

Pediatric HIV Research Training: The Kampala MUJHU visit

Summary

On November 1st 2010 through the kind support of Dartmouth Medical School (DMS)/ Boston University Fogarty Program, as a clinician at DPP I visited the Makerere University – Johns Hopkins University Research collaboration (MUJHU) and Mulago Hospital in Kampala Uganda. The visit was organized to give me and DarDar Pediatric Program (DPP) an exposure to the clinical care of children infected with HIV and the conduct of clinical trials involving human subjects.

MUJHU is a 3 decades old collaboration between Makerere and Johns Hopkins Universities which has invested itself and acquired a lot of experience in HIV and AIDS research and care. At the proximity of MUJHU there is also the Mulago Hospital which houses a state of the art Paediatric Infectious Disease Clinic (PIDC) which provides HIV and AIDS care to a large volume of HIV infected children and their families. These qualities are what made DPP highly consider MUJHU as an ideal place to have one of its clinicians gets practical exposure to HIV and AIDS clinical research and care.

The visit was 5 days long from November 1st to 5th, 2010. While at MUJHU I met with various key staff heading clinical research units at the site to describe their responsibilities and challenges as they do their job, and thereafter I sat in with a clinician at PIDC to attend children coming to the clinic. This trip provided me an excellent perspective on how to improve the quality of care we provide at DPP and measures to observe as we aspire to move towards clinical research.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Paul Palumbo, Richard Waddell and Lisa Adams at DMS, Helga Naburi at MUHAS, and Mary Glenn Fowler, Philippa Musoke and Stella Mirembe at MUJHU who contributed to making this trip a success.

Goodluck Lyatuu M.D.

DarDar Paediatric Program (DPP)