



MUST Hosts a High Tea with Bishop Sheldon Mwesigwa



November 2, 2023 Mbarara University of Science and Technology, hosted bishop of Ankole Diocese, Rt. Rev. Assoc. Prof. Sheldon Mwesigwa, to a high tea.

The event provided a unique opportunity for students, faculty, and community members to engage in dialogue with a prominent figure in academia and religion. This was under the theme: using your profession to serve God

This started with an opening prayer by the Rev. Justus Murokore, the chaplain St. Luke chaplaincy, of the Anglican community at MUST.

This was followed by the praise and worship led by Ms. Angella Nakato Muyingo, who also doubled as the Master of ceremony with Dr. Medard Twinamatsiko.



The Vice Chancellor was represented by Professor Nixon Kamukama who welcomed the chief guest and his wife. He thanked the bishop for making time for MUST and for the good work is doing in the entire Ankole diocese. “Your visit is a valuable opportunity for our students, faculty, and staff to engage in meaningful dialogue with a great person like you, who wears many hats like being a man of God, and an academician”, said Prof. Nixon. He thanked the MUST community for turning up for the event.



L-R: Rev. Justus Murokore saying the opening prayer, Prof. Nixon Kamukama giving welcome remarks.

Prof. Nixon added that the bishop’s presence was truly an honor to MUST and that the MUST community was to benefit from his visit. Professor added that the bishop’s visit was not to leave the MUST community the same. He acknowledged the organizers for the work well done.



MCs. of the day: Angella Nakato Muyingo and Dr. Medard Twinamasiko

He emphasized the importance of integrating spiritual values with academic pursuits, urging the MUST community to seek holistic development that nourishes both mind and soul. His words resonated deeply, prompting self-examination and encouraging a renewed commitment to ethical leadership and social responsibility

Sharing from the bishop

In line with the theme of the day that stated using your profession to serve God, Bishop Mwesigwa captivated the audience with his keynote address, eloquently weaving together themes of faith, education, and personal growth. He emphasized the importance of integrating spiritual values with academic pursuits, urging students to seek holistic development that nourishes both mind and soul. His words resonated deeply, prompting introspection and encouraging a renewed commitment to ethical leadership and social responsibility.



The RT. Rev Assoc. Prof. Fred Sheldon Mwesigwa's insightful talk on using your profession to serve God was in sub themes of: Professional Ethics: integrity, respect, transparency, accountability, and the joy of service to God in Careers.

He said the five principles of integrity, respect, transparency, accountability, and the joy of service to God - are all crucial components of professional ethics. Bishop added and said they serve as a guiding compass for navigating the complexities of the workplace and making decisions that are not only beneficial for oneself but also for the greater good.

The breakdown was as below:

Integrity: Bishop Sheldon said that this is the acting with honesty and truthfulness in all interactions, even when faced with challenging situations. He urged the MUST community to avoid conflicts of interest but rather uphold ethical standards even when personal gain is in sight. He added that the other key component of integrity is building trust and credibility with colleagues, at all levels.

Respect: The Bishop said respect is treating everyone with dignity and consideration, regardless of their position or background. He added that valuing diversity and fostering an inclusive work environment was or will take MUST far.

He described Transparency as being open and honest about information, decisions, and processes. He urged us to avoid misleading or withholding information that could negatively impact others.



About the aspect of accountability, Bishop Sheldon said that we should take ownership of actions and decisions, accepting responsibility for mistakes and working to make amends.

With the Joy of Service to God, the bishop said we need to work and give our best in all that we do with a purpose and contribute to the betterment of society.

He added that we need to find meaning and fulfillment in our work beyond just financial rewards. Notwithstanding the use of our skills and talents to make a positive impact on the world.

He concluded by saying that integrating these principles into your career can lead to numerous benefits, both personal and professional. Such as:

- **Increased job satisfaction and motivation:** Working with a strong ethical foundation can bring a sense of purpose and meaning to your work.
- **Improved relationships with colleagues and clients:** Ethical behavior fosters trust and respect, leading to stronger professional relationships.



- **Enhanced reputation and credibility:** Individuals who consistently demonstrate ethical conduct are highly valued in the workplace.
- **Positive impact on the organization:** Companies with strong ethical cultures are more likely to be successful and sustainable.

On behalf of the MUST community, Dr. Gad Ruzaaza, gave a vote of thanks to the bishop and his dear wife for coming to MUST.

He said that the high tea with Bishop Mwesigwa left a lasting impression on the MUST community. Participants expressed appreciation for the opportunity to engage with such a distinguished guest and gain valuable insights. Bishop Mwesigwa's message of hope, resilience, and ethical leadership resonated deeply, prompting reflections and inspiring personal growth. "The event undoubtedly sparked important conversations that will continue to influence the campus environment and its inhabitants". Said Dr. Gad. He also shared the family anthem and inspiration songs with the congregation that go as

"He is Lord! He is Lord! Every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!"

"Oh it's Jesus!; Oh it's Jesus!; It's Jesus in My Soul, for I have touched the hem of his garment; and his blood has made me Whole!"



Dr. Gad Ruzaaza Mr. Emmanuel Kyagaba Maama Dr. Alice Mwesigwa

The Dean of Students Mr. Emmanuel Kyagaba gave the closing remarks during the event. He urged us to take accountability of our actions, he told the students to opt for dialogue not strikes, which he referred to as time wasters.

The bishop blessed the MUST community, proclaimed success, prosperity, tranquility, peace and unity at MUST.

The congregation was welcomed to a meet and greet high tea with the bishop. The grace was said by Dr. Alice Mwesigwa, wife to the Bishop.



To God be the Glory

Elevating Science-to-Policy Communication at MUST.



On 6th November, 2023, Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), under the Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies (FIS) in partnership with Nordic Africa Institute (NAI) hosted a 5 days training. This focused on elevation of Nordic Africa Institute ensuring impactful research outcomes.

The NAI team was led by Victoria Engstrand Neacsu, the Head of Communications at the Nordic Africa Institute. Her wealth of experience set the tone for a week filled with insights and practical knowledge. Other members were: Heba Habib, a communications officer, who navigated the nuances of 'Understanding Your Target Audience to Enhance Impact and Henrik Alfredsson, another communications officer at the Nordic Africa Institute, delved into the intricate process of establishing a research policy



Victoria Engstrand Neacsu, Heba Habib, Viola Nyakato and Henrik Alfredsson,

The entire event was coordinated by Dr. Viola Nyakato, a senior lecturer in FIS, who benefited from the training at the Nordic Africa Institute in Sweden, through a one year exchange program that gave her insights in Science-to-Policy Communication. Viola found it necessary for other faculty and staff to benefit, from this training, thus the 5 days training.

Through online registration, faculty and MUST staff registered for the event and this attracted a number of participants willing to attend, this required Dr. Viola to select and contact the persons she thought urgently needed the Training. The NAI team intended to train 30 people for efficiency and effective output.



Dr. Robert Stalone Buwule, Dr. Viola Nyakato and Dr. Julius Lejju

This started with Dr. Viola Nyakato giving insights about the NAI, the partnership MUST has with NAI and her experience at the institute for the year fellowship that immersed her in the dynamic realm of policy communication at NAI.

Dr. Robert Stalone Buwule, the University Librarian, underscored the significance of the training in enhancing science communication for all. The conviction that science communication is pivotal for universal understanding and engagement echoed through the walls of MUST.



Training goals and output

This empowered the participants with diverse tools of communication such as:

Role of Science communication in policy-making

Mapping an understanding of target groups

Writing for policy makers

Briefing for impact -dialogue and presentation Techniques

Self-assessment of Science communication capacity (participants pitched)

Explored the leverage offered by Wikipedia

The use of social media,

Underscored the impact of audio-visuals, social platforms, events, and meetings in reaching policy-makers and the general public.

Group work: Candidates during a mock pitch of the communication policy brief



The team made a courtesy call to the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs Prof. Nixon Kamukama. He appreciated the NAI team for thinking about MUST and the support rendered. He also thanked Dr. Viola for bringing the training home for other staff to benefit. “If all other faculty do what you did, MUST will flourish more”. The discussion was about the training targets, the impact and the way forward in relation to Science to communication policy. They later exchanged souvenirs.

The week was not merely an academic exercise but a transformative experience, equipping participants with the skills and knowledge to bridge the gap between science and policy communication. As the curtains closed on this insightful week, the echoes of shared wisdom reverberated, shaping a future where research not only thrives in academia but resonates in the corridors of policy-making and public understanding.



MUST sets standards at the Heroes in Health Awards 2023



The Heroes in Health Awards, organized by the Ministry of Health Uganda, took place on November 10, 2023, celebrating individuals and organizations making exceptional contributions to the country's healthcare sector. Here's a summary of the event:

This was under the Theme: Strategic multi sectoral partnerships to transform the health system and workforce. The goal of the event was to recognize and motivate health workers and partners, while showcasing innovative partnerships that improve healthcare delivery.

The awards covered various categories as below:

- **Clinical Service:** Recognizing outstanding healthcare professionals like doctors, nurses, and midwives.
- **Public Health:** Celebrating individuals and organizations excelling in public health initiatives like disease prevention and community outreach.

- **Research and Innovation:** Applauding groundbreaking research and innovative solutions impacting healthcare in Uganda.
- **Community Service:** Highlighting individuals and organizations actively involved in community-based health interventions.
- **Media Excellence:** Recognizing journalists and media outlets effectively promoting health awareness and advocacy.

During the event, Mbarara University of Science and Technology set standards by scooping three big awards. These were:

Dr. Of the year was won by Dr. Gladys Atto, a MUST alumna in the 2004 MBChB cohort and 2018 Mmed Ophthalmology. She is well known for her social media engagements especially about her work in the community and for reaching out to the less advantaged that cannot afford optical medication.

Dr. Gladys Atto from Moroto Regional Referral Hospital earning the prestigious "**Doctor of the Year**" Dr. Atto serves as an ophthalmologist at Moroto Regional Referral Hospital, bringing vital eye care services to a region with significant needs. Her dedication and expertise have restored sight to countless individuals, transforming their lives and offering them a brighter future.



Transforming Lives Through Sight:

Dr. Atto's impact extends far beyond individual patients in the hospital. She has tirelessly advocated for improved access to ophthalmological care in Moroto and across Uganda. Her efforts have:

- Led to the expansion of eye care services at the hospital.
- Increased awareness about preventable eye diseases and the importance of timely treatment.
- Empowered local communities to take charge of their eye health.

Beyond Clinical Excellence:

Dr. Atto's commitment goes beyond providing clinical care. She is known for her:

- **Compassionate approach:** Treating patients with kindness and respect, regardless of their circumstances.
- **Mentorship:** Nurturing the next generation of healthcare professionals by sharing her knowledge and skills.
- **Advocacy:** Raising awareness about the critical need for accessible and affordable eye care throughout Uganda.



L-R Former Prime Minister, RT. Hon. Amama Mbabazi yet to announce the winner as the three competitors look on, Gladys was declared the winner.

A Well-Deserved Recognition:

Dr. Atto's unwavering dedication and exceptional contributions to improving eye health in Moroto and beyond earned her the prestigious "Doctor of the Year" title at the 2023 Heroes in Health Awards. This recognition serves as a testament to her:

- Clinical skills and expertise.
- Compassionate approach to patient care.
- Tireless advocacy for improved eye health access.
- Inspiring leadership and mentorship.

A Bright Future:

Dr. Atto's story is a beacon of hope, not just for patients in Moroto but for the entire healthcare sector in Uganda. Her dedication and achievements inspire us to:

- Prioritize accessible and affordable healthcare for all.
- Celebrate the heroes who tirelessly work to improve lives.
- Invest in innovative solutions to address healthcare challenges.

Dr. Gladys Atto is a true hero, and her story deserves to be shared and celebrated. Let her achievements be a source of inspiration to all who strive for a healthier and brighter future for Uganda.

Award II:

Student innovation of the year award won by Mr. Delafrique Deogratias.



Delafrique Deogratias, a student from Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), emerged as a shining star at the Heroes in Health Awards in the category of Student Innovations, organized by the Ministry of Health Uganda. His remarkable contributions to healthcare innovation earned him the prestigious recognition.

Deogratias Delafrique is spearheading efforts to transform health care systems by adopting herbal and complementary medicines so that patients can always have effective, safe and affordable options for treatment. In that regard, in the Pipeline is VEP antiseptic herbal wound spray, a herbal formulation from locally sourced raw medicinal plants, Bidens Pilosa (Black jack) and Aloe vera. It is intended to be used for wound healing especially minor cuts, burns, and diabetic wounds.



Who is Deogratias Delafrique

He is a pharmaceutical scientist student and an innovator at Mbarara University of Science and Technology, served as a class president for Pharmaceutical Science department for 2 years before being elected the Vice President of the Association of Mbarara University Pharmaceutical Science Students. He also served in the 33rd Guild House of MUST as the Chairperson MUST Forum before being elected the President of the Association of Mbarara University Pharmaceutical Science Students.

Currently the MUST Director for Millennium Fellowship, a UN semester-long leadership development program for undergraduate students to improve partnership building and community impact skills. He also works in Miowa Pharmaceuticals Limited in Bukoto as the Research and Production Officer



Award III:

HIHA special award for improvement of health service delivery won by Dr. Henry Mwebesa



Dr. Henry Mwebesa is a University council member. During the HIHA, he was given a special award for his exceptional and tremendous contribution to the continuous improvement of health service delivery.

Dr. Henry G. Mwebesa is the Director General of Health Services at the Ministry of Health Uganda and has over 30 years of experience in the health sector.

Special Award: Dr. Mwebesa has been involved in planning and supervising various health programs and activities at national, regional, and district levels. His work has focused on building quality and performance improvement systems, including developing standards, monitoring performance, and establishing accreditation and reward systems.



Importance of the award: Recognizing Dr. Mwebesa's achievements helps to raise awareness of the vital role that dedicated individuals play in improving health outcomes for all Ugandans. It also serves as an inspiration and motivation for others working in the healthcare sector.

Other MUST faces at HIHA



L-R Dr. Andrew Ssekitooleko, MUST alumnus now E.D St. Francis Hospital Nsambya, Sarah N.Mwaka (Esq) Vice Chairperson University Council, Dr. Jerome Mpata MUST Alumnus now with Health Monitoring unit State house and Cuban Ambassador to Uganda, H.E Mrs.Tania Perez.



The audience was treated to different types of medicine by Keneth Mugabi. A Ugandan afro-soul musician, songwriter and a soulful performer.

*Congratulations to our own stars.
The sky no-longer exists for you.
Kudos!!!!*

Empowering Faculty for Future Research Leaders: MUST Hosts Inaugural Research Mentors Workshop



On November 15, 2023, Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) made history by hosting its first-ever Research Mentors and Supervisors Workshop. Organized in collaboration with MGH Global Health Collaborative, the event aimed to equip faculty members with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively mentor and supervise future research leaders.

The speakers included:



Assoc. Prof. Vicent Batwala, Director DRGT

Assoc. Prof. Vicent Batwala gave welcome remarks and an overview of levels of post-graduate supervision. "All post-graduate programs require supervision but when a student fails, we only blame the student, yet a supervisor is part of the work." said Batwala. He Urged supervisors to always stay committed to their students because they look up-to them for mentorship. He pointed out that failure of a student is also failure of the supervisor.

Prof. Nixon Kamukama, the DVC Academic Affairs MUST officially opened the workshop and gave opening remarks.

As the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at MUST, Prof. Kamukama emphasized the importance of mentorship in fostering academic excellence and preparing students for successful careers.

His opening remarks covered the following points:

He welcomed the mentors and expressed appreciation for their commitment to guiding and supporting students.

Professor Nixon Kamukama, Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs

Prof. Kamukama highlighted the crucial role of mentors in providing guidance, encouragement, and opportunities for professional development to students.

He briefly outlined the key objectives of the workshop, emphasizing the skills and knowledge mentors would gain to effectively support their mentees.

Prof. Kamukama discussed the challenges faced in research mentorship, such as limited resources and diverse student needs, but also emphasized the immense opportunities for positive impact on students' lives and careers.

He concluded by encouraging the mentors to actively participate in the workshop and leverage their expertise to contribute to the university's Vision and mission as well as nurturing future leaders and scholars.



Prof. Jessica Haberer



Prof. Jessica Haberer leading a session about Equity in research mentorship. "Equity is an important concern in mentoring. Inequity can reflect bias," she said.

Professor Haberer is a director of Research at MGH center for Global Health. She is a leading expert in research mentorship and has published extensively on the topic. In her session at MUST, she discussed the importance of equity in research mentorship and how to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for all mentees.

Her key points covered in the session included:

- The definition of equity in research mentorship
- The importance of equity in research mentorship
- The challenges to achieving equity in research mentorship
- Strategies for creating a more equitable research mentorship environment
- Resources for mentees and mentors

Assoc. Prof. Gertrude Kiwanuka shed light on Research Integrity. "Plagiarism is the most common form of scientific misconduct and we should fight this vice as supervisors. Let's encourage mentees to publish but let us remain ethical."

Assoc. Prof. Gertrude Kiwanuka highlights a crucial issue in academic research: the importance of research integrity and the responsibility of supervisors in combating plagiarism. Here are some key takeaways:

1. Plagiarism is a serious problem: Prof. Kiwanuka rightly identifies plagiarism as the most common form of scientific misconduct. Passing off someone else's work as your own undermines the credibility of research and can have serious consequences for researchers and institutions.

2. Supervisors have a crucial role: Prof. Kiwanuka emphasizes the responsibility of supervisors in fighting plagiarism. Supervisors should work closely with their mentees to ensure proper attribution, ethical research practices, and understanding of academic integrity.

3. Encouragement with ethics: It's commendable that Prof. Kiwanuka advocates for encouraging publication while emphasizing the importance of maintaining ethical standards. Supervisors can guide their mentees towards achieving successful publications while upholding research integrity.

Assoc. Prof. Kiwanuka pointed out the need for publication but cautioned researchers to publish with caution, tread carefully. She said that the push and pressure to publish worldwide has given rise to unethical behavior such as fabrication, falsification and plagiarism (FFP). She urged the congregation to stay focused, follow the right procedures, and consider ethical values for a professional and reputable career path. "It takes 20 years to build a reputation but 5 minutes to ruin it, let us avoid FFP". Said Assoc. Prof. Kiwanuka

Her statement resonates with the overall theme of equipping mentors with the knowledge and skills to effectively guide their students and uphold ethical research practices.



Dr. Asimwe Stephen

Dr. Martha Kyoshaba Twinamasiko, Assoc. Prof. Getrude Kiwanuka Assoc. Prof. Edgar Mulogo

Prof. Edgar provided an overview of the Institutional Policy for student supervision at MUST, focusing on the following aspects:

He explained the overall structure and objectives of the policy, outlining the roles and responsibilities of supervisors, students, and the university administration. Prof. Mulogo discussed practical aspects of implementing the policy, such as assigning supervisors, monitoring progress, and resolving conflicts.

He elaborated on the mechanisms for monitoring the effectiveness of the policy and making necessary adjustments over time.

Assoc. Prof. Mulogo emphasized the aspect of commitment of supervisors, he said “Dear colleagues if you don’t have the time to supervise these students, please don’t take on the responsibility. It is heart breaking to frustrate a student, please do not take on what you cannot accomplish”.

Working as a team is a key aspect to success. Different people have expertise in different areas of study and therefore, we need to work as a multidisciplinary team to ensure that we achieve our targets in academia.” Says Assoc. Prof. Charles Kazooba



Assoc. Prof. Charles Tushabomwe Kazooba Deputy Vice Chancellor Administration and Finance

Using an expression, Assoc. Prof. Charles Tushabomwe Kazooba said that, just like the branches of a tree reach towards the sky in different directions, each academic discipline offers unique perspectives and insights. Assoc. Prof. Kazooba rightly points out, combining these diverse areas of expertise through multidisciplinary teams fosters comprehensive understanding and groundbreaking results.

Professor tasked us to think of Teamwork as two gears interlocked, propelling a machine forward. Similarly, in academia, collaboration allows individuals to leverage their strengths and compensate for weaknesses. This synergy fuels innovation and propels projects towards tangible outcomes.

Assoc. Prof. Kazooba emphasized that while individual brilliance is undeniably crucial, it often thrives best within a supportive and collaborative environment. Multidisciplinary teams provide this platform, where individual expertise is amplified and channeled towards shared goals.

Supervisors should ensure that their students go through the entire examination processes and have them documented. Dr. Martha Kyoshaba (PhD), Academic Registrar

Dr. Martha Kyoshaba emphasized the crucial role of supervisors in safeguarding academic integrity and ensuring a smooth examination process for their students. Here’s a breakdown of her message with some visuals to illustrate the importance of thoroughness and documentation:

She added that the supervisors should provide clear instructions, address anxieties, and ensuring that students understand the various stages and expectations.



She emphasized the importance of ensuring students experience and fulfill all necessary examination procedures, from submitting required documents to attending viva voce examinations. Incomplete processes can lead to delays, confusion, and potential disqualification. Notwithstanding the blame game.

Dr. Martha talked about the need for the documentation, as it serves as a crucial safeguard in the academic world. By having students document their progress, supervisors create a clear record of each step taken, ensuring transparency and accountability throughout the examination process.

This can be essential in resolving any discrepancies or concerns that may arise.

She pointed out the need for shared Responsibility. Martha said that the examination process is a collaborative effort between students, supervisors, and the University administration. Supervisors act as a bridge between these entities, ensuring smooth communication and adherence to regulations.

In conclusion, Dr. Martha Kyoshiba reminded us that effective supervision goes beyond academic expertise. By ensuring their students navigate the examination process thoroughly and leaving a documented trail, supervisors play a critical role in upholding academic integrity, fostering trust, and paving the way for successful academic journeys.



Dr. Rukundo Adones (PhD) leading a session on E-Supervision.

He said E-Supervision is short form for electronic supervision, it refers to the use of online technologies to support and monitor the work or performance of individuals, typically in professional settings. It has gained significant traction in recent years, particularly with the rise of remote work and distributed teams. He shared what is involved in the E-Supervision benefits challenges as below:

He said, with E-Supervision, one often utilizes dedicated software or web platforms that facilitate communication, collaboration, and performance tracking between supervisors and supervisees. These platforms may include features like: Task management: Assigning and tracking tasks, deadlines, and progress, Document sharing and feedback: Uploading and exchanging documents with real-time or asynchronous feedback mechanisms, Video conferencing and meetings: Conducting virtual meetings and consultations, Progress reports and performance tracking: Monitoring progress against predetermined goals and objectives, among others.

Adones shared a scenario of advanced E-supervision manipulation as below:

A student submitted his work to the mentor, who used the anti-plagiarism checker to verify the work. It showed the student's work was not authentic making the supervisor reject it.

The student took the same work and used the paraphrasing tool. Then re-submitted the same work, this was passed by the mentor thinking the student went back and made an effort. This was so unethical!



He shared the benefits of E-Supervision as:

Increased flexibility: E-Supervision allows for greater flexibility in work schedules and locations, promoting work-life balance and accommodating geographical distance.

Improved communication and collaboration: Online platforms can enhance communication and collaboration, especially for geographically dispersed teams, through virtual meetings, document sharing, and instant messaging.

Dr. Rukundo Adones

Enhanced performance tracking: By providing data and insights on task completion, progress, and engagement, E-Supervision can facilitate a more objective and data-driven approach to performance management.

Reduced costs: Utilizing online platforms can eliminate the need for physical supervision visits and travel expenses, leading to cost saving.

He said despite the benefits above E-supervision has challenges which may need addressing for effective output, such as:

Technology dependence: Reliance on reliable internet connectivity and appropriate technology infrastructure is crucial for successful E-Supervision.

Data security and privacy: Ensuring the security and privacy of sensitive data stored and accessed within E-Supervision platforms requires robust security measures and clear data governance policies.

Social isolation and lack of in-person interaction: E-Supervision can contribute to feelings of isolation or disconnections for some individuals, and may not be suitable for all types of work or personalities.

Potential for misuse: Overly intrusive monitoring or micromanagement practices can undermine trust and create a negative work environment.

Need: Highlighting the lack of technology diversity is crucial. Relying on tools requiring subscription fees can create barriers for students and supervisors with limited resources. Providing free or open-source alternatives can enhance inclusivity and accessibility.



He said, "The E-supervision at MUST is quite convenient but, we need Technology diversity since some of the tools require subscription fees from users, and as well improve on data security of the systems."

Dr. Adones rightly emphasizes the need for improved data security. E-supervision platforms store sensitive information like student progress, feedback, and communication. Robust security measures like encryption, access control, and regular security audits are essential to protect this data from breaches or misuse.

He added that data misuse can occur through unintended consequences like profiling students, algorithmic bias, or unauthorized access. Ensuring transparency about data usage, obtaining informed consent from users, and establishing clear policies regarding data collection and sharing are crucial steps to safeguard privacy.

Dr. Stephen Asiimwe, the Director of Global Health Collaborative Uganda, a senior researcher, an honorary lecturer in the department of Community Health at MUST.

Shared about the Perspectives on problems and issues in Post graduate Supervision:

- i) Problems experienced by PG Students.
- ii) Problem areas in PG Supervision.

The Mentors Workshop at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) provided a valuable platform for discussing problems and issues in postgraduate supervision. Below are some of the challenges as presented by Dr. Stephen Asiimwe.

Lack of resources: Limited funding, research facilities, and equipment can hinder supervisors' ability to provide adequate support and guidance to their mentees.

Heavy workload: Balancing teaching, research, and administrative duties with effective supervision can be challenging, leading to time constraints and potential neglect of mentees.



Communication gaps: Cultural differences, mismatched expectations, or poor communication skills can lead to misunderstandings and hinder the development of a productive mentor-mentee relationship. "The students need to know when to communicate to their supervisors, as a mentor, let them know when to call and consult. Being a mentor should not take up all you time in the day, besides its, prudent to respect personal and family time". Said Dr. Stephen.

Inadequate training: Supervisors may lack formal training in effective mentorship skills, leading to challenges in providing constructive feedback, fostering independent learning, and managing conflicts.

Motivation and commitment: Some students may lack the motivation or commitment necessary for successful postgraduate research, requiring the supervisor to invest additional time and effort to keep them on track.

Dr. Stephen said the challenges are two way for both the mentors and Mentees. He said these encounter some challenges such as:

Lack of clear expectations: Unclear research goals, project timelines, or communication about supervisor availability can lead to confusion and frustration for mentees.

Limited feedback: Feeling unsupported or receiving infrequent feedback can hinder progress and leave mentees unsure of their research direction.

Unequal power dynamics: Hierarchical relationships and fear of criticism can stifle open communication and prevent mentees from seeking help when needed.

Personal and emotional challenges: Stress, anxiety, and personal issues can affect mentees' performance and require supervisors to be understanding and supportive beyond their academic role.

As mentees/students, you should learn to prioritize what is essential for you to acquire your goal. We should also aim at improving our interpersonal relationships with our supervisor." Says .Dr. Stephen He advised that mentors should as well make regular publications to motivate their students.

Assoc. Prof. Joel Bazira gave an overview of the Workshop Objectives & Aspects/elements of post-graduate student supervision (Academic advisement, research, and career progression). "To be a good mentor/supervisor, you need an area of specialization"



Associate Professor Joel Bazira's statement at the MUST Mentors Workshop highlights a crucial aspect of effective mentorship: The importance of mentors having an area of specialization. His statement resonates with the overall goals of mentorship and the potential benefits of specialization:

Why Mentors Need Specialization:

Dr. Bazira said:

Mentors with a clear area of specialization possess in-depth knowledge and experience within that field. He added that this allows them to provide targeted guidance, feedback, and support specifically tailored to their mentees' research projects.

He also pointed out the aspect of credibility and trust. He said Mentees are more likely to trust and respect the advice of mentors who are recognized experts in their chosen field. This fosters a stronger mentor-mentee relationship and encourages open communication.

Dr. Bazira said specialization encourages mentors to continuously update their knowledge and stay current with the latest advancements in their field. This ensures they can provide their mentees with the most relevant and up-to-date information and research methods.

The other point was efficient collaboration. He said Knowing their own expertise and limitations allows mentors to identify when collaboration with other specialists is necessary. This facilitates the creation of interdisciplinary teams and leverages diverse skillsets for optimal research outcomes.

Dr. Joel emphasized that mentors who are passionate and accomplished in their own field serve as inspiring role models for their mentees. This can motivate mentees to strive for excellence and pursue their own academic goals with dedication.

The workshop brought together a diverse group of participants, including senior and junior faculty members, researchers, and administrators. This collaborative atmosphere fostered a dynamic exchange of ideas and experiences, creating a valuable learning environment for all involved.

Other speakers included:



Dr. Zari Rukundo who shared insights about institutional infrastructure and support for student supervision at MUST



Mr. Sudi Balimutajjo presenting about the roles and responsibilities of a postgraduate student supervisor

The inaugural Research Mentors and Supervisors Workshop was a resounding success. Participants expressed their appreciation for the valuable knowledge and skills they gained, and they were eager to implement these learnings in their own mentoring practices. The workshop is expected to have a significant impact on the quality of research at MUST, leading to the development of future generations of successful researchers.



Key Takeaways:

- The first-ever Research Mentors and Supervisors Workshop at MUST was a successful event that equipped faculty members with valuable skills and knowledge.
- The workshop addressed key challenges in research mentorship, such as communication, goal setting, and feedback.
- Renowned experts shared their insights on research mentorship, inspiring participants to implement new practices.
- The workshop is expected to have a significant impact on the quality of research at MUST and the development of future researchers.



MC of the Day; Ms. Angella Nakato Muyingo, the University PRO

The Buzzing Hub of Research: Mbarara University of Science and Technology's PhD Symposium



Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) buzzed with intellectual fervor as it hosted its 8th annual PhD Symposium on November 16th, 2023. This prestigious event brought together a vibrant community of doctoral researchers, professors, and mentors, fostering a stimulating platform for knowledge exchange and innovation. This was on under the theme: "Transforming our world for Sustainable Development by embracing an Innovative Research landscape"

The symposium showcased the diverse and impactful research undertaken by MUST's PhD students across various disciplines, including:

- Medicine and Allied Health Sciences
- Basic and Applied Sciences
- Engineering
- Computing
- Business Management
- Humanities



Chairperson of Humanities, Social and management Science Dr. Robert Muriisa and Prof. Godfrey Barigye. Students presented their research findings, methodologies, and insights through compelling presentations and engaging discussions. These presentations covered a wide range of topics, from developing sustainable agricultural practices to investigating novel applications of artificial intelligence in healthcare.

This started with breakaway sessions in the categories of;

- a) Science and technology
- b) Humanities, Social and management Science

Dr. Fred Kaggwa (PhD), Senior Lecturer, Department of Computer Science, and the chairperson of the PhD Symposium committee welcomed and shared remarks about the symposium. He said,

The primary objective of this annual symposium is to gather all PhD postgraduate students at Mbarara University to showcase, share, and discuss their research projects in a relaxed and friendly environment. Esteemed academic staff at the professorship and doctoral levels from MUST and other universities play pivotal roles as session chairs and mentors for the students. Over time, the symposium has gained momentum, attracting delegates from other universities, research institutions, and the community with diverse expertise and research interests, who now actively participate in supporting and guiding the PhD candidates.

Fred extended his heartfelt appreciation to the entire university management, who have consistently supported the symposium and put it up as an annual event

"I would like to emphasize that a PhD symposium is neither a PhD defense nor a mere paper/article presentation session. Candidates should approach it with a positive mindset, expecting candid feedback about their research." said Dr. Kaggwa.

He added that the core objective of this event should always revolve around students presenting, sharing, and discussing their complete PhD research projects in a supportive and welcoming environment for the sake of improvement. Panelists are tasked with sharing their experiences and offering constructive criticism to help the PhD candidates progress and complete their courses with ease.

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In conclusion, Dr. Kaggwa urged all prospective PhD candidates to consistently submit abstracts of their full PhD work for participation in such events. He pointed out that Supervisors accompanying presenting candidates should make an effort to attend, fostering networking opportunities and facilitating the exchange of feedback from a diverse multidisciplinary audience.

"A PhD candidate who does not publicly share his or her work with others will always be a step behind: share, and we shall care." - Fred Kaggwa (PhD).



Vice Chancellor University of St. Joseph Mbarara, Dr. Geoffrey Mugenyi a senior Obstetrician, senior Lecturer, and Publisher.

Assoc. Prof. Vincent Batwala welcomed the PhD candidates and congratulated them upon reaching this crucial stage in their academic journey.

He emphasized the importance of PhD research in contributing to new knowledge, solving critical problems, and advancing their chosen fields.

He discussed the challenges faced by PhD candidates, such as time management, pressure, and self-doubt, but also highlighted the immense opportunities for personal and professional growth.

In reference to the mentors workshop, Prof. Batwala shared the role of supervisors and mentors in guiding and supporting PhD candidates. On this note, he thanked Global Health collaborative for organizing the mentors workshop that, was quite timely for enhancing mentors skills.

Prof. Batwala Vincent encouraged mentees to build strong relationships with their mentors and utilize University resources for support.



Assoc. Prof. Vincent Batwala

The symposium wasn't just about presenting research; it was also a springboard for growth and collaboration. Renowned experts and professors provided valuable feedback and guidance, helping students refine their research methodologies and gain new perspectives. The event also fostered networking opportunities, allowing students to connect with peers from different disciplines and forge valuable collaborations.

Experience at the Symposium



Ms. Rosemary Atuhaire, and Mr. Jack Turihohabwe

"I'm glad I came, I'm not left the same, in terms of presentation, and feedback from the panelists was so insightful. Listening to other presenters also showed me what to do and what not to do. I will carry with me the comments for improvement"

This echoes with Mr. Jack's sentiment of leaving with newfound insights and feeling ready to "go to the next level," but also adds a layer of personal reflection and growth.

Two PhD students that presented at the Symposium shared their experience as below;

Mr. Jack Turihohabwe,

"I have received insights on how best to present and impress the panel. I gained valuable knowledge on specific areas such as research methodology, data analysis presentation skills and I feel much more confident for my next presentation."

Ms. Rosemary Atuhaire,

Closing remarks by the Chair DRGT board Assoc. Prof. Joel Bazira

Assoc. Prof. Joel Bazira thanked the students, mentors panelists and entire audience for making time for the symposium. He emphasized the importance of attending events like the symposium especially for the PhD candidates.

Bazira said the symposium is a neutral ground for cutting-edge research for presentations and discussions on current trends and advancements in their field. He added that during such events Interactions with established scholars and peers from different institutions broaden their understanding and challenge their own viewpoints.



He also pointed out the aspect of networking opportunities as a way of building connections with potential collaborators, mentors, and future colleagues.

Assoc. Prof. Bazira's closing remarks serve as a reminder that the PhD journey is not solely about individual research in isolation. Participating in events like the PhD symposium enriches the learning experience, fosters professional development, and provides invaluable preparation for a successful doctoral defense and future career in academia. He thanked the organizing committee for the dedicated service to make the day a success.



MUST's 18th Annual Research Dissemination Conference: A Beacon of Innovation for communities



Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) proudly hosts the 18th Annual Research Dissemination Conference, (ARDC). This prestigious event serves as a platform for academics, researchers, and industry professionals to showcase their latest findings, engage in stimulating discussions, and forge collaborative partnerships that shape the future of their respective fields.

MUST was honored to host a diverse audience with both national and international scholars.

The key note speaker of the day was Prof. Judy Hahn, Deputy Director Global Health Collaborative, University of California San Francisco (UCSF) USA.

The conference was guided by the theme: *Transforming our World for Sustainable Development by embracing an Innovative Research Landscape.*



The conference agenda boasted a dynamic array of presentations, encompassing diverse disciplines with Sub-themes as:

- Design and validation of software technologies
- Population and Public Health Research
- Responsive Health Systems
- Policy, Governance, Social Development and Gender
- Agricultural Production Enhancement for Sustainable Resilient Livelihoods
- Environment and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
- Natural Resources Management and Biodiversity Conservation
- Entrepreneurship, Business Accounting and Economic Advancement
- Industry, Energy and Emerging Technologies
- Food Safety, Security and Innovation (value chains addition)
- One Health
- Inclusive Education and Educational Reforms
- Natural Products Validation and Development
- Earth Sciences, Scientific Insight and Engineering

Some of the presenters at the conference



Who is Prof. Judith Hahn, the Keynote Speaker of the 18th ARDC.



Her biography was presented by Dr. Winnie Mwi-yindike, a friend and colleague to Judith since 2008. Dr. Winnie is currently the director ISS Clinic Mbarara.

She said, Judith Hahn, PhD is a Professor of Medicine in the HIV, Division of Infectious Diseases, and Global Medicine Division in the Department of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Hahn is an epidemiologist with extensive experience, studying the behavioral and biological intersections of substance use and infectious diseases.

She is a Principal Investigator of several National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded studies to reduce the harmful impact of alcohol use on HIV and TB outcomes. Judith was among the first researchers to use phosphatidylethanol (PEth), an objective biomarker for alcohol use in her research for objective measurement for alcohol use. She has been collaborating and coming to MUST since 2005, and greatly enjoys many long-standing collaborations with MUST investigators, and is a dedicated mentor to investigators at all levels of training.



Prof. Judith Hahn's remarks

Prof. Judith Hahn advised the researchers to always use factual statistics in their research results. "Whenever you forge statistics in your results, you are misleading a big population." She said. This is a powerful reminder of the critical importance of ethical research and the integrity of research findings.

This can undermine the very foundation of scientific research. It renders findings unreliable, invalidates conclusions, and ultimately hinders progress in any field. She added that research often informs public policy and decision-making. Misleading statistics can have far-reaching consequences, impacting individuals, communities, and even entire nations.

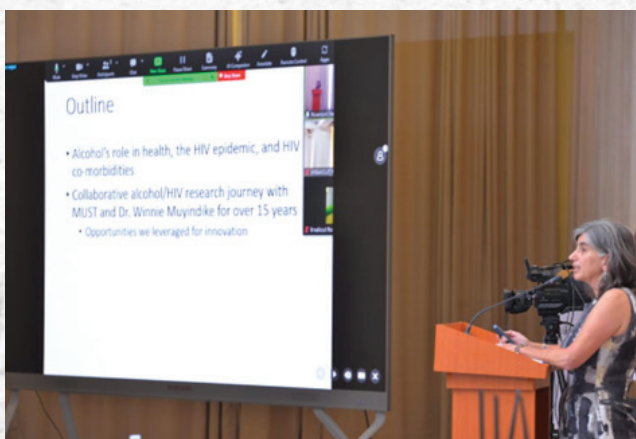
She pointed out Researchers hold an ethical obligation to uphold the highest standards of integrity and honesty. Manipulating data constitutes a breach of this responsibility and erodes trust in the research community.

Impact of "Misleading a Big Population":

- **Loss of credibility:** When research is found to be unreliable, it damages the entire field, making it difficult for the public to trust future findings.
- **Misinformation decisions:** Policymakers and stakeholders rely on research data to make informed decisions. Misleading statistics can lead to flawed policies with detrimental consequences.
- **Wasted resources:** Funding wasted on fraudulent research could have been channeled towards genuine scientific inquiry, hindering progress in other areas

Renowned experts in their respective fields grace the conference with thought-provoking keynote addresses. These luminaries shed light on critical issues, challenge existing paradigms, and inspire attendees to push the boundaries of knowledge. Their visionary talks leave a lasting impression, guiding researchers and stakeholders towards impactful solutions for pressing global challenges.

She later shared a presentation about



The conference was divided into categories of Science and Technology, Humanities, Social & Management Sciences with two breakaway sessions each divided into 4 rooms. She later shared a paper about Economic incentives to reduce alcohol use and increase TB preventive therapy adherence among persons with HIV in south-western Uganda.

Welcome remarks by the Director DRGT

Associate Professor Batwala welcomed the guests and thanked them for turning up despite the odds, he acknowledged the guests and gave special recognition to the international partners who supported the ARDC, through different ways.

Assoc. Prof. Batwala said, the ARDC not only disseminates to benefit our researchers but also the consumers of the research. He said that MUST has been able to maintain the tradition of ARDC due to the input by the researchers, grant writers, funders and the support from government. Thank you for writing the grant.

He pointed out that through research, MUST has been able to run the grants office which is employing over 400 staff as research staff and administrators.

Still through grants, capacity building has been supported in all Faculties notwithstanding scholarships for continuing education. Said Batwala.

Other presenters during the conference



He acknowledged and appreciated the grants office for properly managing the grants. He mentioned that these were managing over 92 grants in their docket. “It is to your excellent service that donors, partners and collaborators still work with us”.

He gave the dates of the next events as:

ARDC: 22/11/2024

PhD symposium 21/11/2024

Mentors workshop 20/11/2024



Remarks by the chair board Assoc. Prof. Joel Bazira

He thanked everyone for coming despite the rain. He thanked the Government of Uganda, the biggest funder of the ARDC, and the university administration. He appreciated GHC /MGH for a well-organized mentors workshop.

Assoc. Prof. Joel Bazira thanked Dr. Kaggwa Fred for organizing the PhD symposium “ 20 PhD students presented their progress, these were not only from MUST but also other universities like, Makerere University, Kyambogo University Muni University and KIU. This means the publicity really went far and wide, thank your Dr. Kaggwa and Team.”

Faces at the 18th ARDC



He acknowledged the following:

The DRGT team, “despite the small numbers in the directorate, they have managed to pull it off. Thank you Director and your team”.

Dr. Ronald Twongyirwe (PhD), voluntarily compiled the ARDC Booklet. “I consider this as a passion to serve others selflessly”

Ms. Miriam Tugiramasiko who was the head of Secretariat , Mr. Asaph Katarangi who headed the procurement process, Ms. Annet Kembabazi from GHC who led the team of the first-ever mentors workshop.

He acknowledge the communication team for the publicity of the event, and the media engagement which increased the visibility of the event and the University. **“Thank you Angella and your team for changing the face of communication”.**

Dr. Martha Kyoshaba Twinamasiko (PhD) represented the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Celestino Obua who was away on official duty.

She welcomed everyone to the event and thanked the government of Uganda for supporting research “We are given 1 billion for research and innovation; 70% allocated to research while 30% is allocated to the center of Innovation and Technology transfer.

She thanked the researchers for their dedication towards research. She pointed out that a number of them have written and won grants either as individuals or in teams. She pointed out that must research teams were multi-disciplinary.

THE DEANS AT THE ARDC



L-R Dr. Evarist Naabasa, Dean FCI, Assoc. Prof. Joseph Ngonzi Dean FoM, Assoc. Prof Julius Lejju Dean FS, Dr. Fredrick Kijambu Dean FoBMs

Dr. Martha congratulated grant winners and thanked them for the contribution towards MUST’s mission and Vision.

She thanked the organizers for the research week that started with the Mentors’ workshop, PhD symposium and crowned it all with the 18th ARDC. All this creates a robotic environment for research to be impactful.

She pointed out two speakers who caught her mind during the Mentors’ workshop and these were:

Dr. Getrude Kiwanuka who has served MUST since 1994, spoke about the ethical conduct in research, she pointed out the need for publication.

She reminded us about the mantra publish or perish, she added. Publish with caution, tread carefully. She reminded us about push and pressure to publish worldwide has given rise to unethical behavior such as fabrication, falsification and plagiarism FFP.

She said, “It takes 20 years to build a reputation but 5 minutes to ruin it, Let us avoid FFP”

The other speaker that got Dr. Kyoshaba’s attention was Dr. Adones Rukundo (PhD) who presented about E-Supervision.



He said that:

E-supervision has tools that help researchers such as the anti-plagiarism tool. He mentioned how some students are sharp and can alter tools to paraphrase.

He shared a scenario where a mentor used the anti-plagiarism checker and it was rejected because it was not authentic. The student took the same work and used the paraphrasing tool. The same work was passed by the mentor. That was so unethical.

Dr. Kyoshaba urged the supervisors to up their game, have and know the latest technology to avoid such unethical research conduct.

She said, we live in the 4th industrial revolution era, where the level of technology advancement is growing at a pace beyond human understanding. She added that we are in the world of AI with many chat bots, the most common being chat GPT. "Let us not fear AI but rather embrace it for the scholarly work. Resisting AI can be likened returning to Stone Age period".



She mentioned, earlier in the week of the ARDC, the University PRO was at an event and she mentioned an innovation that was one of the best 3 during the 9th Hackathon. She said this was about an app that examines how much chemicals are spread on fruits and vegetables, one can use it in the market before buying. Martha said she would like to use such an app to avoid any medical challenges.

Martha said that new ideas and innovations come from such conferences, she urged the organizers to extend the days of the research events, asked them to have such ground breaking innovations showcased at such events, invite the community people for their input as well.



Echoing the words of Prof Jessica, Martha said our research should be understood by a lay person. That is when it can create impact to our communities.

In her conclusion remarks Dr. Kyoshaba thanked the organizers for the 3 day event. "Their tireless efforts and dedication have made this day a reality. The tasting of the pudding is in the eating. The DRGT doesn't have to tell us how competent they, are we can see it from the fruits of the 3 days. I thank you for listening."

The event was crowned with the awarding of former DRGT, handing over of certificates of recognition to 23 grant winners of the 2nd call, second quarter release internal research funding award winner by the DRGT, and appreciation to the Key note speaker. This was done by Dr. Kyoshaba Martha Twinamasiko, the Academic Registrar, who represented the University top Management, Associate Professor Vincent Batwala, Director DRGT and Associate Professor Joel Bazira the chair board DRGT



Assoc. Prof. Vincent Batwala, Dr. Kyoshaba Martha Twinamasiko, Assoc. Prof. Joel Bazira.

Former board members included:

- Mr. Wilson Adriko. The assistant Librarian.
- Dr. Theodora Twongirwe, former Dean FAST
- Dr. Viola Nyakato, former Dean FIS
- Dr. Amon Agaba

The key note speaker being recognized for her effort during the conference



MUST Honors top Researchers the 29th Graduation two of these honored at the 18TH ARDC. Dr. Francis Bajunirwe the G.O.A.T MUST Researcher and Assoc. Prof. Edgar Mugema Mulogo.



Dr. Francis Bajunirwe was represented by a colleague and a friend Keith Asiimwe



The grants winners and their team members



For more details about the ARDC please follow on the link below <https://www.youtube.com/live/PidX-NAb0IDE?si=GmP70Hej5fZRcTS3>.



Director CIIT extreme right was tasked to find a suitable Ugandan name for the key note speaker, He called her Kirabo meaning “a gift to us



MC of the day; Ms. Angella Nakato Muyingo -University PRO

Thereafter, the guests were treated to a cocktail



Social Interaction; Guests having a meet and greet cocktail

 <p>18th MUST Annual Research Dissemination Conference</p> <p><i>[one glad / attended]</i></p> <p>"The 18th ARDC was my first experience in attend and receive present at the feeling of sharing at showcasing your research findings to the rest of the colleagues and you were getting a first experience of how through initiatives are in better and appropriate manner."</p>  <p>Prof. Yousuf Ojima Assistant Lecturer Dept. of Biomedical Sciences University of Botswana</p> <p>The next ARDC will be on 22/11/2024 PhD Symposium: 21/11/2024 Mentors' workshop 20/11/2024 Venue: TBC</p>	 <p>18th MUST Annual Research Dissemination Conference</p> <p><i>[one glad / attended]</i></p> <p>"I do not know how to describe this event better, suffice to say I got an opportunity to be in attendance and receive about the process like what."</p>  <p>Dr. Tshikangwe Post Graduate Lecturer in Biomedicine</p> <p>The next ARDC will be on 22/11/2024 PhD Symposium: 21/11/2024 Mentors' workshop 20/11/2024 Venue: TBC</p>	 <p>18th MUST Annual Research Dissemination Conference</p> <p><i>[one glad / attended]</i></p> <p>"The inter-disciplinary nature of the presentations allowed a dynamic exchange of ideas, promoting collaboration and paving way for future findings and innovations."</p>  <p>Maudita Hahlo Postgraduate Student PhD Symposium Project: "You're special"</p> <p>The next ARDC will be on 22/11/2024 PhD Symposium: 21/11/2024 Mentors' workshop 20/11/2024 Venue: TBC</p>	 <p>18th MUST Annual Research Dissemination Conference</p> <p><i>[one glad / attended]</i></p> <p>"Every year this conference is a reminder of the scientific accomplishments, diversity of science and potential of MUST. Looking forward to returning in 2024!"</p>  <p>Assoc. Prof. Mark J. Seaton Harvard Medical School Tanzania</p> <p>The next ARDC will be on 22/11/2024 PhD Symposium: 21/11/2024 Mentors' workshop 20/11/2024 Venue: TBC</p>	 <p>18th MUST Annual Research Dissemination Conference</p> <p><i>[one glad / attended]</i></p> <p>"I may forget what they said, but I will never forget how they made me feel. The joyous, great the quality of encouragement and great insights on graduate level. More than motivated to continue with my PhD journey!"</p>  <p>Dr. Kene Mphahlele M.D. PhD Student</p> <p>The next ARDC will be on 22/11/2024 PhD Symposium: 21/11/2024 Mentors' workshop 20/11/2024 Venue: TBC</p>
 <p>18th MUST Annual Research Dissemination Conference</p> <p><i>[one glad / attended]</i></p> <p>"I was inspired and motivated to attend. Many thanks to the organizers and support staff for making it an enjoyable and productive experience. The program of the 18th ARDC was on the long time of my research and the way they were handling it was great."</p>  <p>Dr. Mphahlele Senior Lecturer</p> <p>The next ARDC will be on 22/11/2024 PhD Symposium: 21/11/2024 Mentors' workshop 20/11/2024 Venue: TBC</p>	 <p>18th MUST Annual Research Dissemination Conference</p> <p><i>[one glad / attended]</i></p> <p>"There was a lot to learn"</p>  <p>Ms. Mphahlele Research and Quality Manager Credit and Grants</p> <p>The next ARDC will be on 22/11/2024 PhD Symposium: 21/11/2024 Mentors' workshop 20/11/2024 Venue: TBC</p>	 <p>18th MUST Annual Research Dissemination Conference</p> <p><i>[one glad / attended]</i></p> <p>"I was an enriching experience, with a vibrant gathering that evoked empowerment through knowledge. It was an exciting environment full of cutting-edge research, creative ideas, and impassioned conversations that shed light on many different subjects."</p>  <p>Dr. Sponson Lecturer Pharmacology</p> <p>The next ARDC will be on 22/11/2024 PhD Symposium: 21/11/2024 Mentors' workshop 20/11/2024 Venue: TBC</p>	 <p>18th MUST Annual Research Dissemination Conference</p> <p><i>[one glad / attended]</i></p> <p>"This was a pleasure to have been able to attend this inspiring conference with an hour session for students and staff."</p>  <p>Prof. John Moko Health Director Health Education DRCH</p> <p>The next ARDC will be on 22/11/2024 PhD Symposium: 21/11/2024 Mentors' workshop 20/11/2024 Venue: TBC</p>	 <p>18th MUST Annual Research Dissemination Conference</p> <p><i>[one glad / attended]</i></p> <p>"I was inspired by the passionate research by so many students and staff, particularly about the home-grown initiatives."</p>  <p>Prof. James Mphahlele PhD Student Director of Health Center for Health</p> <p>The next ARDC will be on 22/11/2024 PhD Symposium: 21/11/2024 Mentors' workshop 20/11/2024 Venue: TBC</p>

 <p>18th MUST Annual Research Dissemination Conference</p> <p><i>Thank you</i></p> <p>"Not even the weather could stop you from coming to the ARDC, you being here until the end can't be taken for granted. Thank you for honoring our invitation, thank you for sharing your findings."</p>  <p>Assoc. Prof. Joel Basira Chairperson DRGT Board</p> <p>The Next ARDC Will be on 22/11/2024 PhD Symposium: 21/11/2024 Mentors' workshop 20/11/2024 Venue: TBC</p>	 <p>18th MUST Annual Research Dissemination Conference</p> <p><i>Thank you</i></p> <p>"Your presence at the ARDC made me appreciate that researchers have the passion to change the world. Thank you for coming."</p>  <p>Assoc. Prof. Vincent Batwala Director DRGT</p> <p>The Next ARDC will be on 22/11/2024 PhD Symposium: 21/11/2024 Mentors' workshop 20/11/2024 Venue: TBC</p>
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HANDOVER OF PATIENT MONITORS AND FETAL MONITORS GIVEN UNDER THE MUST-IUC-UCoBS PROJECT TO OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY HIGH RISK WARD



The MUST-IUC-UCoBS, sub-project 4 led by Assoc. Prof. Joseph Ngonzi who is also the Dean Faculty of Medicine, together with Assoc. Prof. Charles Tushabomwe-Kazooba handed over five patient monitors and five fetal monitors to the Department Obstetrics and gynecology Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) on 27th November 2023. The handover activity started with welcome remarks from Dr. Musa Kayondo, the Head of Department Obstetrics and gynecology. He gave an overview of the department activities in the hospital and said that that Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital (MRRH) is at 91% of deliveries. On training, the department has the biggest number of post-graduate students in the Faculty, an average of 20 per year but still has limited facilities. He later invited sub-project 4 team leader Assoc. Prof. Ngonzi to give some remarks. Assoc. Prof. Ngonzi appreciated the Head of Department, Senior members, Senior Housing Officers (SHOs) and the Sister in charges for the work well done. He went on to give a background of how MUST-IUC-UCoBS project came into existence. Four years ago, a team of MUST staff got an idea together with the project Local Coordinator, Assoc. Prof. Charles Tushabomwe-Kazooba to write a 10-year grant on demographic challenges in southwestern Uganda funded by the Belgian Government. The project has six sub projects embedded in one. They are semi-autonomous with different objectives but integrated to one goal. Assoc. Prof. Charles Tushabomwe-Kazooba is the overall team lead and Assoc. Prof. Ngonzi is led sub-project four, which addresses “Improved sexual and reproductive health rights, and maternal new-born and child healthcare”. Under sub-project 4 are three main objectives; Gender integrated into Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), strengthened quality improvement initiatives to optimise care and prevent maternal, newborn and child related complications and; sexual and reproductive health care services for adolescents optimized. In each of these sub-projects are students at Masters and PhD levels. In attendance were 2 of our project iv PhD scholars: Dr. Brenda Ainomugisha and Dr, Brian Turigye.

Assoc. Prof. Ngonzi the project leader of project iv handed over five patient monitors and five fetal monitors. He explained that these are high-end monitors supplied by Joint Medical Stores to support Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) and Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital (MRRH). He then invited, Assoc. Prof. Charles Tushabomwe-Kazooba to hand over the equipment bought under sub-project 4.

Assoc. Prof. Kazooba in his remarks, started by thanking for the opportunity to interact with colleagues that he cannot take for granted. He thanked the long-standing collaboration between MUST and MRRH. He described the achievement using a building, which has many bricks starting with those in the foundation, which are not visible at the moment, but all the bricks contribute to this building. In the same way, each individual's profession supporting education and health related issues is a contribution and greatly appreciated. He went on to encourage the team to contribute something when we still can.



Assoc. Prof. Kazooba giving his remarks before handing over the equipment

If we are looking at demographic challenges, we have to look at these mothers. In the same way we need to network. Let us continue to uplift the standards of MUST and MRRH and once we do that as a brick, we contribute to the standards of Uganda. He pledged to continue giving support building on this.



Assoc. Prof. Kazooba and Assoc. Prof. Ngonzi (center) handing over monitors to Obstetrics &Gynaecology team led by Dr. Musa Kayondo (second right)

After receiving the equipment, Dr. Kayondo thanked the MUST-IUC-UCoBS project and promised to put the monitors to good use. “We will provide an update on the number of mothers they have saved. The fetal monitor is very important to screen the baby inside the mother’s womb. It will reduce the number of children born tired and they will not be mentally incapacitated,” Dr. Kayondo said. Succeed we must



EDITOR



Mr. Dickens Muhwezi

