



January 2023

News Letter

The months that were

New look: Infectious Disease Institute Refurbished MUST Microbiology Laboratory



The Infectious Disease Institute (IDI)-Global Health Security (GHS) Programme with funding from the UK Department of Health and Social Care and Mott Macdonald under the Fleming Fund grants programme has handed over Microbiology equipment and a fully refurbished Microbiology laboratory to the Faculty of Medicine-MUST



R-L Dr. Joseph Ngonzi, Prof. Joel Bazira (white coat) receiving the DMM renovation plan from Dr. Mohammed Lamorde of IDI (extreme left)

Prof Joel Bazira, The Head of the Department of Medical Microbiology said the Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Laboratory will assist in providing diagnostic microbiology services for improved patient care. With the addition of workstations, storage units, air conditioning, a general facelift, a bio-safety cabinet, a laboratory refrigerator, an incubator 405L, a bacticinerator, turbidity meter, and a magnetic stirrer, the lab has been upgraded to Bio-safety Level II.

The refurbished laboratory was officially handed over to MUST on January 23, 2023, in the presence of Dr. Joseph Ngonzi, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine (FoM), his Deputy Dr. Jonans Tusiimire, Prof. Joel Bazira, HOD Microbiology, and other staff from the FoM. This was done by Dr. Mohammed Lamorde Head of Department GHS/IDI.



Prof. Joel Bazira and the team inspecting the newly procured incubator in the Microbiology Lab

Prof Joel Bazira, Head of the Department of Medical Microbiology (DMM) at MUST thanked IDI for their support to MUST and the entire region of southwestern Uganda. According to Prof. Joel, the department has been in operation since 1989 when this university was started with a laboratory that was below this standard. With a modern laboratory of this nature both MRRH and MUST will provide qualitative and quantitative results as well as serve students, researchers and patients in the entire western region.

Dr. Jonathan Mayito gave an overview of the project and what DMM-MUST has been able to do with the support of the Fleming fund. This included capacity building of the department human resource and establishment of the surveillance specialized units at MRRH, renovation of the laboratory room to match the modern laboratory standards. He mentioned that a total of 9484 samples have so far been tested in the refurbished laboratory. According to Dr. Jonathan, IDI aims at strengthening national microbiology and antimicrobial resistance surveillance capacity.



Dr. Jonathan Mayito giving his remarks.



Prof. Bazira explained the use of the newly installed machines in the microbiology department

The Dean FoM, Dr. Joseph Ngonzi thanked IDI for choosing MUST/ MRRH. “Such a laboratory will make MUST stand out in the region in areas of teaching and research and using modern technology”. Said, Dr. Joseph. “As an alumnus of MUST who went through the same lab, I know how it was but it has now been transformed. With the improvement in this lab facility, there will be an increase in the outputs, especially in the research area. As Faculty of Medicine, we thank you for the support and we are ready to achieve more with you,” Dr. Ngonzi appreciated

MUST INTERNATIONALISATION AND STRATEGIC WORKSHOP



Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) supported by the MUST-IUC UCoBS project organized a workshop on Internationalization Policy and Strategies on 23rd January 2023 at the UCoBS Board Room. The workshop is part of the implementation programme of the project “University As a Facilitator For Community-Based Sustainable Solutions to Demographic Challenges in South Western Uganda (UCoBS)” funded by VLIR-UOS, Belgium. The main highlights of the workshop included presentations from partner institutions Vrije Universiteit Brussels and Ghent University, remarks from the Deputy Local Coordinator, presentations from Sub-Project 6 and the International Relations Officer, followed by a round table discussion with workshop participants.

The opening remarks were given by Dr Medard Twinamatsiko, Deputy Local Coordinator of UCoBS. In his address, he emphasized the need for the workshop, not only for internationalisation, but also to think together as a university about the overall positioning of MUST at the international level and strengthening the community engagement as MUST flagship. He asserted that project Phase-In stage has already put in place infrastructure, systems and structures to facilitate the successful implementation of the UCoBS programme with verifiable milestones to address each of the demographic challenges in South West Uganda. In addition, the speaker highlighted the main outputs of the project which include capacity building (human resources including training of PhD and MA/MSc students), infrastructure development (including strong ICT lab, GIS, laboratory of science), knowledge generation (new methodologies and innovations) and community impact. He finally noted that there is a strong team of six sub-projects led by Assoc. Prof. Charles Tushabomwe Kazooba to handle the project and asked the Deans and Deputy Deans to continue supporting the project.

The team leader of sub- project 6, Dr. Fred Kaggwa, explained the focus of this sub-project on ICT and internationalisation by giving the three main objectives.



Dr. Françoise De Cuper a senior staff member of the International Relations Office in Vrije Universiteit Brussels (VUB) emphasised the need of internationalisation in higher education institutions in the 21st century. She noted that MUST needs to train students to ably thrive as global citizens. Dr. Françoise highlighted the importance of marketing MUST to different universities and embassies to attract more students for full time, short courses and partners to undertake research. Emphasis on the different units working closely with the international office was highlighted. It is important that the university packages and presents itself as a whole to the world. Presenting internationalisation tools, Dr. Thomas Beurman the project manager international recruitment and partnerships discussed different digital tools employed by Ghent University to manage international students and enhance the University's internationalisation processes. Such tools are used in orientation, application and evaluation processes. He noted the importance of creating programmes to integrate international students into the university's culture and availing enough human resource to implement the internationalisation of the university.

Ms. Sheila Niinye Twinamatsiko the International Relations Officer MUST presented the overview of internationalisation strategies and the first internationalisation policy draft. She highlighted the policy context and problem statement, justification, goal, objectives and strategies. The goal of the policy is to strengthen the internationalisation agenda at MUST through enhanced global partnerships and collaborations, and the international dimension in curricula and research. The workshop participants appreciated the work so far done, they deliberated and gave feedback on the policy development.

The workshop was a great success and participants showed renewed energy and commitments to take forward the University's internationalisation agenda. The workshop was attended by Deans, Deputy Deans, some University Council members, Faculty Administrators and Faculty Coordinators for International Relations.

Succeed we must

MUST Guild President elected 33rd President of UNSA



CONGRATULATIONS

H.E Bill Clinton Nasasira
Upon being elected UNSA President

The Guild President H.E Bill Clinton Nasasira has been elected 33rd Uganda National Students Association (UNSA) president. The elections that were held on January 29th 2023 attracted contestants from four universities.

UNSA (Uganda National Students' Association) is a National umbrella students' organization for students in post-primary institutions in Uganda and Ugandan students studying outside Uganda in both government-aided and private institutions.

UNSA was formed on December 16, 1988, at Makerere University after students' conference attended by student delegates from all over the Country.

The Association was dully registered under the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) statute on the 13 days of August 1993 but thereafter ceased the NGO status in 2008 when the Education Act recognized schools to be administered by the UNSA Constitution – Section 30.

HOW IS UNSA STRUCTURED?

At every school/institution level, there is a students'/guild council comprising of various representatives democratically elected with a patron/Dean of students as an overseer.

Five (5) student leaders to the District Students Council (DSC) represent each school council, which elects a District Executive Committee (DEC). There is a Coordinator at every district level and the District Education Officers are patrons at that level.

Universities and other tertiary institutions are not part of the District Students Council, but send three (3) representatives (at least one being female) direct to the National Students Council (NSC) where districts also send 3 representatives (at least one being female).

The District Coordinators, National Secretariat Staff, members of the Board of Trustees and the Alumni representatives are ex-officio members of the NSC, which is the supreme organ of UNSA. The NSC elects the National Executive Committee (NEC) to oversee the running of the affairs of UNSA on its behalf.

Although the National Students Council (NSC) is the supreme organ of UNSA, each of the structures is semi-autonomous and has powers in all matters within their jurisdictions. They however, report to the upper structures and seek their approval on issues outside their mandate.

The National Executive Committee (NEC) and the National Secretariat, operate under the sanction of NSC who approve the budgets, programs plus all other transactions, except for the powers delegated to Executive Committee and other organs of UNSA.

Congratulations to H.E Bill Clinton Nasasira
Succeed We Must.

Alumni in the News

Gilbert Roy Kamoga, MD, FACP, CPE



White River Health System (WRHS) appointed Dr. Gilbert-Roy Kamoga, Internal Medicine, as the new Internal Medicine (IM) Residency Program Director.

As an Internal Medicine Residency Program Director, Dr. Kamoga will be responsible for ensuring the quality and effectiveness of instructions and scholarly activity conducted within the program. He will oversee the recruitment, evaluation, promotion, and supervision of the residents.

The IM Residency Program was accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). The three-year program at WRMC accepts 10 residents a year. WRMC is the primary inpatient training facility for the program. Members of the WRMC medical staff in the specialties of cardiology, emergency medicine, internal medicine, oncology/hematology, neurology, pulmonology, and rheumatology provide educational support and training to residents. Members of the UAMS medical staff provide education and training in the fields of geriatrics, gastroenterology, nephrology and endocrinology.

“I am proud to be working with our residents at WRMC,” said Dr. Kamoga. “My position will allow me to be a resource for these brilliant physicians as they learn more in Internal Medicine and the fields that they are most passionate about.”

Dr. Kamoga joined the medical staff at White River Medical Center (WRMC) in 2017 as a Hospitalist. Prior to his position at WRMC, he practiced at Hays Medical Center in Kansas.

Dr. Kamoga received his medical degree from Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) in Mbarara, Uganda. He completed his internship at Mulago National Referral Hospital in Kampala, Uganda before relocating to the United States. He then completed his Internal Medicine training at University Hospitals Case Medical Center from 2006 to 2009.

He works with other MUST alumni like Dr. Jackson Musuuza, Dr. Dorren M. Kamoga

Jackson Musuuza awarded a PhD in clinical investigation



Jackson Musuuza, MBBS, PhD,

He is one of the first implementation scientists to receive a degree from the graduate program in Clinical Investigation administered by UW ICTR. He earned the PhD in Clinical Investigation. The dissertation titled Daily Bathing with Chlorhexidine Gluconate for the Prevention of Healthcare-Associated Infections: Assessment of Impact, Potential for Development of Resistance and Sustainability in the Intensive Care Unit. Members of his dissertation committee included Pascale Carayon, PhD, Tonya Roberts, PhD, RN, KyungMann Kim, PhD, and Ajay Sethi, PhD, MHS. Safdar notes,

Musuuza's dissertation demonstrated that daily bathing with chlorhexidine reduces the incidence of colonization by multidrug-resistant organisms, responsible for many healthcare-acquired infections, some with significant morbidity and mortality. There was no evidence of resistance or reduced bacterial susceptibility to chlorhexidine following long periods of chlorhexidine bathing. His findings uncovered a number of barriers and facilitators that affect chlorhexidine bathing, and which are important in planning widespread implementation of the daily bathing intervention. Musuuza comments.

We congratulate all our alumni and wish you the best. Thank you for raising the MUST flag.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 3
WORLD HEARING DAY



ENT health



9 March 2023



MUST 2023 PhD Symposium
March 21, 2023.



MUST 17th Annual Research Dissemination Conference
March 22, 2023.



Mbarara University of Science and Technology and Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital



FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2023
Pharmacology Grounds

Facebook: mbararauniversity | Instagram: @MbararaUST | Mbarara University of Science and Technology
Academic Registrar Help Desk: 0414 668 971 | Dean of Students Help Desk: 0393 226 293

EDITOR



Mr. Bernard Mubiru

Compiled by Angella Nakato Musingo PRO. Proudly sponsored by the Vice Chancellor's Office