



WELCOME NOTE FROM CENTER:

Welcome to the Eighth Newsletter from the Center for Social Science Research on AIDS (CeSSRA), a collaborative training and research center, with collaborators from Case Western Reserve University, Makerere University, the Joint Clinical Research Centre, and Mbarara University of Science and Technology, SABRES/IDI/SPH, among others. The CeSSRA office is always open Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm. It is located in Seminar Room 7 in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Makerere University main campus.

The center's aim is to train social scientists to carry out social science research on HIV/AIDS collaboratively and also conduct a longitudinal study on the social context of HIV/AIDS treatment. Under the fellowship component, the Fellows are reviewing their individual mentoring plans and are concretizing their areas of research interest. They are currently participating in an ongoing research design course. Fellows continuously receive free-critique as they present their research work. This will enable them publish papers in scientific journals and prepare grantable proposals.

PROFILES:

This month we are featuring a profile of one of our research fellows **Mustapha Mubiru**.

Mustapha holds a BA in Social Science from Makerere University. He has worked on research projects, and carried out data collection, analysis and other tasks. He has worked on a number of projects at Uganda Case Western Research collaborations since 2006. Currently Mustapha is working on a population based study on TB/HIV and Alcohol use in Uganda. He also worked on social network and social support for TB patients

and community case findings for Active TB and HIV in Kampala.



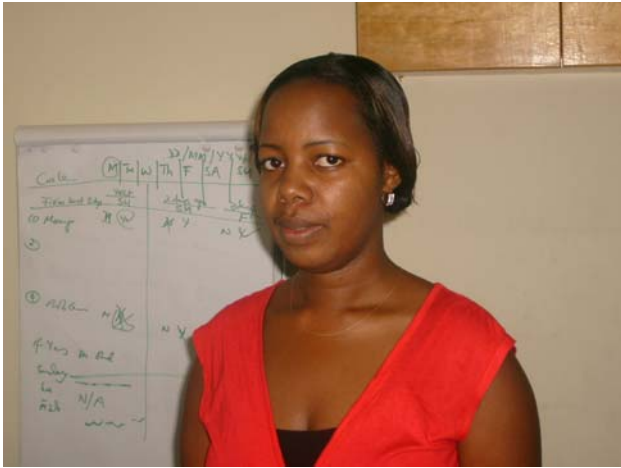
*Seated on the left is **Mustapha Mubiru** during one of the Fellow's monthly meetings.*

Mustapha's research interests focus on issues related to treatment and care. Questions of interest include: how HIV positive persons can best receive treatment? What factors influence treatment seeking—such as distance or stigma? How can we get past these barriers? Even in rural areas?

He is also interested more broadly in research proposal preparation, developing skills to address problems of HIV/AIDS patients, building knowledge in all areas to manage different organizations, evaluation/ monitoring/ and management of data at an institutional level, and writing about HIV for public audiences.

This month we are also featuring an introduction to **Emily Kayrikunda**, a research assistant/ interviewer for CeSSRA, based at the Mbarara field site.

Emily holds a BA in Social Science from Makerere University and is a graduate student pursuing a master's degree in Ethics and Public Management.



Emily Kyarikunda

RECENT EVENTS:

CeSSRA sponsored public lectures that were held at the Faculty of Social Sciences and presented by Joseph Matovu and Prof. Robert Pool on 6th/03/09 and 27th/03/09 respectively

Matovu's talk was titled: "**The changing face of Uganda's HIV Epidemic: A case of Behavioral Complacency?**" The talk was attended by over 50 participants among whom were lecturers, researchers, students and research fellows from CeSSRA and SABRES.



Joseph Matovu during the public lecture at Makerere University Faculty of Social Sciences:

Mr. Joseph Matovu holds a Master of Health Sciences degree in International Health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in the US. He is an accomplished Behavioral

Scientist with a strong bias in Behavior Change Communication (BCC) for HIV/AIDS.

He currently works with the Makerere University School of Public Health HIV/AIDS Fellowship Program as the Training Coordinator. Prior he worked with the Rakai Health Sciences Program as a Senior Research Officer responsible for community health education and dissemination of research findings through scientific presentations and publications. He has over 11 years of HIV/AIDS research

As an author and reviewer, has so far published six journal articles related to Voluntary HIV Counseling and Testing (VCT) and is currently a member of the Consulting Editorial Board for *AIDS and Behavior* Journal, in addition to being a Peer Reviewer with several other international journals



Prof. Robert Pool emphasizing a point during the lunch hour lecture held on the 27th/02/09.

The talk given by Prof. Robert Pool was titled "**Integrating Anthropology into Clinical Trial Research: Lessons from the Microbicides Development Programme**" and was attended by over 80 participants from collaborating institutions, lecturers, Ce4SSRA staff and Students among others.

Robert Pool studied cultural anthropology at the University of Amsterdam, where he received a PhD in 1989. He has carried out a number of long-term ethnographic studies (on food taboos in India, local

explanations of illness and misfortune in Cameroon, and euthanasia decisions in the Netherlands). These were followed by teaching anthropology in Amsterdam for two years, and then eight years in Tanzania and Uganda doing social scientific research relating to HIV/AIDS. He then spent 5 years at the London school of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, where he coordinated the medical anthropology course and, as a member of the Gates Malaria Partnership, carried out research on the socio-cultural aspects of malaria in various African countries. He is currently research professor at the Barcelona Centre for International Health Research (CRESIB), University of Barcelona, where he heads a small but growing anthropology department. Current projects include work on HIV prevention trials (vaginal microbicides and HIV vaccines), malaria prevention in infants and pregnant women, and end of life care. The projects are spread across a number of African, Asian and European countries. A central crosscutting aim of these studies is to develop new mixed-method research strategies and work toward the integration of anthropology into clinical trial research.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The next CeSSRA fellows' meeting will be held on 17th March 2009 at the centre.

USHS is organizing its 10th Annual Scientific Conference to be held on the 11th and 12th June 2009.

Theme: "Evidence based practices in HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases"

<http://ugshs.org/>

CONTACT INFORMATION

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<http://www.case.edu/artsci/anth/CeSSRA.html>