



WELCOME NOTE FROM CENTER:

Welcome to the 10th 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

CeSSRA is to hold a short course on Social Science Research Methods on June 22-26, which will be taught by **Professors William Dressler and Kathryn Oths, from the University of Alabama**. The course will primarily be an introduction to the uses of social survey techniques in ethnographic research and an initial look at how to process the data and basic statistical analysis. A follow-up course that goes more deeply into conducting ethnographic research and data analysis will likely take place in the near future as we get closer to analyzing the data that we are collecting in our study.

RECENT EVENTS:

CeSSRA sponsored a public lecture that was presented by Dr. Noah Kiwanuka on 8th May 2009 held at the Faculty of Social Sciences. His talk was entitled: **"HIV/AIDS epidemic. an Update."** Dr Kiwanuka, (MBCChB, MPH, PhD) is a lecturer at the School of Public Health, Makerere University College of Health Sciences



Dr. Kiwanuka during the public lecture.

In his talk Dr Kiwanuka gave a brief introduction about the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Uganda and among which he noted that AIDS was first reported in Uganda in 1982 in Rakai District (Serwadda et. al., 1985) and that HIV is now a heterogeneous, mature and generalized epidemic with a national prevalence of 6.4%.

The modes of transmission are mainly sexual; accounting for 80% of transmission in Africa. Transmission is also through blood to blood, due to the re-use of needles and surgical instruments and transfusions. However he noted that this has been checked at various hospitals and health centers where the needles are for a single use and there after destroyed, minimizing blood transmission of HIV. He further noted that mother to child transmission was at a percentage of 15 and that majority of infected children acquired the disease from their mothers: during birth or while breastfeeding



Participants during the public lecture

Among the primary prevention interventions he emphasized that there should be good /proper behavioral interventions such as proper use of condoms, abstinence, and reduction in sexual partners.

The biological interventions included STI treatment, ARVs, microbicides, vaccines and **Male circumcision**. In his discussion he further noted that randomised controlled trials of male circumcision to reduce HIV infection have yielded positive results with the efficacy of 60% in South Africa (2005), 53% in Rakai, Uganda (2006) and 57% in Kisumu, Kenya (2006).

In his conclusive remarks, Dr. Kiwanuka noted that the potential public health impact of Male circumcision at a population level would help in the reduction of HIV acquisition in males, reduction of transmissions to women due to reduced incidence in men, reduction of mother-to-child transmission of HIV due to reduced incidence in women and reduction in number of persons needing ART.

Research Fellows' Meeting

The CeSSRA research fellows had a meeting with Prof. Janet McGrath on the 22nd May 2009. This was a follow up on the fellow's research proposal writing, in which they discussed the stages at which they had reached, and continued receiving free critique from Prof McGrath.



CeSSRA fellows and staff with Prof. McGrath

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS:

An annual conference will be held by USHS between 10th and 12th June 2009 at the Golf course Hotel, Kampala.

A manuscript writing workshop will be held in September 2009, organized by USHS. Dates are to be communicated later.

The Annual African Regional Course in Research Methods in Reproductive Health & HIV/AIDS is to be held between 3rd and 28th August 2009.

For more details visit their website on <http://www.rhru.co.za>

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>