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A Word From The Executive Director



Dr. Dithan Kiragga

Dear Readers,

We are thrilled to share our notable accomplishments that underscore our dedication to delivering quality family-focused health care, education, and research in Uganda. These achievements span from our ambitious target to eradicate HIV by 2030 through several health partnerships and collaborations with development partners. I further applaud our staff that have exhibited excellence through the recent global awards and congratulate Baylor Foundation Uganda upon winning new grant awards.

National Candlelight Memorial Day 2024 Advocates for Community Approach to end AIDS

On May 16, 2024, Baylor Foundation Uganda (BFU) joined the Uganda AIDS Commission (UAC) and Bunyoro region stakeholders to review the Presidential Fast Track Initiative (PFTI) performance report and commemorate the International Candlelight Memorial, in Hoima City. The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Day is an event that honours lives lost to and affected by HIV and AIDS. The national event was held under the theme: "Ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030: Keeping communities at the center."

Dr. Betty Nsangi, Program Manager of the PEPFAR-funded Accelerating Epidemic Control Project in Bunyoro region implemented by BFU with support from CDC, presented the Regional Presidential Fast Track Initiative Performance Report, to over 70 invited stakeholders.



The Chief guest, Minister for the Presidency, Hon. Milly Babirye Babalanda signs off this year's International Candlelight Memorial commemoration with UAC and partners. y Manager for the BFU Bunyoro Mechanism) share a photo moment.

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Baylor Foundation Uganda (BFU) Joins U.S. Ambassador on His Debut Visit to the Rwenzori Region

On February 28, 2024, Baylor Foundation Uganda (BFU), welcomed H.E. William Popp, the U.S. Ambassador to Uganda on his debut visit to the Rwenzori region to see the impact of U.S. government health investments in the communities.

BFU is currently the comprehensive HIV PEPFAR implementing partner of the U.S. government in the region that includes Kasese, Bundibugyo, Kabarole, Bunyangabu, Kyenjojo, Kyegegwa, Kamwenge, Kitagwenda, Ntoroko districts and Fort Portal City.

At Fort Portal RRH, Amb. Popp visited the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) that was renovated and equipped with USG support in 2013 under the Saving Mothers, Giving Life (SMGL) project, a USG funded project to improve maternal and neonatal outcomes. He also visited the Public Health emergency Operations Center that is enhancing surveillance for public health threats and emergencies in the region.



Ambassador Popp meeting some of the beneficiaries of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) services at Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital. The NICU (NICU) was renovated and equipped by Baylor Foundation Uganda with U.S.G support in 2013 under the Saving Mothers, Giving Life (SMGL) project.



The U.S. Ambassador to Uganda, H.E. William Popp with Dr. Dithan Kiragga (on his left) and senior management and project staff from Baylor Foundation Uganda shared a photo moment in Fort Portal City.

Accompanied by Baylor Uganda Executive Director Dr. Dithan Kiragga and the Baylor Foundation Uganda technical staff, Amb. Popp also visited Bundibugyo Hospital whose laboratory was refurbished and equipped by Baylor Foundation Uganda in 2018 with USG funding.



Ambassador Popp, accompanied by Bundibugyo hospital staff and BFU senior management, stands outside the laboratory refurbished by BFU.

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The CDC Uganda Director Visits Mubende District

On June 11, 2024, Baylor Foundation Uganda welcomed the new U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S. CDC) Uganda Director Dr. Adetunke (Mary) Boyd on her inaugural field visit to the Mubende district to monitor CDC-supported programs. She visited Mubende Regional Referral Hospital's (RRH) HIV clinic, antenatal clinic, maternity ward, Ebola survivor clinic, and the Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC). The REOC was established with support from the Korean Foundation for International Health (KOFIH), and its operations are supported by the Government of Uganda and the U.S. CDC through the G2G grant and BFU. CDC support has enhanced the capacity of the team to manage the REOC.



Dr. Boyd (in black dress with white polka dots) alongside Dr. Emmanuel Batiibwe, the Director of Mubende Regional Referral (to her right), and Dr. Denise Birungi, the Director of Programs at Baylor Foundation Uganda (next to Dr. Batiibwe), posed with their teams for a photograph.

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The USAID/Uganda Mission Director, Daniele Nyirandutiye (in white T-shirt), listens to testimony of a person who uses and injects drugs at the Medication Assisted Therapy clinic at Mbale Regional Referral Hospital in Mbale city during her trip to the facility operated by Baylor Foundation Uganda.

Baylor Foundation Uganda Hosts USAID/Uganda Mission Director in the Mbale Region

On May 8, 2024, USAID/Uganda Mission Director Daniele Nyirandutiye visited the Mbale region in Uganda to see the impact of USAID investments. She witnessed first-hand the impact of medication-assisted treatment and HIV treatment. She further listened to the transformation stories of beneficiaries and healthcare teams at Namatala HC IV. Baylor Foundation Uganda is the current USAID prime partner in the Mbale region, implementing the Local Partner Health Services activity in 15 districts and Mbale City.

The USAID investments in the Mbale region have not only improved access to healthcare services but have also empowered local communities to take charge of their health.

BFU Awarded Phase II of the Fleming Fund Grant



The Baylor Foundation team hosting the Mott McDonald team at Baylor Foundation Uganda.

Baylor Foundation Uganda received Uganda's Phase II Fleming Fund Country Grant that will build on the successes of Phase I. Funded by the UK Department of Health and Social Care's Fleming Fund Programme and managed by Mott McDonald, Uganda's Phase II Country Grant will be implemented over 22 months. It will help to address critical gaps in the surveillance of antimicrobial resistance and promote sustainable investment to counter AMR through a one health approach.

The project is being implemented by Baylor Foundation Uganda with consortium partners: Makerere University College of Veterinary Medicine Animal Resources and Biosecurity, Coalition for Health Promotion and Social Development and @I-Train and Evaluate Center (I-TEC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health - Uganda, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Ministry of Water and Environment, Directorate of Water Resources Management, Uganda, and other Fleming Fund grantees and partners.

BFU Receives Sub-Grant from TASO



Dr. Dithan Kiragga signing the subgrant agreement with Dr. Etukoit Bernard Michael, Executive Director of The AIDS Support Organization (TASO).

Through TASO, which is the Global Fund Principal Recipient 2 (PR2) for the non-public sector, BFU was awarded a grant as a sub-recipient (SR) of Grant Cycle 7 (GC7). This funding will support Uganda's HIV and TB reduction strategy in 38 districts and two cities.

BFU has been a sub-recipient of the previous grant cycles, NFM (New Funding Model) 2 and NFM3 since 2018. This grant will enable BFU to continue its vital work in combating HIV and tuberculosis in these areas, ultimately contributing to the overall health and well-being of the communities served.

BFU Researchers Win Prestigious Awards

Dr. Adeodata (Addy) Ketiniinwa, a renowned expert in HIV pediatric care and former Executive Director of Baylor Foundation Uganda was one of the 2024 PENTA Foundation Brighter Future Award winners. PENTA's Brighter Future Award is a global initiative that celebrates champions' work to improve health outcomes for pregnant people and children living with infectious diseases worldwide.



Dr. Adeodata Kekitiinwa

Dr. Violet Korutaro was among the four Africans who won the prestigious 2024 IMPAACT Early Career Investigator (ECI) research award. The award recognizes and supports the potential of early career researchers to make meaningful impacts in improving health outcomes for HIV-related conditions among infants, children, adolescents, pregnant women, and postpartum women.



Dr. Violet Korutaro



The Baylor Foundation Uganda team making their presentation at the Forum.

Advocating for Prevention Strategies to end the HIV Epidemic

Our staff, Rebecca Nabukenya and Shallon Kabs Kesande from the research team represented Baylor Foundation Uganda at the Regional HIV Prevention Community Engagement and Advocacy Forum in Cape Town, South Africa from 27-31 May, 2024. It was clear at the meeting that HIV prevention biomedical products developed from research studies should be made available to the public as we fight to end the HIV epidemic by 2030.

BFU Participates at the HIV Prevention Trial Network Annual Meeting



The Baylor Foundation Uganda team joins other counterparts at the HPTN Annual Meeting.

The Baylor Foundation Uganda (BFU) Clinical Research Site (CRS) team attended the 2024 HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) annual meeting in Washington, DC. There, they joined a host of international participants and counterparts to discuss recent developments in HIV/AIDS research. Our team included the Executive Director Dr. Dithan Kiragga, Dr. Adeodata Kekitiinwa, Dr. Violet Korutaro, Dr. Rogers Sekabira, Dr. Patricia Nahirya-Ntege and Dr. George Akabwai.

The team also took part in the Advancing Clinical Therapeutics Globally for HIV/AIDS and Other Infections (ACTG) network's subcommittee meetings on HIV/AIDS cure, Hepatitis B, underrepresented populations, and protocol development for site management and clinical care.

BFU Scores High on DAIDS Laboratory Quality Standards for Conducting HIV/AIDS Research



A laboratory technologist using a GeneXpert machine in the Baylor Foundation Uganda CAP certified laboratory.

Baylor Foundation Uganda (BFU) scored highly on the Division of AIDS (DAIDS) laboratory quality standards for HIV/AIDS research following a successful laboratory general audit by the Pharmaceutical Product Development (PPD) under the international Thermo Fisher Scientific company. This achievement makes BFU one of the few trusted laboratories worldwide to be approved by the DAIDS Clinical Laboratory Oversight Team (DCLOT) to conduct high quality inferential research on HIV/AIDS under the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) and the International Maternal Paediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials (IMPAACT) network.

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Baylor Foundation Uganda Participates at Global Health Security Conference in Australia



Left: The Uganda team at the Global Health Security Conference in Sydney. Right: Ms. Harriet Itiakorit presents her poster to Dr. Mohammed Lamorde, the Project Director of the 7-1-7 Alliance.

Baylor Foundation Uganda was part of the Uganda delegation present at the 2024 Global Health Security Conference in Sydney, Australia. We were represented by the GHS Director, Dr. Peter J. Elyanu and Ms. Harriet Itiakorit. Harriet shared a poster presentation on how we can monitor animal mobility (ZooCAB) to prepare, detect, and respond to epidemics. By understanding animal mobility patterns, we can better anticipate and respond to emerging infectious diseases before they escalate into global health threats.

Kibaale HC IV Receives Excellence Award for Quality Patient Care

The Baylor Foundation Uganda-supported Kibaale HC IV was honored with an Excellence Award for Quality Patient Care at the 10th National Continuous Quality Improvement Conference, which took place from March 12 to 15, 2024. Scoring 95% and achieving a 5-star ranking, Kibaale HC IV was acknowledged for its exceptional performance by the State Minister for Primary Health Care, Hon. Margaret Muhanga. This recognition came after the Ministry of Health conducted a quality of care assessment of health facilities, evaluating the six health system building blocks and priority health service modules, including clinical and surgical care, referral and emergency services, reproductive maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health, diagnostic services, patient care, and safety.



Kibaale HC IV Excellence Award

Baylor Shines at the National Quality Improvement Conference

At the 10th National Conference, BFU showcased two poster presentations and four oral presentations on:

- **Poster:** "Improving Access to HIV Viral Load Tests Using Point-of-Care Techniques for Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women in Bukedi Region, Eastern Uganda"
- **Poster:** "A Multi-dimensional QI Approach to Improving Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision Uptake in Communities Served by Karugutu HCIV, Ntoroko District, Western Uganda"
- **Oral:** "Application of the PDSA Model to Functionalize Quality Improvement Structures: Lessons From Kween District"
- **Oral:** "Improving Access to Cervical Cancer Screening Among Women Living With HIV Through the Re-organization of Schedules of Human Resources for Health in Kikuube District"
- **Oral:** "Increasing the Proportion of HIV-positive Women Screened for Cervical Cancer at Rukungyu Hospital"
- **Oral:** "Using the PMTCT Audit Tool to Increase the Proportion of Eligible HIV-positive Pregnant Women and Mother-Infant Pairs Receiving All Services in Bundibugyo District"



Tribute to Dr. Joshua Musinguzi (9/09/1963 - 7/06/2024)



Dr. Joshua Musinguzi served as a member of our Board of Directors and Chair of our Board Programs Committee. He retired from these roles in February 2024.

Dr. Joshua Musinguzi was also the Program Manager, AIDS Control Program at the Uganda Ministry of Health. He led the coordination of HIV prevention, care, and treatment services in Uganda. He was also involved in the implementation of various initiatives to improve HIV treatment and care in Uganda, including the integration of non-communicable disease (NCD) management into HIV treatment programs.

We appreciate his efforts in coordinating the strides made by the HIV program in Uganda. We shall greatly miss him. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Governing Board Updates

Incoming Board of Directors



Dr. Robert Mutumba

Dr. Robert Mutumba is a seasoned public health specialist with a Bachelor of Medicine and a Master's Degree in Public Health. He also completed the Afya Bora Consortium Fellowship in Global Health Leadership and Management at the University of Washington. He has over 14 years of experience in leading integrated health care programs in reproductive and maternal newborn and child and adolescent health, sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, gender-based violence, and mental health. Currently, he works with the Uganda Ministry of Health as Assistant Commissioner/Program Manager for the STD/AIDS Control Program. Dr. Mutumba has experience in leading teams at national and subnational levels, developing and monitoring HIV/AIDS prevention and control programs, providing technical support, and monitoring resource utilization.



Ms. Sarah Ndibalekera

Ms. Sarah Ndibalekera is an accomplished administrator with a 14-year experience in health service management working at various healthcare facilities and regional referral hospitals (RRHs), including Mbale and Jinja RRHs, where she has led and coordinated the management of hospital resources, activities, and contracts. She championed the team that oversaw the construction and functionalization of the Kawempe National Referral and Mulago Specialized Women and Neonatal Hospitals; this revitalized care in reproductive and neonatal health in Uganda. Presently, Sarah holds the position of Senior Hospital Administrator at Mulago National Referral Hospital (MNRH), where she is responsible for the overall operations and strategic planning, ensuring the delivery of high-quality patient care and the efficient utilization of resources. Her vast expertise in healthcare administration underpins her commitment to enhancing healthcare services and patient outcomes at MNRH.

Outgoing Board of Directors



Mr David Nuwamanya

Former Vice Chairman & Member Board
Audit Committee

Mr David Nuwamanya is a seasoned administrator and mentor in health systems Leadership, Management, and Governance under the World Health Organization (WHO)/ African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF). He has over 24 years of experience in sector management and is currently the Principal Administrator of Mulago National Referral Hospital.



Ms. Edna Isimbwa Rugumayo

Former Chair Board of Finance Committee &
Member Board People and Organization
Development Committee

Edna is a Certified Public Accountant with over 30 years of experience and is currently the Director of Corporate Services at Uganda National Roads Authority. She has broad finance management experience in private, public, and not-for-profit organizations. She holds a Bachelor of Statistics Degree and a Master of Science in Accounting and Finance from Makerere University. Edna retired from the board in November 2022.

CONTACT US

Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation
Block 5, Mulago Hospital
P.O. Box 72052
Kampala

Tel: +256-417-119-100/200/125
Email: admin@baylor-uganda.org
Website: www.baylor-uganda.org

Twitter: [@bayloruganda](https://twitter.com/bayloruganda)
LinkedIn: [Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation Uganda](https://www.linkedin.com/company/baylor-college-of-medicine-childrens-foundation-uganda)
Youtube: [@bayloruganda7051](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7051)