



The

MakCHS Post

A Monthly News Bulletin by
Makerere University College of Health Sciences



Makerere University College of Health Sciences Supports Districts for Community Training of Students

Makerere University College of Health Sciences has handed over 43 computer units to Community Based Education Service and Research training sites to facilitate training and communication by the site tutors and the students.

Five of the computer units were handed over to the District Health Officers who represented their colleagues at the handover ceremony that was held December 17th 2012 in the College Conference Room.

Handing over the computer units, the Principal of the College, Prof. Nelson Sewankambo said that community training of students is not only to enable students learn but is also a way of ensuring that disadvantaged Ugandans

receive health services. "Our target is to improve the health of our people. COBERS is not only for the benefit of students, but also for service delivery to communities", he said.

Professor Sewankambo thanked the districts for the time and other resources they contribute, adding that they enable the students get real life experiences. "We want to work with partners; districts are very important and we have signed agreements with some of them. We need to continually find ways of working together. We want to upgrade the facilities where the students train from. This is not government money we are using; we lobby friends and partners for such support. These computer units were procured through support from



Professor Sewankambo handing over a computer unit to Dr. Richard Bakamuturaki, the DHO Ntungamo

Makerere University College of Health Sciences Launches Guidebook for Doctoral Training

The College of Health Sciences has launched a guidebook (the second edition) to provide guidance to doctoral degree students as well as their supervisors.

The book was launched at a well-attended ceremony held at Golf Course Hotel in Kampala recently.



What will be the benefits of the book? Follow the following link for details - <http://chs.mak.ac.ug/content/makerere-university-college-health-sciences-launches-guidebook-doctoral-training>

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the MESAU-MEPI initiative”, Professor Sewankambo added.

Speaking on behalf of the District Health Officers (DHOs), Dr. Joseph Ruyonga of Hoima thanked the College of Health Sciences for aiding the districts by providing not only computers but internet connectivity as well. He said despite having limited resources the districts do appreciate the presence of students and their contribution to service delivery.

The Acting District Health Officer, Amolatar district, Mr. Edmond Acheka pointed out that community based education made him what he is right now, motivating him to decide to work with rural communities for better health. He said that the presence of students at the rural facilities leads to an increase in the attendance of patients since students are distributed in all the different units and departments.

As a result he said the district has accepted to put in place a budget for COBERS activities which the Professor Sewankambo noted as a very exciting development.

The ceremony was also attended by students who shared their experiences as put briefly below:

“We used to carry our COBERS marks with us when the districts had no computers and internet to send them over to the College, but now with these services



Dr. Joseph Ruyonga speaking on behalf of the District Health Officers

available, life is going to be a lot easier. Accessing materials and resources in Year 1 used to be pretty hard yet COBERS depends largely on access to internet and resources”, Peter James Kitonsa

“Using site computers was hard, if they

existed at all. We would all crowd in the site tutor’s office to use the computer until the College sent one computer and we moved out of the site tutor’s office. Now that more computers are coming in, this is exciting because now life will get better for students”, Brenda Kharono.



Peter James Kitonsa and Brenda Kharono sharing their experiences

Makerere University Joint AIDS Programme and University Hospital in Joint Safe Male Circumcision Service Delivery

The Makerere University Joint AIDS Programme (MJAP) in December 2012 officially launched Safe Male Circumcision services at Makerere University Hospital at a ceremony presided over by the US Ambassador to Uganda Scott H. DeLisi.

In his speech, Ambassador DeLisi applauded the many brave young men who have come to the University Hospital in order to take an important step towards protecting themselves and their loved ones from the burden

of HIV. “These young men are examples of the kind of personal responsibility and initiative which all Ugandans must demonstrate if we are to turn the tide of this epidemic. Uganda is the only country in Sub Saharan Africa where HIV is on the rise”, he said.

What is the solution to this? Find out by clicking on the following link <http://chs.mak.ac.ug/content/makerere-university-joint-aids-programme-and-university-hospital-joint-safe->



East African Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene gets More Popular

Sixty one (61) local and international students graduated from the East African Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, from the second substantive intake of the diploma program that is run from Uganda and Tanzania. Twenty one of the students were from African countries while the rest were from other continents. Overall, fifteen countries were represented.

To find out what transpired at the graduation ceremony, click below;

<http://chs.mak.ac.ug/content/east-african-diploma-tropical-medicine-and-hygiene-gets-more-popular>



The Principal Makerere University College of Health Sciences, Professor Nelson Sewankambo has said that the recently Makerere University College of Health Sciences-hosted Science Day is of significant importance for sharing experiences and results that have accrued over time. He added that it was an honour for the College of Health Sciences to host the first Science Day under Sida funding.

The day was characterised by seminars and an exhibition of posters showcasing some of the work done by the beneficiaries of the funding. The link below provides the details of the day;

<http://chs.mak.ac.ug/content/makerere-university-college-health-sciences-successfully-hosts-first-sida-sarec-science-day>

Makerere University Stands out at the Launch of the Higher Education Solutions Network

Makerere University is the only African University that was selected as part of the USAID Higher Education Solutions Network (HESN) that was launched on November 9th at the US National Academy of Sciences in Washington DC. However, to implement its initiative code-named; **ResilientAfrica**, Makerere University will work with a network of other universities across Africa, the main ones being Jimma University (Ethiopia), University of Ghana, University of Pretoria (South Africa) and National University of Rwanda. These will in turn work with other universities in their respective regions and it is expected

that a total of 20 African universities will be involved in this exciting initiative. The University of Stanford, University of Tulane and the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, are the US-based partners with this African network of universities.

Please access the rest of the information about this initiative by following the link below;

<http://chs.mak.ac.ug/content/makerere-university-stands-out-launch-higher-education-solutions-network>



Makerere University College of Health Sciences Students get a Pep Talk on Success amidst Challenges

Makerere University College of Health Sciences students have been advised to invest in acquiring skills beyond those taught in medical school. The call was made by several inspirational speakers at the first ever students empowerment talk held in the Davies Lecture Theatre at Makerere University College of Health Sciences. It was organised by the Students

Empowerment Club an off-shoot of the Makerere University Medical Students' Association (MUMSA).

Speaking to the students the Executive Director Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI), at the Makerere University College of Health Sciences, Dr. Alex Coutinho said that in his illustrious career he has found his skills in community mobilisation, diplomacy, resource

mobilisation and team building, very instrumental. Students also interacted with two of the most successful private medical service providers in the country. To find out who these are and what they shared with the students, please follow the link below; <http://chs.mak.ac.ug/content/makerere-university-college-health-sciences-students-receive-guidance-professionally-rewardi>

The 2012 International Students Scientific Conference on Maternal and Newborn Health held in Kampala

The Makerere University International Students Scientific Conference on Maternal and Newborn Health (ISSCOM 2012) was opened with a call on medical practitioners and students to work hard to ensure continuous improvement in the quality of the health of mothers.

The call was made by the Principal Makerere University College of Health Sciences (MakCHS), Professor Nelson Sewankambo while opening the two-day conference at Silver Springs Hotel, Bugolobi near Kampala.

Professor Sewankambo noted that the students should have outcomes from the conference that clearly articulate their work so that they are not looked at as parasites waiting for government and other funding to spend.

For details of the conference, visit the link below;

<http://chs.mak.ac.ug/content/2012-international-students-scientific-conference-maternal-and-newborn-health-opens-kampala>



Professionalism: a Process that Grows as we Grow through the Stages of Life

Ninety two percent (92%) of students at Makerere University College of Health Sciences believe that even as students, principles of professionalism apply to them. According to a study conducted this year at the College of Health Sciences among undergraduate students pursuing medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, and nursing, majority of the students interviewed for the study felt that professionalism is a seed planted when one is still under training, while a small number

of students were of the view that professionalism is only attained when one started working.

Presenting the survey findings to staff and students at the Davies Lecture Theatre, Dr. Noeline Nakasujja, who was on the survey team said that some of the reasons given by students for joining their respective programmes included, a calling to serve, personal desire to become a (doctor), the only job that could guarantee one a job, and the need to upgrade, for

those who are already in-service. The survey was conducted among first year students.

But, what motivates students to choose particular courses? Find out below;

<http://chs.mak.ac.ug/content/professionalism-process-grows-we-grow-through-stages-life>