

L[e]ARN

Health[e]Foundation

Symposium 2010

The big five in HIV/AIDS & TB care

October 16th, 2010

9:00-17:00, Hotel Africana

Sponsored by:



The Big Five in HIV/AIDS & TB Care' symposium

Over 350 participants attended 'The Big Five in HIV/AIDS & TB Care' symposium, organized by Health[e]Foundation on October 16th at Hotel Africana, Kampala, Uganda, and it turned out to be a very successful event.

The initial idea was to celebrate 5 years of Health[e]Foundation activities in Uganda with all former e-learning participants and key-players in the success of Health[e]Foundation in Uganda. As part of the continuous medical education (CME) the symposium would expose the trainees to state of the art lectures on HIV/TB care and enable them to network with trainees from institutes/organizations all over Uganda.

Added to the idea of engaging all previous trainees, invitations were sent to international research groups and stake-holders to introduce them to Health[e]Foundation and its training programs.

Most of the 850 participants ever trained in Uganda conducted the HIV[e]Education program. Of recent, approximately 100 trainees received the TB[e]Education course.

During the symposium the first year' trainees and the more recent e-learners were able to share experiences, network and update their USB flash/ memory sticks. Some participants from the early days had old modules, therefore during lunch break 150 USB sticks were exchanged to new updated sticks.



Dr Alex Coutinho

To contact the trainees about the symposium we had to be innovative as some of them stay >12 hours bus drive from Kampala and postal services are non-existing. Therefore we used the SMS services of Text to Change (TTC). In June all former participants who had cellphone numbers in the Health[e]Foundation database (n=800) received an SMS text message with information on the symposium. Over 400 persons used the tollfree response-option and answered positively to come. Experience of TTC with similar approaches gives response rates of 20%, already indicating the high enthusiasm amongst the trainees for the Health[e]Foundation symposium.

Still, on the day of the event the organizing-committee was keeping their fingers crossed for the actual turn-up. But already from 8am, while the venue was still being prepared for the event, the first attendees were waiting in line to get in.

A total of 350 participants (mainly doctors/ clinical officers, nurses and counselors) from Ugandan institutes such as KCC, TASO, JCRC, HAU, UCMB and IDI registered and chose their preferred afternoon break-out tracks indicated by 5 different colors (the Big 5).

The opening was done by Professor Nelson Sewankambo (Principal of the College of Health Science, Makerere University, Uganda); the keynote speakers were Dr Alex Coutinho (Director Infectious Disease Institute, Uganda), Dr Yared Kabede Haile (Coordinator TB CAP / KNCV, The Netherlands) and Prof Jaap Goudsmit (Chief scientific officer, Crucell, The Netherlands). Elly Katabira (President International AIDS society), guest of honor, chaired the symposium.



*Dr Fransje van der Waals, Prof Jaap Goudsmit, Dr Yared Haile,
Prof Elly Katabira, Prof Nelson Sewankambo*

The event had a highly diverse program of plenary keynote lectures and very interactive breakout sessions with case scenarios and open discussion. The keynote lectures were covering Scaling up HIV/TB programs; the role of capacity building, TB/HIV: Global situation and scaling up collaborative activities and TB and HIV vaccine development. The break-out sessions covered 5 different topics: TB/HIV resistance, Counseling, Challenges in care, Pediatrics and pMTCT and Drug toxicity. Break-out facilitators were Dr Cissy Kityo (JCRC), Dr Andrew Kambugu (IDI), Dr Philippa Musoke (MUJHU), Dr Ceppy Merrie (IDI) and Ms Annet Musuya (TASO).



Ms Annet Musuya



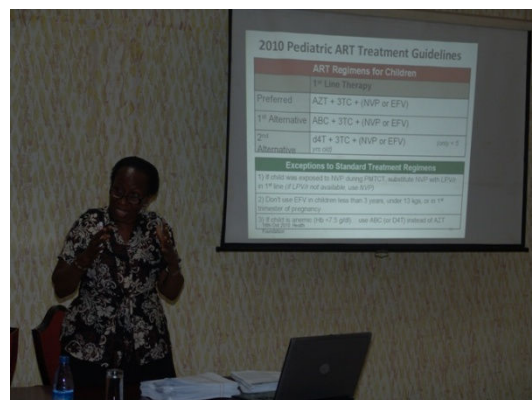
Dr Ceppy Merry



Dr Cissy Kityo



Dr Andrew Kambugu



Dr Philippa Musoke

As part of the plenary program an interactive electronic-device quiz was conducted with fun questions but mostly serious knowledge questions. The 5 color-groups were competing for the best score and using the electronic technology the big screen immediately broadcasted the percentage of correct answers per group. In all groups it showed applicable knowledge in HIV/TB Care of ~80%, which genuinely impressed the VIPs in the audience.



Dr Nadine Pakker

The testimonies given by 3 former trainees were expressing a lot of enthusiasm for e-learning and the educational methods used by Health[e]Foundation.



Mrs Hanipha Kakooza



Sr Maria Gonzaga

Just before the lunch break all 81 UCMB (Ugandan Catholic Medical Bureau) mentees, who started HIV[e]Education earlier this year with the help of a previously trained UCMB mentor, received their certificates. The mentors were former HIV[e]Education participants.



The mentees

During lunch there were booths from organizations in related fields of interest like Mobile Monday, Text to Change, Beads for life, crafts for Africa, Afri-pad, IDI, Hospice Africa, Mango tree where participants had a chance to broaden their scope in Ugandan health care related activities.



After the final keynote lecture the organizing team and the sponsors (Boehringer Ingelheim, Svizera and Tibotec) were honored and applauded. Participants left happy with a certificate and an [e]cup and we hope many more Ugandan healthcare workers will initiate e-learning courses soon!





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