

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

INITIATIVE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH



Ulrich Schmid-Maybach
President
Wilhelm & Karl Maybach Foundation
3106 Fillmore Street
Second Floor
San Francisco, CA 94123

September 9, 2009

Dear Uli,

I wanted to take a moment to thank you and the entire Maybach Foundation for your continued support of the Global Health Scholars Program. Maybach support through the Africa Health Sciences Program for Dr. Conrad Muzoora has been instrumental in our ability to move from a proof-of-concept to full-fledged award program. The Global Health Scholars Program at the Harvard Initiative for Global Health now supports a diverse set of professional training initiatives for US and international clinical researchers. In our first year, the program has supported training and mentorship for six (4 US, 2 international) clinical researchers.

Dr. Conrad Muzoora, MD continued his research and training at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), Uganda. Dr. Muzoora traveled to Harvard in November 2008 to participate in the *AIDS in Africa* symposium sponsored by the Harvard Initiative for Global Health and to study low-cost TB diagnostics with Dr. Bill Rodriguez. In February, Dr. Muzoora presented research findings on T-cell activation during TB/HIV co-infection at the *2009 Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections* in Montreal, Canada. The study finds high levels of T-cell activation among HIV-infected individuals starting antiretroviral therapy which may explain early mortality among antiretroviral initiators as well as open up new diagnostic strategies for HIV-TB co-infection.

Dr. Muzoora also shared new findings on novel treatment strategies for HIV-associated cryptococcal meningitis (CM) at the *7th International Conference on Cryptococcus and Cryptococcosis* in Nagasaki, Japan and recently published in *Clinical Infectious Diseases* (Bicanic et al. (2009) 49;5:702-709). Dr. Muzoora and colleagues found that treatment of CM could be improved with higher doses of fluconazole, a commonly prescribed antifungal medication. Future studies are planned to evaluate the performance of high-dose fluconazole against amphotericin B, the gold standard treatment for CM.

Dr. Francis Bajunirwe, MD, PhD (Epidemiology) was selected as the second Global Health Scholar from MUST. Dr. Bajunirwe's award includes salary support, travel and education allowances, and flexible research funds for generating preliminary data. Dr. Bajunirwe's research interests include human resources for health, and he was recently awarded \$75,000 by the Rockefeller Foundation to study retention of healthcare workers in rural Africa.

Dr. Bajunirwe also recently hosted a Harvard School of Public Health delegation led by Dr. Hans-Olav Adami. Mbarara University has been selected to join the African Cohort Initiative, a new multi-center, longitudinal study with a particular focus on non-communicable diseases. The cohort plans to recruit more than 500,000 individuals in five African countries and represents the first systematic effort to prospectively

describe the disease and morbidity profile of the region. Dr. Bajunirwe will be the primary faculty representing Mbarara University within the cohort, positioning him to assume a senior leadership role alongside foremost epidemiologists from Africa and Harvard. To further his research training, Dr. Bajunirwe will attend a short course on causal inference in epidemiology offered by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

In addition to our Scholars from Uganda, Harvard has a longstanding relationship with the faculty of Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The Global Health Scholars Program is committed to supporting the long-term development of junior faculty at MUHAS and recently opened a new Global Health Scholar position beginning in 2010. Applications are currently being received for this new position.

Finally, the Global Health Scholars Program continues to garner interest from the Harvard community and our second year promises to be as productive as the first. We are very excited by prospects for expanding into China and we have partnered with the Harvard Asia Center, China Medical Board, Harvard China Fund and affiliated universities within China to develop a new China-Harvard Bilateral Exchange Program to offer training and research opportunities to undergraduates, graduate students and junior faculty from Harvard and China.

...

We remain, as always, grateful to the Maybach Foundation for support of the Global Health Scholars Program and we look forward to continuing our productive collaboration. Although great progress has been made thanks to your visionary leadership, we can still, and will, do more. With your expanded support, we hope to target other international training and research programs at Harvard and create a sustainable critical mass of talented health science leaders. I look forward to discussing our growing partnership with you and your team.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Bangsberg', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Bangsberg, MD, MPH
Director, Global Health Scholars Program