



WELCOME NOTE FROM CENTER:

Welcome to the November 2008 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.

PROFILE

Each month we feature a profile of one of our research fellows, focusing on their training and areas of interest.

This month's featured fellow is **Mugabi Nicholas**. Nicholas is pursuing a Master of Arts in Sociology at Makerere University in Kampala, where he also received his bachelors degree.

Nicholas has served in different organisations and capacities. He is currently a Teaching Assistant in the Department of Sociology at Makerere

University, which he has held for two complete years now. He worked as a data analyst for Price Waterhouse Coopers; and as an independent Research Assistant. He has worked on several research projects with organisations such as AMREF, FAO and Interuniversity Council of East Africa.

His research interests include HIV care, impact, and policy. He worked on HIV and mobile communities (Plantation workers) in Kakira Sugar works with AMREF.

Nicholas has also done community work and mobilization with the youth and school drop-outs, doing reproductive health. Under the Youth to Youth project, he did prevention and treatment of HIV among youths in collaboration with DSW and Uganda AIDS Commission.

He has good organizational skills, has ability to work on multiple projects with minimum supervision and can work with teams.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CeSSRA is pleased to announce that **Dr. Patricia Marshall** will be coming to Uganda during the last week of January 2009. Dr. Marshall is an internationally known bioethicist and is currently a professor at Case Western Reserve University. During her visit, she will be conducting a workshop with the CeSSRA fellows, giving a public lecture, holding a training session with IRB members and collaborating with UNCST. The tentative date for Dr. Marshall's public lecture is **Wednesday 28 January 2009**. More details to follow.

As a part of the ongoing "AIDS 201" public lecture series, CeSSRA has invited **Dr. Janet Seeley** to give a talk in early **February 2009**. Dr. Seeley has done extensive research on the social dimensions of HIV and has been working for many years in Uganda. Details of her talk TBA.

UPCOMING FELLOWS EVENTS

Research Design Course:

The next research design session is scheduled for Mid January 2009 at UMI. Please note the change of location. Exact date to be communicated.

RECENT EVENTS:

The fellows had their In-person training session on 21st November 2008, as a part of their ongoing training in research methodology.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS:

USHS (Uganda Society for Health Scientists) will hold a research methodology workshop focusing on proposal development from **14th to 16th January 2008**. The deadline for registration is 7 January 2009.

There is no registration fee for current society members. Please contact the USHS secretariat for registration or queries at:

New Mulago Hospital

Makerere Medical School, Department of Anatomy
2nd Floor, Room C14

Tel: 0414.531.820

ugsociety@yahoo.com

Travel Grants for Developing Country Vaccine Researchers

A travel grant program for airfare, registration, meal and hotel expenses is available for attendance and poster presentation at the [12th Annual Conference on Vaccine Research](#) (ACVR, Baltimore, MD, 27-29 April 2009) by researchers from developing countries. The online **application deadline is 7 December 2008** for such scholarships and the related poster abstracts.

Information about the 2009 travel grants is available online:

<http://www.nfid.org/pdf/conferences/vaccine09travel.pdf>

The conference website is at:

<http://www.nfid.org/conferences/vaccine09>

If you know eligible and interested researchers with relevant results to present, please relay this information.

Examples of prior travel grant award abstracts are: 2007 10th ACVR (posters P1 to P24):

<http://www.nfid.org/pdf/conferences/vaccine07abstracts.pdf>

CONTACT INFORMATION

For any questions regarding this Newsletter or CeSSRA activities, please contact:

CeSSRA office, Makerere University main campus, Faculty of Social Sciences, Seminar Room 7

Kampala, Uganda

P.O. Box 7062 Kampala (U)

Tel. 256-414-540650

cessra@ss.mak.ac.ug

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