MU-JHU CARE LTD – MU-JHU RESEARCH COLLABORATION

Dr. Clemensia Nakabiito

MTN Regional Meeting
Cape Town South Africa
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Site
**Location**

- MU-JHU Care Ltd -MU-JHU Research Collaboration is located at upper Mulago hill road in Mulago hospital in Kampala city with a population of 1.5-2m people accessible to potential participants.

- It is central to the 3-4 districts (Kampala, Wakiso, Mukono, Mpigi) that form the catchment area.

- Low Socio-economic status people are the majority of anticipated study population.

- Potential participants will have access to the medical care in the MU-JHU clinic and Mulago national referral hospital.

- MU-JHU has established referral linkages to Mulago hospital, TASO, MJAP, JCRC, STD clinic.
Location

- Infrastructure - 2 blocks of buildings
  - 2 standby generators
  - Adequate office/clinic space
- Personnel – skilled PIs, counsellors, Clinicians, nurses, support staff
- Laboratory – accredited by the College of American Pathologists (CAP) – 1 of only 3 in Africa
Recruitment of high risk women

- Prior recruitment efforts for trials targeting high risk women have been very successful at the site.
- Use of peer leaders has been a success.
- Other strategies to maximize recruitment of high risk women for future trials include:
  - Community sensitization about research
  - Continued training for counselors in client recruitment techniques
Community Involvement

- There are members of the African Microbicide Advocacy Group currently working in Kampala with the high risk target population.

- Levels of community engagement so far at site: - we have an established CAB and it has been engaged in informal discussions of microbicide and female condom acceptability.

- Challenges with engagement process:-
  - Condom use is unacceptable to many
  - Being on the CAB is time consuming yet not fully compensated

- Community is supportive of research including the political leaders at the national level.
Retention

- Major challenge with study retention: some participants don’t like to be home visited.

- Three key lessons learned from previous trials in maximizing study retention:
  - Use skilled counselors and other staff
  - Engage home visitors to track the clients and have a retention plan
  - Incorporating holistic care for participants in research
Product Adherence

- Major challenges with product & condom adherence include:
  - Failure to convince the male partner to use male condom
  - Low acceptability especially for the female condom
  - Will participants give an accurate report about product use?
Three key lessons learned from previous trial experience in addressing adherence problems:

- Participants must fully understand the protocol requirements
- Staff must also fully understand the protocol
- There is a need for a clear plan for participant follow up and assessing product adherence
Site Team
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