Countries: Global Research Fellowship (CHILD-GRF)*
- *Addressing the Research Capacity Gap in Global Child, Adolescent & Family Health Disparities Utilizing Implementation and Data Science among Vulnerable Populations in Resource-Limited Settings (ACHIEVE).*

The most recent research collaboration between professors from Makerere University College of Health Sciences and Washington University School of Medicine is designed to modernize a radiation therapy aimed at improving outcomes for cancer patients.

The Vice Chancellor thanked Makerere alum Prof. Fred Ssewamala, together with his team and collaborators from across the globe, for dedicating his career to both conducting rigorous research and training the future generations of researchers. On behalf of his university, he pledged to continue the partnership and expand Makerere University's networks to enable more scholars to participate in transdisciplinary research in global health.

Dr. Kurt Dirks, Senior Advisor to the Chancellor for Leadership and Director of the Bauer Leadership Center and Bank of America Professor of Leadership also delivered a keynote address. He spoke on the importance of not only providing financial support and leadership training to outstanding students and future leaders but also cultivating research collaboration among faculty at both universities.

Two current projects in Uganda that recently received seed funding from the Academy were highlighted:

- ***The M-Health pilot study, “Developing and refining a mobile health intervention protocol to address depressive symptoms among youth living with HIV in Uganda”:***

A collaboration between ICHAD Co-Director Dr. Proscovia Nabunya, Dr. Patricia Cavazos-Rehg at WashU Department of Psychiatry, and Dr. James Mugisha, Dean of Social Sciences at Kyambogo University.

- ***The “rapid deployment and efficient quality assurance of radiation therapy treatments in Uganda” study:***

A collaboration between Dr. Baozhou Sun at the WashU School of Medicine and colleagues at the Uganda Cancer Institute.

He affirmed the passion and motivation of the Forum participants to continue to collaborate for a greater impact on the populations their work aims to serve.

ACHIEVE Research Training Program Official Launch

ICHAD launched its newest training program, ACHIEVE, during the Forum and received remarks from Dr. UnJa Hayes, Program Official at the NIH Fogarty International Center.

Dr. Hayes welcomed the inaugural class of the ACHIEVE training program, emphasizing the timeliness of training in both data science and implementation science. She stated Fogarty’s two important tasks in supporting ACHIEVE:

1. To identify the most promising researchers early in their careers
2. To equip these individuals with the skills, knowledge, and experience needed to become established global health investigators.



ACHIEVE trainees and PIs gather at the Forum in Kampala, Uganda. From left: Dr. Joyce Nankumbi, Dr. Nhial Tutlam, Dr. Kwame Opare-Asamoah, Dr. Catherine Musyoka Amalundu, Dr. Samuel Adjorlolo, Dr. Ronald Olum, Dr. Mary McKay, Dr. Muthoni Mathai, Dr. Yesim Tozan, Dr. Nancy Namulauzi, Dr. Vincent Sezibera, Dr. Mamadu Baldeh, and Dr. Fred Ssewamala



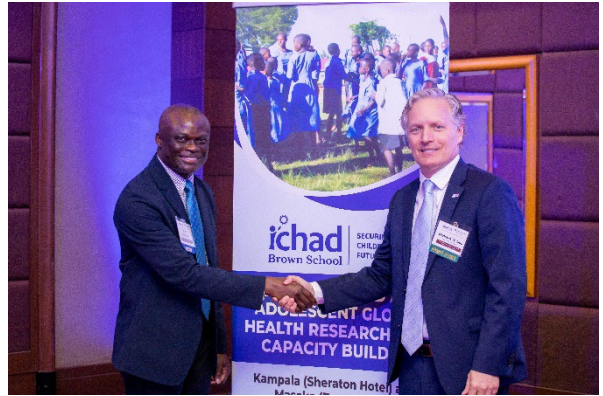
Dr. UnJa Hayes, Program Official at the NIH Fogarty International Center, shared insight and inspiration during the launch of ACHIEVE

The ICHAD and ACHIEVE consortium team were applauded for recruiting a strong first cohort in a very short period of time.

The work of ICHAD would not be possible without the ongoing support the National Institute of Health (NIH) has provided through competitive grant awards on multiple studies and training programs.

USAID Mission Director for Uganda Mr. Richard Nelson

The second day opened with featured remarks by Mr. Richard Nelson, USAID Mission Director for Uganda. Mr. Nelson brought to life the work of the USAID Mission in Uganda in addressing barriers that prevent vulnerable children, adolescents, and their caregivers from accessing quality health, education and socio-economic services. He specifically described the pressing issue of gender-based violence and its effects on girls and young women. In response to this reality, the US government is making several investments in Uganda to ensure the safety, education and health of orphans and vulnerable children.



Dr. Fred Ssewamala welcomes Mr. Richard Nelson, USAID Mission Director for Uganda

Examples of such initiatives include:

1. Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS free, Mentored, and Safe (DREAMS) Program

This program focuses on the range of challenges preventing adolescent girls and young women from attaining a quality education, a livelihood skill, and good health. It works to encourage and empower adolescent girls and young women to reach their full potential.

2. USAID's Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Program

OVC works to improve the health, socio-economic, and psychosocial well-being of orphans and vulnerable children and youth. Examples shared include how the OVC program has improved the long-term economic well-being of a mother, which empowered her to be able to provide needed medication and medical care for her daughter who is living with HIV. Another example was of a young girl who was living with HIV and severely malnourished. After her family enrolled in the USAID-supported OVC program, the girl received access to a nutritionist, medication, and social support. Her health has since improved and she is now attending school.

“These conversations on enhancing research and evidence-based strategies are critical for ensuring quality and effective programming across the health sectors.”

**– Mr. Richard Nelson,
USAID Mission Director for Uganda**

Mr. Nelson rounded his remarks by commending ICHAD and Forum participants for coming together to learn and share experiences supporting vulnerable children and families. He asserted that there is still more learning to do, especially about understanding the impact COVID-19 has had on the people of Uganda, especially as it pertains to family, community, social services administration, and program implementation.

Keynote Address from the Honorable Jane Ruth Aceng



Hon. Jane Ruth Aceng delivered her oration on challenges faced by children and adolescents of Uganda on the second day of the Forum

Uganda Minister of Health, the Honorable Jane Ruth Aceng, opened with greetings on behalf of Mama Janet Museveni, the First Lady of Uganda and Minister of Education, who helped celebrate the launch of the SMART Africa Study at the first global conference on child behavioral health in sub-Saharan Africa. She then welcomed the participants and organizers, thanking the directors and principal investigators of ICHAD, as well as ICHAD's research partners from universities across Sub-Saharan Africa and the United States.

The honorable minister shared data on the multiple intersecting challenges, including poverty, HIV, the COVID-19 pandemic, and interpersonal violence, faced by children and adolescents in Uganda, and reflected on how these challenges interfere with their healthy development and overall well-being. However, she exclaimed that Uganda is a very strong country with a record of leading the region in several key areas including health, education and social services. Notably, Uganda was among the first Sub-Saharan African nations to implement concrete HIV/AIDS policy and programs in the early stages of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, as well as in implementing Free Universal Primary and Secondary Education.

Another significant challenge that Uganda is facing is a low supply of trained researchers on the African continent. The results, she shared, are:

- a. Insufficient contributions by authors from low-and-middle-income countries (LMICs) to scientific publications addressing interventions in LMICs
- b. Fewer African scholars being awarded extramural funding for their independent research due to a lack of infrastructure and investment in research training
- c. Lack of theoretical models originated in the regions where the implementation research is being conducted, which leads to inadequate cultural congruency and at times, conjectural relevancy.

“We all depend on the innovative work and science that you all, gathered here, do and the new generation of scholars in this room will do to improve and/or save lives. Working together, we can improve outcomes for all of us, including young people and families across the globe.”

**– Uganda Minister of Health,
The Honorable Jane Ruth Aceng**

Dr. Aceng stressed that *“There is a need to build research capacity addressing health disparities affecting children, adolescents and their families. I understand that is what part of the International Center for Child Health and Development (ICHAD) does through its four National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded Training Programs, all of which are represented in this room with close to 40 trainees presently enrolled, and an equal number having already gone through these programs. This is commendable! Congratulations to the Directors for these impressive accomplishments.”*

She called for further North-to-South and South-to-South collaboration, availability of funding, and forums. In closing, she shared words of gratitude and hope for the dedication of the next generation of scientists and the work they are equipped to accomplish to improve outcomes for all.

Panel on Collaborations: Connecting Research and Policy

In building on the theme of collaboration for the improvement of child and adolescent health and family well-being, four of ICHAD's ongoing research and implementing partners gathered to discuss how they share their research results to inform and implement policy to benefit the populations their research aims to serve.

ICHAD Director Dr. Fred Ssewamala moderated a panel that shared their approaches, successes, and lessons learned in engaging with policymakers. It consisted of:

- **Dr. Barbara Mukasa of Mildmay Uganda:**

Advised on approaching conversations with policymakers with humility, listening to their priorities, and aligning one's research and priorities with theirs when possible.

- **Dr. Abel Mwebembezi of Reach the Youth Uganda:**

Emphasized that communication with busy policymakers should be brief and presented in non-scientific terminology, and it should convey the most essential takeaways for the policymaker. Information should be limited to who is affected by the issue being addressed, how many people are affected, what interventions they have received, and the impact of those interventions.

- **Timothy Opobo of AfriChild Centre at Makerere University:**

Added that engaging policymakers from the beginning of a project is essential to keeping policymakers informed and engaged, sharing the example of the SMART Africa Center engaging the First Lady from its launch and keeping her informed throughout the course of its implementation.

- **Dr. Muthoni Mathai of University of Nairobi:**

Emphasized the need to share in clear terms with policymakers and funding Partners information about the cost of a project, and the gains that have/will be made from their investments. She also recommended inviting policymakers and other stakeholders into the classrooms and other spaces where capacity building is taking place.



Panelists from the Forum after their discussion regarding policy implementation and communication. From left: Panel moderator Dr. Fred Ssewamala, Timothy Opobo, Dr. Muthoni Mathai, Dr. Barbara Mukasa, and

Research Training

Research Training Workshops and Scientific Panels

Nearly 40 early career research trainees, expert research faculty, funding and implementing partners from across the United States and Sub-Saharan Africa came together to learn and advance their research capacity. The research training sessions provided methodological and thematic workshops on topics designed to enhance trainees' research skills and professional development. These panels provided the opportunity for trainees to share the progress they have accomplished in their research, highlight successes, and share challenges overcome in planning, initiating, and implementing their research projects. Trainees found the practical examples provided and the candid discussions in the workshops and panels especially useful.

Trainee Scientific Panels

CHILD-GRF Panel

This panel consisted of three research trainees each representing a current cohort of the CHILD-GRF program. Dr. Noeline Nakasujja (CHILD-GRF Co-Principal Investigator) from Makerere University moderated this panel.

Panelists included:

- **Dr. Esther Nanfuka:** Cohort 1 Fellow and Assistant Lecturer and PhD student, Social Work and Social Administration, Makerere University
- **Dr. Yvonne Karamagi:** Cohort 2 Fellow and Director of Medical Services at Mildmay Uganda
- **Dr. Edgar Guma:** Cohort 3 Fellow and Head of Mental Health Department, General Military Hospital Bombo



Dr. Noeline Nakasujja, CHILD-GRF PI from Makerere University, leads discussion during the Trainee Scientific Panel. From left to right: Dr. Noeline Nakasujja, Dr. Esther Nanfuka, and Dr. Edgar Guma

Panelists were led through a variety of discussion topics regarding their motivation for and experience with participating in the CHILD-GRF program and provided the audience with a more in-depth understanding of the program and the individual accomplishments of select trainees.

Researcher Resilience Training (RRT) and LEAD Global Training Program Panel

This panel consisted of current trainees representing both the RRT and LEAD Global Training Program. Dr. Proscovia Nabunya of Washington University in St. Louis moderated the panel.

Panelists included:

- **Mr. Dennis Boyd:** RRT Trainee and Lab Manager of the Race and Opportunity Lab at Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis
- **Ms. Josephine Nabayinda:** RRT Trainee and Doctoral Student in Social Work, Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis
- **Dr. Camille Quinn:** LEAD Global Training Program Trainee and Assistant Professor, College of Social Work, The Ohio State University
- **Dr. Nhial Tutlam:** LEAD Global Training Program Post-Doctoral Fellow, ICHAD, Washington University in St. Louis



Dr. Proscovia Nabunya addresses the trainees during the RRT and LEAD Trainee Scientific Panel. From left to right: Dr. Proscovia Nabunya, Dennis Boyd, Dr. Nhial Tutlam, Josephine Nabayinda, and Dr. Camille Quinn

The panel, moderated by Dr. Nabunya, focused on trainees' motivation to apply to a research training program. They discussed the unique challenges faced as researchers from under-represented backgrounds in their career and how to navigate these challenges. Other discussions included experiences of working with mentors, progress and successes up to this point in the program, as well as next steps planned in their careers.

ACHIEVE Training Program Panel

This panel featured newly enrolled ACHIEVE trainees from across Sub-Saharan Africa, and was moderated by Dr. Fred Ssewamala.

Panelists included:

- **Dr. Samuel Adjorlolo:** Senior Lecturer and Head of Mental Health Nursing, School of Nursing and Midwifery at the University of Ghana
- **Dr. Mamadu Baldeh:** Clinical Research Fellow at King's Sierra Leone Partnership for King's Global Health Partnership
- **Dr. Catherine Musyoka Amalundu:** Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program Coordinator, Department of Psychiatry at the University of Nairobi
- **Dr. Joyce Nankumbi:** Lecturer in the Department of Nursing at the College of Health Sciences at Makerere University



Dr. Fred Ssewamala moderates the trainees during the ACHIEVE Trainee Scientific Panel. From left: Dr. Fred Ssewamala, Dr. Joyce Nankumbi, Dr. Mamadu Baldeh, Dr. Samuel Adjorlolo, and Dr. Catherine Musyoka Amalundu

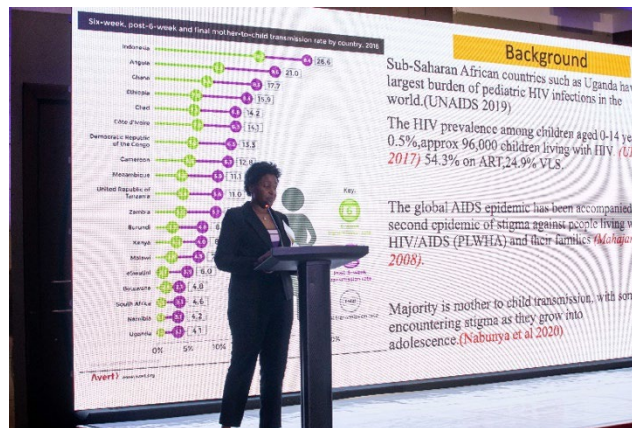
Dr. Fred Ssewamala led the trainees through a discussion on their individual research focus areas, unique motivations for applying to the ACHIEVE program, and challenges they have faced on their career journey in their respective home countries across Sub-Saharan Africa. They also elaborated on how participation in the ACHIEVE program will address some of these challenges and how the mentorship will enhance their careers as independent researchers.

Mentor Meetings

Mentors and mentees capitalized on their time together at the Forum. They started off the first 30 minutes of each the day together developing their Individual Development Plans (IDP), making a strategy for their research activities, and identifying learning needs and resources.

CHILD-GRF Cohort 1 Final Presentations

Each of the seven fellows from the first cohort of CHILD-GRF (2019-2022) delivered final presentations to their peers, program directors, mentors, and other participants. The background on individual areas of research, specific aims, and progress made in the respective projects was recited. They included ways participation in the CHILD-GRF program advanced their research skills, professional development, as well as personal accomplishments. Lastly, a question and answer session was incorporated at the end of each presentation. This exercise allowed the fellows to gain insightful feedback to move forward in their projects and grow in their expertise of defending their work for funding in the future.



Dr. Justine Namuli presents to the audience about her research on HIV Stigma Among HIV Infected Children and Adolescents in Uganda

Anita Arinda, MBChB, MMed (Psych)

Mentor: James Mugisha, PhD, MSW

Title: *An HIV Education Program for Improvement in HIV Knowledge for Adolescents with Intellectual Disabilities Living in Entebbe, Uganda*

Esther Nanfuka, PHD

Mentor: David Kaawa-Mafigiri, PhD

Title: *Mental Resilience in the Face of Anxiety, Depression, and Suicidal Ideation: Qualitative Study of Adolescents living with HIV in Uganda*

Justine Namuli, MBChB, MMed (Psych), Adv.Dip (CAMH)

Mentor: Janet Nakigudde, PhD

Title: *The Burden, Lived experiences of HIV Stigma and Associated Factors Among HIV Infected Children and Adolescents: A Mixed-Methods Study in Uganda*

Racheal Alinaitwe, MBChB, MMed (Psych)

Mentor: Dickens Akena, PhD

Title: Detection and Referral of Depression Among Adolescents Living with HIV in Care in Uganda

Violette Nabatte, MBChB, MMed (Psych)

Mentor: Barbara Mukasa, MBChB, MPH

Title: *Prevalence of Depression among Adolescents Living with HIV in Care at MildMay Hospital, Uganda*

Apollo Kivumbi, MBChB, MPH, MMed (Psych)

Mentor: Fredrick Makumbi, PhD

Title: *Cognition in Children and Adolescents with both HIV/AIDs and ADHD*

Agatha Kafuko, MA, PhD Candidate

Mentor: Paul Bukuluki, PhD

Title: *ART Adherence, Social Support, and Psychosocial Functioning among HIV Positive Street Connected Adolescents in Uganda*



Dr. Violette Nabatte, second from right, is presented with her certificate of completion and a book, by Dr. Freed Ssewamala (left), Dr. Mary McKay, and Dr. Noeline Nakasujja

Training Sessions

Qualitative Methodologies Workshop

Presenter: Dr. Janet Nakigudde, *Makerere University*

Dr. Nakigudde is a Lecturer in the Department of Psychiatry, College of Health Sciences at Makerere University. She led our trainees through the first training session of the Forum, on Qualitative Methodologies and explained the rationale for qualitative research as a research technique, and the need for cohesive qualitative data management. Trainees were provided detailed directions to managing qualitative databases for data fidelity including the need to code and categorize data in qualitative research. The types of categories such as inductive, deductive, and hybrid coding including real-world examples based on possible studies in Uganda were explored. In conclusion, the benefits of utilizing qualitative coding to the early career researcher were shared.

Introduction to Dissemination and Implementation Science Workshop

Presenter: Dr. Fred Semitala, *Senior Lecturer, Department of Medicine, Makerere University*

Dr. Semitala is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Medicine and Co-PI for the Implementation Science Capacity Building Program for HIV Research at the College of Health Sciences of Makerere University. He is therefore uniquely qualified to have introduced this topic to the ICHAD trainees. The workshop covered foundation definitions of implementation science (IS) and the need for this area of research science across evidence-based practices. Many factors which can impede the usage of evidence-based practices were pointed out. These included competing demands, lack of knowledge/skills/resources, and misalignment of research evidence with operational priorities, among others. Trainees were then led through the process of scaling up, the need for strong evaluation practices and how to translate practice gaps. Examples of implementation frameworks researchers may decide to utilize for this work were also provided. In conclusion, how to determine the divergence between implementation and dissemination science and how each works for specific audiences was explained. Although complex in nature, foundational elements that were later used in the subsequent training session were given.



Dr. Fred Semitala presents on the foundations of implementation science

Methods, Metrics, and Measures for Dissemination and Implementation

Presenters: Dr. Vincent Sezibera, *Professor of Psychology, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Rwanda*

Mr. Joseph Kalisa, Capacity Building Manager, University of Rwanda

Dr. Sezibera built upon Dr. Semitala's workshop by introducing the vital need for dissemination and implementation (D&I) in practice, and his colleague, Mr. Kalisa, shared on the ground experience with implementation research. Many of the common methodologies and frameworks previously introduced were reiterated as well as a close examination of points where there is loss of impact during implementation. This was achieved by walking through real-life case studies



Mr. Joseph Kalisa addresses the audience about the vital need for dissemination and implementation in practice

from conception to outcomes, including models and photos to highlight the journey. After providing frameworks and theory to further guide D&I work, complex interventions were further broken down by cost of delivery and core issues. This impactful session provoked an engaging Q&A discourse.

Introduction to Big Datasets for Health

Presenter: *Dr. Agnes Kiragga, Research Scientist and Technical Lead Data Science, African Population Health Research Council, Nairobi, Kenya*

Dr. Kiragga shared types of big data: structured, unstructured, and semi-structured and compared their usage. Sources of big data in health care as it would apply to research trainees' research studies were noted. Examples provided of applications and data maps in healthcare facilities conceptualized this broad focus for the global health research trainees. To further clarify, case studies on each type of big data analytics from her own research were shared. Participants reviewed the bias that exists in AI and machine-learning projects, and how to avoid bias within one's work. Dr. Kiragga concluded with the concept of FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) data, effective data sharing, and the benefits of big data sets for the health research community.

Scientific Integrity and Ethical Conduct of Research

Presenter: *Dr. Tom Lutalo, Assistant Director of Research, Chair of Research Ethics Committee, Uganda Virus Research Institute*

Dr. Lutalo, presented on the importance of research ethics and the role of Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) to protect the dignity, rights, and welfare of research participants. This is key to any research study, and if done incorrectly, scientific misconduct can undermine the results of any study and even result in loss of funding. Valuable research practices such as appropriate training, monitoring and supervision were recommended. It was also re-iterated to ensure strong data practices and management in line with the FAIR Principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable).

Research Tools and Measurement for Cognitive Functioning

Presenter: *Dr. April Thames, Professor of Psychiatry, Chief Psychologist, Adult Division of Psychology, Department of Psychiatry and Bio-behavioral Science, University of California Los Angeles*

Dr. Thames led a comprehensive but highly accessible session on cognitive assessments. The historical timeline, brain anatomy, and neuroimaging basics provided offered a foundation for all trainees regardless of their academic backgrounds to build on their knowledge of cognitive assessment. Concrete examples of need for and types of neuropsychological assessments utilized across various studies including the Suubi+Adherence R2 study with ICHAD were shared. Trainees received packets of simple cognitive assessments and screening tools to build upon for their own interventions.

Research Budget Development and Justification

Presenter: *Mr. Mordecai Tayebwa, Head of Grants, Makerere University*

Mr. Tayebwa gave a comprehensive presentation on research budget development and justification that began with understanding the need to budget. From there, trainees were led through understanding direct and indirect costs as budget line items, as well as the best practice of referring to the notice of funding announcement or speaking directly with the funders for budgetary clarity and confirmation. The four principles that dictate allowable and unallowable costs: reasonableness, allocability, consistency, and conformance were emphasized. The presentation was concluded with information on writing an effective budget justification. This demonstrated the need for clear and consistent application of budget items.

Cost-Effectiveness in Research Workshop

Presenters: Dr. Yesim Tozan, *Assistant Professor of Global Health, New York University*
Ms. Sooyoung Kim, *Doctoral Student, School of Global Public Health, New York University*
Mr. Joshua Kiyingi, *Doctoral Student, Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis*

Dr. Yesim Tozan, Sooyoung Kim, and Joshua Kiyingi collaborated to provide a robust workshop on cost-effectiveness research. The session started with the “Why and How of Health Economic Evaluation in Public Health”. Following this was a discussion on the complexity of health decision-making and the need for health economic evaluation. Trainees explored economic assessments and evaluation models which progressed into the cost-effectiveness analysis needs and efficacy of a study based in Uganda. This incorporated modeling approaches of assessing the cost-effectiveness of mental health inventions using the Suubi+Adherence study. The session was concluded with a review of the cost-effectiveness of the Suubi4Her study, which aims to prevent HIV risk behaviors among older adolescent girls living in Uganda. Preliminary results, outcomes of the cost analysis, and methods used to conduct the analysis were explained.



Dr. Yesim Tozan presents on cost effectiveness research

Leveraging Social Media to Disseminate Research Findings

Presenter: Mr. Britton Clapp, *Adjunct Instructor, McKelvey School of Engineering, Washington University in St. Louis*

Forum participants convened in Masaka, Uganda, in the second week during which ICHAD Uganda staff shared results of several ongoing studies. Mr. Clapp facilitated a training session exploring how to use social media platforms to share research results. He described how social media companies collect and use data from users, shared characteristics of successful posts, and provided recommendations to researchers on how to maximize the impact of their social media posts on each of the major platforms.

Intervention Research Study Presentations

The second half of the Forum was held in Masaka, Uganda. Masaka is home to ICHAD Uganda's main office and hosts the majority of research studies that are carried out. This portion of the Forum featured stakeholder meetings where the Uganda team presented research findings and updates for school-based and clinic-based studies to date. Staff provided the background and aims for each study, and highlighted results, work in progress, and next steps for each study.

Kyaterekera Study (2018-2023)

Presenters: Mr. Edward Nsubuga and Ms. Josephine Nabayinda

Principal Investigators: Fred M. Ssewamala, PhD; Susan Witte, PhD



Mr. Edward Nsubuga presents the Kyaterekera Study

Kyaterekera Study is funded by the NIMH. It is an innovative combination intervention that adds economic empowerment components to traditional HIV risk reduction sessions to reduce new incidence of sexually transmitted infections and HIV among female sex workers in the greater Masaka region and provide alternative means of safe and sustainable income to replace sex work.

Suubi4Her Study (2017-2023)

Presenter: William Byansi, PhD

Principal Investigator: Fred M. Ssewamala, PhD

The Suubi4Her study is a longitudinal study funded by the NIMH. It seeks to examine the impact and cost associated with a combination intervention that aims to prevent HIV risk behaviors among older adolescent girls living in communities heavily affected by poverty and HIV/AIDS in Uganda.



Dr. William Byansi presents the Suubi4Her Study

SMART Africa-Uganda (2016-2021)

Presenter: Joshua Kiyingi, PhD

Principal Investigators: Mary McKay, PhD; Fred M. Ssewamala, PhD



Mr. Joshua Kiyingi presents results of the SMART Africa Study

SMART Africa is a 5-year multi-country longitudinal study funded by the NIMH. SMART Africa is a global transdisciplinary center focused on reducing child mental health service and research gaps in Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, and Uganda. It seeks to examine the impact and implementation of an evidence-based multiple family group intervention for children experiencing behavioral problems and their families in Uganda. ICHAD research team is co-leading this scale-up study with 3,000 children (ages 8 to 13) and their families across 30 schools in the Greater Masaka region of Uganda.

Bridges to the Future Study Round 1 (2011-2018)

Presenters: Winnie Kirabo and Francis Ssemujju

Principal Investigator: Fred Ssewamala, PhD

Bridges to the Future Study Round 1 is a five-year longitudinal family-based economic empowerment intervention that evaluated the impact and cost-effectiveness for children orphaned by AIDS in Uganda. It is funded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institutes of Child Health & Human Development (NICHD).

Bridges to the Future Study Round 2 (2022-2026)

Presenters: Winnie Kirabo and Ssemujju Francis

Principal Investigators: Fred M. Ssewamala, PhD; Ozge Sensoy Bahar, PhD; Proscovia Nabunya, PhD

Bridges Round 2 study (Bridges-R2), builds on the original Bridges to the Future Study Round 1 (2011-2018). It seeks to examine the longitudinal impacts of an economic empowerment intervention on HIV risk prevention and care continuum outcomes among orphaned youth transitioning to young adulthood. The study follows the Bridges cohort (N=1383 orphaned youth) for an additional 4-year period.

MHealth and Suubi-mHealth Study (2021-2026)

Presenters: Claire Najjuuko and Olive Imelda Namuyaba

Principal Investigators: Proscovia Nabunya, PhD; Patricia Cavazos-Rehg, PhD

Pilot Study: mHealth

Mobile Health (mHealth) was formative work conducted to understand the needs of youth living with HIV between the ages 14-17 years in the Masaka Region. mHealth was funded by the McDonnell Scholars Academy Seed Incubator Program, Washington University in St. Louis.



Claire Najjuuko (right) and Olive Imelda Namuyaba present results of the MHealth and Suubi-mHealth Study

Suubi-mHealth: (2022-2026)

Suubi-mHealth is a mobile health intervention that addresses depression and improvement of ART adherence among YLHIV in Uganda. It is funded by NIMH and informed by the findings from the mHealth pilot program. Phase I of the study seeks to develop a mobile health intervention for use among Ugandan YLHIV.

M-Suubi Study (2021- 2026)

Presenters: Rashida Namirembe and Jennifer Nattabi

Principal Investigators: Fred M. Ssewamala, PhD; Massy Mutumba, PhD



Ms. Rashida Namirembe presents the M-Suubi Study

M-Suubi is a five-year study funded by the NIMH. It seeks to use a multi-level integrated intervention to reduce the impact of HIV stigma on HIV treatment outcomes among adolescents living with HIV in Uganda. The study targets Adolescents Living with HIV (ALHIV) in the two contexts where they spend most of their time: home and school.

Youth Health SMS Study (2021-2023)

Presenter: Olive Imelda Namuyaba

Principal Investigator: Philip Kreniske, PhD

YHSMS is an NIMH funded study that seeks to use mobile technology to prevent HIV and related youth health problems in reference to sexual health, mental health, and substance use in southwest Uganda.

Obuvumu Study (2022-2024)



Dr. Raymond Atwebembere presents the Obuvumu Study

Presenter: Raymond Atwebembere, MBChB

Principal Investigators: Lindsay Stark, PhD; Fred Ssewamala, PhD; and Masy Mutumba, PhD

The goal of the Obuvumu study is to inform the future development of culturally appropriate, feasible, acceptable, and effective interventions to increase health service utilization among female survivors of sexual violence. It is also funded by the NIMH.

Suubi4Stronger Families (2022 – 2027)

Presenter: Phionah Namatovu

Principal Investigators: Fred M. Ssewamala, PhD; Mary M. McKay, PhD

Suubi4StrongerFamilies examines the mechanisms by which Economic Empowerment (EE) and Family Strengthening (FS) interventions targeting social, familial, and context-specific drivers affect childhood behavioral health among adolescents in primary schools in Uganda. It does so by addressing child behavioral health through strengthening financial stability and parenting among families. It is funded by NIMH.



Ms. Phionah Namatovu presents the Suubi4Stronger Families Study

Suubi4Cancer Study (2018-2021)

Presenter: Herbert Migadde

Principal Investigators: Fred Ssewamala, PhD; Kimberly Johnson, PhD

Suubi4cancer was a two-year innovative combination intervention designed to improve access to cancer services and treatment adherence among youth living with HIV/AIDS in Uganda. It was funded by the National Cancer Institute and the NIMH.

Suubi4Stigma Study (2020-2022)



Herbert Migadde presents the Suubi4Stigma Study

Presenter: Herbert Migadde

Principal Investigators: Proscovia Nabunya, PhD; Fred M. Ssewamala, PhD

Suubi4Stigma is a pilot study funded by the NIMH that addresses HIV-associated stigma among adolescents.

Feedback from Suubi4Stigma Participants

"I learnt that even if I go through all kinds of stigma at school, I will not spend time crying because I realize that it's not only me living with the virus, there are other people like those in the book that are even older and still responsible and respected."

At this moment, in my home, no one moves without communicating where they are going. We have become more responsible and set rules to guide our family and I see, everyone abides to the set rules."

The sessions did not only help us who have attended but also other family members because when we are doing our homework [from the study] we do it with them so we share whatever we learn here with them"

Panel of Research Participants

The panel of research participants featured youth who have “graduated” from several research studies conducted by ICHAD in Masaka, Uganda. As alumni from our intervention research studies, each panelist shared how their participation in the programs has impacted their lives, and how they’re doing now.

Moderator: Namatovu Phionah

Panelists:

1. **Mr. Hassan Bukenya:** Works as a Young Person and Adolescent Peer supporter at TASO Masaka.
2. **Mr. Michel Trevor Bazibye:** Student at Kabukunge Muslim Secondary School
3. **Ms. Angella Nakaweesi:** Student at Kijjabwemi Senior Secondary School
4. **Mr. Emmanuel Mayiga:** Works with Kabira Health Center III as a Young Person and Adolescent Peer supporter.



Youth participants from several research studies conducted by ICHAD in Masaka, Uganda, following the lively panel discussion. From left: Emmanuel Mayiga, Angella Nakaweesi, Dr. Fred Ssewamala, Hassan Bukenya, Michel Trevor Bazibye, and panel moderator Phionah Namatovu

Moderator: Share your experiences with ICHAD and the interventions during the ICHAD studies:



Emmanuel Mayiga shares his experiences as a participant in an ICHAD study

Emmanuel Mayiga (aka Jeff): Started as a research participant in 2014. His response: “We were below 18 years so we were required to have written permission from our parents. The team introduced us to Cartoon stories which had addressed the importance of adherence to medication. I’m grateful to [ICHAD study coordinator, Scovia Nassaazi] who became my mentor in taking my medication.”

“I learnt financial literacy thanks to the accounts opening program which was being matched. When I saved 25,000 Ugandan shillings per month, ICHAD topped up 25,000 to make 50,000 at the end of the month. At the end of the program I managed to save 450,000 Ugandan shillings which helped me pay tuition for my senior four exams. My father died when I was Primary Six and my mother was unable to pay for my secondary education, but thanks to ICHAD I was able to complete my Secondary school. A special thanks to Professor Fred Ssewamala for being a pillar.”



Angella Nakaweesi shares her reflections on her experiences as a study participant with ICHAD, as well her aspirations for a hopeful future

called the counselor on a friend's behalf who offered a variety of health services that my friend could seek. Before Youth SMS, I only used to know PrEP and ART medication but now I know PEP, PrEP and ART medication and how to use it. I have also been inspired by [ICHAD study coordinator] Dr. Raymond Atwebembere to become a health worker."

Moderator: As a young adult, what did you learn from ICHAD that you are currently using in life? How has it been of help to you and the people around you?



Hassan Bukenya sharing how he learned about the wise-pill device through ICHAD

Hassan Bukenya: "ICHAD had home visits where they shared information on adherence to medication, viral suppression. I was introduced to the wise-pill device which helped more than just myself. In the end, it really helped us in viral suppression. We were introduced to focus group discussions where I've managed to share with the rest of the adolescents and peers on adherence and suppression. We were introduced to the saving programs which grew my saving habit that has been present till today. I'm really grateful to Dr. Fred Ssewamala for the kind and giving heart."



Michel Trevor Bazibye sharing about his challenges and aspirations that he encountered during his time with ICHAD

Michel Trevor Bazibye: "I have always wanted to join ICHAD because I admired everything about them from the work they were doing, to the staff. On our first meeting at school, the team introduced themselves and the first person I noticed was Ms. Imelda Namuyaba. During Q and A, I asked how I could join ICHAD, she said that it required me to study and graduate at university.

We were introduced to Youth Health SMS and given all information required for joining the study. At the end of the session, we were provided meals, refreshments and transport compensation. My current challenge is that I may not complete secondary

school due to financial restraints at home. I used the compensation money I got for using the platform and bought an electric drill because I aspire to join A-level and study to become an engineer. I'm very grateful to Dr. Fred and the rest of the ICHAD staff."

Each participant was thanked by the moderator for their courage to share their stories and acknowledged the principal investigators and all the collaborators for their relentless work that has inspired communities to become better people.

St. Louis Community Research Immersion Experience

Program directors Dr. Patricia Cavazos-Rehg and Dr. Sean Joe led a three-day training event based at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri for research program trainees who were unable to travel to the Forum in Uganda or preferred a US-focused site visit experience. Trainees were joined by graduate students from Washington University School of Medicine to participate in the Community Science and Capacity to Serve Workshop with an Anti-Racism Framework. They also visited community research sites and met with implementing partners, including:

- Boys and Girls Club of Great St. Louis, hosted by Dr. Erica Bumpers
- The Spot, a health care facility for you who have been disproportionately impacted by HIV, poverty, trauma and discrimination hosted by Medical Director, Dr. Katie Plax.
- Missouri Network for Opiate Reform and Recovery, where they engaged in a discussion with Dr. Kanika Turner, Dr. Devin Banks (LEAD Global Training Program 2021 Alumna), and Executive Director Chad Sabora about the disproportionate burden of the opiate epidemic on certain groups in St. Louis.

Trainees appreciated learning about the importance of understanding the mechanisms that are driving outcomes, in addition to discussing ethical and effective research in the community.



Trainees and alumni from LEAD and RRT training programs and faculty from Washington University in St. Louis met for US-base site visits and workshops during a three-day training event. From left: Dr. Sean Joe, Jerell DeCaille, Dr. Camille Quin, Dr. Mary McKay, Dr. Samantha Francois, Dr. Sonyia Richardson, and Dr. Patty Cavazos-Rehg



Trainees and alumni from LEAD and RRT training programs visited community partner sites around St. Louis. From left, Jerell DeCaille, Dr. Samantha Francois, Dr. Erica Bumpers, Dr. Camille Quin, and Dr. Sonyia Richardson meet at the Boys and Girls Club of Greater St. Louis

For the full Forum program and more photos, visit:

<https://ichad.wustl.edu/2022/03/forum-on-child-and-adolescent-global-health-research-and-capacity-building/>.