



**Mbarara University of Science and Technology**

**SPECIAL EDITION III**



*MUST Congratulates staff  
on Academic Achievements*

The Faculty of  
Interdisciplinary  
studies and Faculty  
of Medicine

**MUST in MUK**

Mbarara University of Science and Technology congratulates its staff on the great milestone in the academic field. Three staff members were awarded Ph.Ds in the different areas of specialization.

We are pleased to announce that three of our esteemed staff members have achieved a great milestone in their academic careers. **Dr Arinaitwe Abel Byarugaba**

is a lecturer in the Faculty of Interdisciplinary studies in the department Environment and livelihoods support systems, **MWANGA Juliet Amumpaire** is the Director of Epicentre Research Centre and an Assoc. Prof of Paediatrics and Child Health.

**Dr. Tom Ogwang** is a lecturer in the Faculty of interdisciplinary studies department of planning and governance, lecturing Political Economy and conflict resolution,

all been awarded a PhD in their respective fields of specialization. This is a testament to their hard work and dedication, and we wholeheartedly congratulate them on their accomplishments. Their achievements have led to the advancement of knowledge in their areas of expertise and have further improved the reputation of Mbarara University of Science and Technology.



### **Dr Arinaitwe Abel Byarugaba**

is a lecturer in the Faculty of Interdisciplinary studies in the department Environment and livelihoods support systems. He investigated the viruses that affect potatoes in Uganda and assessed the prevalence of resistance genes that suppress effects of virus diseases. The study identified six viruses; PVS strain O, PVX strain X3, PLRV, PVM, PVA and PVY strain (O, N and NTN) which occurred as single and in mixed infections. Co-infection involving PVY and PLRV were common and caused severe disease symptoms in many potato varieties. His study identified five genes (Ryadg, Rysto; Nbtbr, Nsadg and Gmgrl) that condition resistance to viruses; PVY, PVX, PVS and PVM. The resistant gene (Ryadg) suppressed the effects of PVY virus by 60-79% and for virus co-infection of PVY+PLRV by 22.1- 48.8%. Abel recommends that gene pyramiding should be prioritized to suppress the effects of virus diseases. The study was supervised by Prof Settumba Mukasa and Prof Patrick Rubaihayo.



**MWANGA Juliet Amumpaire** is the Director of Epi-centre Research Centre and an Assoc. Prof of Paediatrics and Child Health. **She examined the quality of care for common childhood infections in low level Private Health facilities in Mbarara District.** About 70% of deaths of under-five-year old children in Uganda result from preventable conditions and 50% of sick children are managed by private facilities. Her study results show poor quality of healthcare for common childhood infections. While first-line medicines for treatment of the health conditions are available, and the clinical conditions often identified correctly, wrong treatment are given in over 50% of the consultations. Most facilities lack clinical guidelines, in-service refresher training and supportive supervision and oversight by regulating bodies. There is need for the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders in health to employ innovate modes of knowledge and skills transfer to build capacity, provide oversight, and support supervision in the LLPHE.



**Dr. Tom Ogwang** is a lecturer in the Faculty of interdisciplinary studies department of planning and governance, lecturing Political Economy and conflict resolution. His study examined the effects of development interventions and the post conflict reconstruction of Northern Uganda. It was undertaken in the districts of Gulu and Pader. This region has received a lot of development interventions and investments from the government of Uganda and non-state actors to support it recovery from the war and the ravages of the armed conflict. Despite the comprehensive recovery and development plans for the region, it is characterized by persistent large inequalities in incomes, education, health and participation across gender, geography and lifestyle. Their efforts seem not to have taken cognizance of the heterogeneity of the region, by pursuing a one-size-fits-all approach to interventions. That is why their investments seem not to have created the desired impact in the region. More specifically, peace building and reconciliation efforts seem to have been largely underfunded as compared to the other strategic objectives.

*We wish you all the best in your career. Thank you for raising the MUST flag congratulations.*

***Succeed we MUST.***

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