

## PERMANENT SECRETARY EDUCATION COMMENDS INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS' EDUCATION



*The Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Dr Leonard Akwilapo speaking during opening of Stakeholders' Meeting*

The Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Dr Leonard Akwilapo commended Transforming Health Professional Education (THET) project initiatives to improve the quality of health professions education and therefore the quality of graduates in Tanzania.

Speaking during the opening of THET project's first 2-day Stakeholders' Meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2019 at MUHAS, the PS said this is a very important initiative, which in principle seeks to improve health care services provided to the people of this country. Dr. Akwilapo further recalled when

His Excellence Dr. John Joseph Pombe Magufuli took office as President of the fifth phase Government and directed all professionals to focus their efforts on providing services to the rural communities where most of our poor citizens reside. "I note that this meeting and its outcomes is the kind of effort that would address those concerns", he added.

THET is a consortium of three health professional training institutions from Tanzania, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences (CUHAS) and Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College (KCMUCo), and two United States-

based universities, Duke University and University of California and San Francisco.

The aim of THET is to transform the educational environment for doctors and nurses in Tanzania so that they can deliver quality care for improved health outcomes of all people including marginalized communities and those living with HIV/AIDS. To achieve its objectives, THET organized stakeholder engagement meeting to ensure full participation and involvement of key stakeholders from the beginning of the project to pave way for sustainable decision-making process.



*Participants of the Stakeholders' Meeting following the PS speech*

The Permanent Secretary further urged all Health Higher Learning Institutions in the country to join and support this initiative, which he said will go a long way to address the challenges that TCU and Professional Councils have been grappling with in recent years. He also urged professional Councils to support this initiative and ensure that the efforts will eventually bear fruits and enable the country to train highly qualified and fit-for-purpose health professionals.

In his welcoming remarks, the MUHAS Vice Chancellor, Prof. Andrea Pembe emphasized that this is a very unique occasion in which stakeholders of higher learning health training institutions are meeting to discuss issues regarding their core business of teaching and learning. "It is our expectation that we are going to share our experiences through papers that will be presented by different speakers and in discussions that will take place during the next two days", he added.

The Chief Medical Officer, Prof. Mohammad Bakari Kambi, officially closed the two – day stakeholders' meeting. In his closing remarks, the

CMO said that he is delighted to hear that one of the essential areas the THET project will address is the training of doctors and nurses who have competencies to contribute to reducing infection rates and prevalence of HIV/AIDS in addition to other diseases.

He further said that HIV/AIDS is still a formidable challenge that this country is facing which, has in the past, and

currently continues to drain both human and financial resources that would have otherwise been used for supporting economic growth.

Participants of the Stakeholders Meeting were from THET participating institutions, other health profession education institutions, professional bodies, relevant regulatory authorities and responsible ministries.



*Participants in group photo with the PS and some of the dignitaries who attended the Stakeholders' Meeting*



# THE AMBASSADOR OF SWEDEN VISITS MUHAS



*Prof. Aboud Said explaining to the ambassador of sweden on how does the microbiology and immunology laboratory functions during his visit at the laboratory*

**O**n 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019, The Ambassador of Sweden HE. Anders Sjöberg visited the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS). The aim of the visit was to familiarize himself with MUHAS because it was the first visit for the new ambassador. In this visit, Ambassador Sjöberg was accompanied by the head of Research and Innovation at the Embassy of Sweden, Johan Hellstrom, who is also the overall coordinator of Sida Programs in Tanzania. The ambassador wanted to see the achievements of the MUHAS-Sida program, discuss the challenges, and learning from the scientists on how Sweden can further this bilateral cooperation.

During his visit, the Ambassador was also oriented on HIV research activities under the Microbiology and Immunology laboratory. The coordinator of HIV-subprogram, Prof. Said Aboud explained to the

Ambassador the milestones and success that his lab has had and its contributions nationally.

The Ambassador also had an opportunity to meet research



*The Director of research and publications, Dr. Bruno Sunguya chatting with the ambassador of Sweden ( second from the right hand) during his visit at MUHAS.*



*A group photo with the ambassador of Sweden (fourth from the right hand) together with the MUHAS management and sub program's coordinators during his first visit at MUHAS*

coordinators and senior researchers at MUHAS. In this meeting, the MUHAS Vice Chancellor Prof. Andrea Pembe gave special thanks to the ambassador for taking his time to visit MUHAS despite having many obligations nationally and internationally. Prof. Pembe gave short remarks to the ambassador on the Sida programs and noted that MUHAS has benefited significantly while working with SIDA in implementing the programs intended to improve the health of Tanzania. *"Through collaboration we are working to ensure that research findings from MUHAS inform policies in Tanzania and that both MUHAS and government work hand in hand to ensure the health of the people is improved in Tanzania"* He said.

On the same note, the Director of Research and Publications Dr.

Bruno Sunguya presented the milestones achieved in research and institutional capacity building under Sida support. He pointed out that, through the outstanding Sida support, MUHAS research capacity has significantly improved. Such scores included faculty training, research, infrastructure, strengthening Research management, and conduct of research in national's key priority areas. Moreover, he pointed out that *"Sida has increased MUHAS visibility through different research disseminations symposium such as implementation research on drug users, Malaria, and HIV vaccine trials at MUHAS which were sponsored by Sida"*.

The Ambassador of Sweden commended the efforts undertaken by the management and staff on behalf of Swedish government and for the milestones

and hard work in strengthening research. *"These research results are not only used in Tanzania but also for the global benefit"* he said. He further commented that grants and other partnerships that are coming here at MUHAS demonstrate the quality work the University is doing. He further emphasized on finding the best ways of disseminating the research findings and how to implement them through formulating appropriate health policy in order to improve the health of people.

The Ambassador also commended on the presentation made by Dr. Sunguya that MUHAS had exceeded the gender balance whereby the number of women graduating is becoming high compared to previous years. He commended the good work that MUHAS is doing.



# MUHAS CONDUCTS THE 2<sup>ND</sup> UNIVERSITY-WIDE RESEARCH DISSEMINATION SYMPOSIUM ON MALARIA



*Prof Lucio Luzzato giving a key note address on Genetic factors for Malaria susceptibility*

**M**uhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) conducted the 2<sup>nd</sup> University-wide Dissemination Symposium on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2019. The theme was 'The Role of MUHAS Research Towards Elimination of Malaria in Tanzania'.

While opening the Symposium, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Andrea Pembe commented that this event proved the commitment of MUHAS to take part in providing solution aiming at improving lives of Tanzanians and the world at large.

Furthermore, he added that, the event is a unique opportunity for scientists and implementing partners to share their work, discuss their potential challenges and come up with way forward under the guidance of the government to mitigate the barriers to reach the finish line in the

fight against malaria.

The Chairman of this symposium was Prof. Eligius Lyamuya who commended the Directorate of Research and Publications for keeping with the promise of conducting a Malaria symposium that was held in September last year during the 1<sup>st</sup> MUHAS University-wide Symposium. He also congratulated various researchers who have contributed to the organization of this symposium.

In this Symposium there were four key note presentations. The first one was on Genetic factors for Malaria susceptibility presented by Prof Lucio Luzzato, a Professor of Haematology at MUHAS. Prof. Luzzato reported the epidemiology of Malaria disease whereby he stated that 0.9 and 1.38 billion people in the world are in unstable and stable risk of malaria

infection respectively.

Moreover, he stated that no human disease is entirely genetic or entirely environmental as both factors depend on each other. Prof Luzzato further emphasized on the necessity of understanding the genetic mechanisms of malaria infection so as to enable us to mimic the activities and manufacture drugs which will be used for treatment.

The second presentation was on challenges and opportunities on preventing malaria during pregnancy presented by Prof Apolinary Kamuhabwa, a Professor in the department of Pharmacognosy, who is also the MUHAS Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic, Research and Consultancy.

Prof. Kamuhabwa stated that 80% of



*The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Andrea Pembe (1st right) and the DVC-ARC, Prof. Appolinary Kamuhabwa (2nd right) following Prof. Luzzato presentation.*

Malaria in Africa occurs in women and children under 5 years and the consequences of placental malaria are intrauterine growth retardation and low birth weight. Furthermore 20-40% of newborns in malaria endemic areas have low birth weight.

He further said that though SP was phased out as a drug of choice for malaria treatment in 2006 due to resistance; research in Tanzania has found it to be effective in malaria prevention during pregnancy.

Dr. Billy Ngassala, a Senior Lecturer in Parasitology & Medical Entomology at MUHAS presented on the barriers on Malaria elimination. He said the history shows that previous malaria drug resistance started from south East Asia to Africa and one of the greatest threats to malaria control is the emergence of artemisinin resistance and the subsequent failure of ACT therapies.

He further said Artemisinin resistance emerged in the late 2000's in South-east Asia and is associated with a decreased rate of clearance of parasites from the blood. He said parasites that clear more slowly are considered more tolerant. Dr. Ngassala further added that the spread of resistance out of Asia to Africa would be a global health disaster.

The last key note presentation before panel discussion was on the need to

consider drug interaction data and individuals with genetic mutations in the formulation of Treatment policy-optimization of drug quality assessment and treatment adherence. This was presented by Prof. Omary Minzi, the Head of the department Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacology at MUHAS.

Prof. Minzi presented on the factors that affect blood drug concentration which he said are drug quality, drug interaction, genetic mutations and compliances to drug intake. He mentioned and explained the results of some of the researches which were done at MUHAS on the subject.

Moreover, Prof. Minzi pointed out several key messages from ongoing

malaria researches at MUHAS. Among many others, he stated that all plasma concentrations reported were done in MUHAS Bioanalytical lab and hence MUHAS has the capability of doing drug plasma concentration tests. He also commented that Malaria treatment guidelines should consider co-medications.

The panel and general discussion session were very rich. The panel comprised of four discussants who were Prof Julie Makani, Associate Professor, researcher and Head of Department of Haematology at MUHAS; Dr Fabrizio Molten, Senior technical advisor for malaria case management at the NMCP; Dr Dinah Gasarasi, Senior Lecturer and senior malaria researcher at MUHAS; Dr Deus Ishengoma, Researcher, National Institute for Medical Research and was moderated by Prof Eligius Lyamuya.

The Director of Research and Publication, Dr. Bruno Sunguya concluded by thanking presenters, collaborators and everyone for participating in the 2<sup>nd</sup> MUHAS University-wide Research Dissemination Symposium. He also thanked the management for having the idea of University-wide dissemination and appreciated Sida for all the support they are giving to MUHAS. He lastly invited all to another symposium which is expected to come on HIV research.



*Participants of the 2nd University-wide Dissemination Symposium following presentations of the day.*



# MUHAS - SIDA SMALL GRANTS AWARDS



*The winners of the MUHAS – Sida Small Grants Awards together with their supervisors/mentors in a group photo with the DVC-ARC, Prof. Appolinary Kamuhabwa and the DRP, Dr. Bruno Sunguya*

**T**he MUHAS Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic, Research and Consultancy (DVC-ARC), Prof. Appolinary Kamuhabwa awarded 10 junior faculty who won the MUHAS- Sida Small Grants Awards for 2019.

Speaking at this occasion, Prof. Kamuhabwa congratulated the winners of the small grants together with their mentors for this achievement. He appreciated the coordination of this year's small grants awards; he said the proposals passed through a rigorous and fair process and were very competitive. He then commended the very good quality of most of the proposals submitted this year, nonetheless he said these 10 were regarded as the best.

The DVC-ARC further emphasized to the winners the importance of following procedures in the conduct of the studies and the use of the little amount of funds given. He reminded them that their studies should be accomplished one year at the end of which, they are expected to produce a minimum of one publication.

According to the MUHAS Director of Research and Publications, Dr. Bruno Sunguya, the main focus of this specific year awards was to try and include junior faculty into the research world as well as creating a mentor mentee relationship. Therefore, one of the criteria was to award this grant to junior faculty which was defined as the level of lecturer and below.

The DRP said that a total of 32 applicants submitted successfully their application.

These proposals were evaluated by an independent committee of senior researchers who read and critiqued the proposals as per the given Terms of References. Dr. Bruno further said that these proposals were subjected through three rounds of review and 10 were selected the best out of 32 submitted proposals.

This event took place on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 at the MPL Board Room and attended by the awardees together with their mentors.

# THE VICE CHANCELLOR OFFICIATES THE ULTRASOUND-GUIDED FINE NEEDLE ASPIRATION WORKSHOP

The MUHAS Vice Chancellor, Prof. Andrea Pembe officiated the Ultrasound-Guided Fine Needle Aspiration (US-Guided-FNA) hosted by the Department of Pathology at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS).

In welcoming remarks to the Guest of Honor, the convener of the workshop Dr. Edda Vuhahula said that the first workshop of this kind was conducted in September 2017 and one of the objectives were to get some young trainees to become trainers of the same kind of the workshop. Dr. Vuhahula further said that this objective has been achieved and, in this workshop, there are three trainees who did very well in the previous training and will become assistant instructors in this workshop.

The previous 3-day in country workshop successfully trained a total of 26 radiologists and pathologists and was very effective in transferring basic skills in FNA biopsy smear preparation and ultrasound-guided FNA biopsy, resulting in skills enhancement among participants.

"In this workshop, we hope that by teaching new trainees and also refreshing the returning trainees in building the capacity of our own in fine needle aspiration method which is quick and achievable but also affordable with minimum complications to the patient will improve our patient care and



*Participants and Facilitators of Ultrasound-Guided Fine Needle Aspiration (US-Guided-FNA) in a group photo with the guest of honor.*

management in our country as well as in the neighboring countries" Dr. Vuhahula added.

The purpose of this workshop was to share with new and returning participants, basic ultrasound knowledge to pathologists and radiologists already performing Fine Needle Aspiration procedures but aspire to incorporate Ultrasound into their practice or to improve their technical skills.

Speaking during the opening ceremony of the workshop, the Vice Chancellor said MUHAS is proud to be given the privilege of hosting this Ultrasound-Guided Fine Needle Aspiration (US-Guided-FNA)

training for the second time.

Prof. Pembe commended the effort for introducing this kind of workshop. He said that the workshop initiates capacity building for pathologists, radiologists and future pathologists/ radiologists. Their expanded knowledge will play a major role in improving patient care in Tanzania.

This workshop is the outcome of a continued longstanding partnership between MUHAS and UCSF with focus on excellent cancer care and education. The course is a continuation of the workshop hosted in September 2017 and is part of an expanding collaboration between pathologists and radiologists from UCSF, MUHAS, and MNH, bringing together experts from the three institutions and Zonal hospitals.

The workshop on Ultrasound-Guided Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA) was facilitated by Professors of Pathology and Radiology from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), including Drs Dianna Ng and Ronald Balassanian from the Department of Pathology and Drs Amie Lee and Tatiana Kelil from the Department of Radiology, and assisted by our very own Drs Asteria Kimambo (MMed Anatomical Pathology senior resident), Marie Claire Ndayisaba and Advera Ngaiza (MMed Anatomical Pathology recently graduated). Instructors provided hands-on practice and case-based presentations with a focus on FNA-related sampling technique and basic ultrasound knowledge.

The Ultrasound guided FNA training workshop was held at MUHAS from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019.



*Participants of Ultrasound-Guided Fine Needle Aspiration (US-Guided-FNA) in Practical session*



## MUHAS CONDUCTS THE 3RD MUHAS UNIVERSITY-WIDE RESEARCH DISSEMINATION ON HIV VACCINE TRIALS



*Prof. Eligius Lyamuya giving a key note address at the 3<sup>rd</sup> MUHAS University-wide Research Dissemination Symposium*

**T**he 3<sup>rd</sup> MUHAS University-wide Research Dissemination Symposium was held successfully on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 where the HIV research group at MUHAS met with national and international organizations, policy makers, researchers, and faculty to discuss current research findings and future for HIV vaccine trials.

The Vice Chancellor of MUHAS said that since the beginning of HIV, MUHAS has been involved in looking into the burden of HIV/AIDS as well as the social behavioral and biomedical relations which are related to HIV transmission in order to alleviate the situation. He explained that the first case of HIV was identified in our country, three decade ago and there are about 1.4 million people in Tanzania living with HIV. He further said there is also a significant number of those infected with HIV who have died from the disease or

complications associated with the disease.

Although the journey has been long, the Vice Chancellor acknowledged how far researchers have gone in relieving the symptoms of HIV through Antiretroviral treatment and in search of the vaccination. He said that MUHAS researchers have participated fully in trying to look for vaccination and this symposium is an opportunity to learn how far they have gone through this journey. He urged researchers, policy makers and implementers to contribute towards ensuring that the resolutions which will come out of this dissemination will help this nation reaching its goals.

The Chairman of this Symposium was the first MUHAS Vice Chancellor, Prof. Kisali Pallangyo who expressed his delight in seeing some of the people who were involved in the study about this deadly

disease. Prof. Pallangyo extended appreciation and acknowledgement to the support received particularly from Sida, which has been there since 1986 when research activities on HIV/AIDS started in this country. He further acknowledged the support from the government and many other partners that have worked together with MUHAS in the fight against HIV/AIDS and in particular the Tanzania Police Force.

The key note address was given by Prof. Eligius Lyamuya, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology and the Principal Investigator (PI) of HIV Vaccine Trials, MUHAS. In his presentation, he stated that HIV is still a global health problem and its associated morbidity and mortality remains high in Sub Saharan Africa.

He further stated that despite the declining trend in incidence and

prevalence that is observed there is no assurance of resurgence. Hence the availability of affordable, preventive HIV vaccines would be the best and most cost-effective long-term solution. He also pointed out several reasons why Tanzania should be involved in HIV vaccine research and development rather than letting people in the developed country do it alone.

Prof. Lyamuya further gave an insight on what has been done for HIV vaccine research in Tanzania and also spoke on the current vaccine trials. He also commended Sida for their outstanding support towards HIV vaccine trial throughout the years.

This event was also attended by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) from the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Prof. Mohammad Bakari Kambi as one of the discussants.

The other discussants were Prof Said Aboud, Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology; Dr Edith Tarimo, Researcher and social scientist in HIV/AIDS studies; Prof Fred Mhalu, Head of Pathology Department, St Joseph College of Health and Allied Sciences; Dr Patricia Munseri, Consultant Physician and Senior Lecturer in the department of Internal Medicine MUHAS and Dr Charles Msenga, Chief Medical Officer and



*The Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Prof. Mohammad Bakari Kambi, giving his contribution during symposium*

Assistant Commissioner of Police.

Speaking in this event, the Chief Medical Officer thanked the Vice Chancellor and the whole MUHAS team for inviting him to be part of this discussion. He also thanked Prof. Lyamuya for capturing well the very long journey of HIV vaccine trials in the country. "I think MUHAS has done a wonderful job", he added. He further suggested to MUHAS to compile all this good work into a book so that this history is put in its proper perspective for decades.

Prof. Kambi further spoke on the role of the government in protecting and safeguarding the well being of its citizen in the HIV Vaccine Trials. He said that HIV vaccine development involves trials which means new product being tested on human beings. "We have regulations and procedures in place that safeguard the interest of the volunteers into the trials, as far as our country is concerned", he added.

Moreover, the CMO said in Tanzania, there are two institutions which are very critical in regulating, authorizing and following up trials to be conducted in this country which are the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) and Tanzania Food and Drug Authority (TFDA). "I can attest that all these studies did go through that rigorous process of getting approval from NIMR as well as TFDA", he added.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> MUHAS University-wide Symposium was closed by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic, Research and Consultancy (DVC-ARC), Prof. Appolinary Kamuhabwa who appreciated presenters and participants for their valuable contributions in this Symposium. He also mentioned that the next planned symposium will be on non communicable diseases, MUHAS is working on it and the date will be announced later.



*The Chairman of the Symposium, Prof. Kisali Pallangyospeaking at the symposium*



# IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE SHORT COURSE



*Participants and facilitators of Implementation Science Short Course in a group photo*

Implementation Science Short Course was organized and sponsored by *HIS Project* at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), under the leadership of Dr. Candida Moshiri; the head of department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics and Dr. Mary Mwanyika-Sando the CEO of African Academy for Public Health (AAPH). There were also affiliates from Harvard University namely; Prof. Wafaie Fawzi, Prof. Christopher Sudfeld, Ms. Patricie Niyitegeka and Ms. Tara Young.

The short course was held at MUHAS-CHPE Building ground floor from 14<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2019. The facilitators of the short course were from MUHAS, Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, and MDH. The short course was made possible through collaboration of AAPH,

Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health and MUHAS.

The MUHAS Director of Research and Publication, Dr. Bruno Sunguya officially opened the short course on 14<sup>th</sup> January, he closed and issued certificates to participants on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2019. The course advert attracted over 200 applicants, but about 90 applicants were invited and 78 confirmed and participated in the short course.

Participants of this course came from different institutions including JHPIEGO, Institute of Social Work, Purple Planet, Ifakara Health Institute, University of Dar es Salaam, American International Health Alliance, Sokoine University of Agriculture, ICAP, Aga Khan Hospital, Lugalo General Military Hospital, Engender Health Tanzania,

Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre, Temeke Regional Referral Hospital, Mwananyamala Regional Referral Hospital, Ocean Road Cancer Institute, Muhimbili National Hospital and MUHAS.

In order to ascertain deliverables; participants were divided into ten (10) groups and they were given an assignment of developing a concept note on Implementation Research and each group presented the concept note on the last day of the short course and received constructive inputs from a wide range of facilitators. The concept notes composed of title, problem statement, research questions, objectives, study design, evaluation plan, dissemination plan and references.

# ANHALT DONATES TO MUHAS BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING BOOKS

**O**n the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Prof. Boris Bracio, the Dean College of Electrical, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, at Anhalt University of Applied Sciences, donated six book titles for biomedical engineering in support of the new programme expected to be established at MUHAS. Prof Bracio said, as Dean he was representing the Anhalt University of Applied Sciences, and also the Anhalt Institute of Biomedical Engineering and Computing, which donated the books to MUHAS. Prof Bracio is also the Director of the Anhalt Institute of Biomedical Engineering and Computing.

Speaking before the handing over of the books. Prof. Mainen Moshi, who has been coordinating University efforts to establish a Biomedical Engineering Programme said that this is a special occasion showing good fruits of a Memorandum of Understanding which was signed in 2015 for collaboration between our two institutions. He said that since signing of the MOU a number of joint activities have been implemented, including training, at Masters Level, two Biomedical Engineering academic



*Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Research and Consultancy, Prof. Appolinary Kamuhambwa shaking hand with the Prof. Boris Bracio after receiving donated biomedical engineering books*

staff; a third one had just started her training, and support development of the curriculum for biomedical engineering which is now awaiting TCU accreditation.

Prof. Bracio presenting the books to the Acting Vice Chancellor and Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic, Research and Consultancy, Prof Appolinary Kamuhabwa thanked the

management and said he was glad to be part of the process of establishing the programme bringing in expertise in engineering from their University. He further noted that through collaboration with medical experts, this program will be very strong and unique.

Prof. Bracio said that Anhalt University of applied sciences 'have different visions which have already been discussed, like conducting joint PhD programs, and undergraduate double degree programs which need to be explored further since they will make their University eligible for further funding under their country's internationalization agenda.

Speaking after receiving the books, the acting Vice Chancellor Prof. Appolinary Kamuhabwa said that MUHAS is grateful and that we will make sure the books are kept in the Library and discussions will be made with the Directorate of Library Services to ensure there is special reserve section for biomedical engineering so that both teachers and students can access the books.



*A Group photo of Prof. Boris Bracio together with the MUHAS management and staff after donating the biomedical engineering books to MUHAS.*



## SCHOOL OF PHARMACY AND INSTITUTE OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE HOLD A TECHNICAL TRAINING WORKSHOP ON MASS SPECTROSCOPY



*The Guest of Honour Prof. Andrea Pembe, Vice Chancellor of MUHAS officiating opening of the training workshop at MPL Board room, MUHAS*

**S**chool of Pharmacy (SoP) and Institute of Traditional Medicine (ITM) of Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences for the first time in history joined forces to bring scientists and students from different institutions to a training workshop entitled "MASS SPECTROSCOPY".

(GCLA). This training workshop was jointly supported by Phytochem and TRI-SUSTAIN projects which are both funded by DAAD and BMBF and that the contact person within these two projects in environmental and analytical Chemistry is Prof. Dr. Michael Spitteler.

This workshop was facilitated by Prof. Dr. Michael Spitteler from Dortmund Technical University, Germany working at the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology and also a Chair of environmental Chemistry and Analytical Chemistry. It was a four days' workshop that was run from 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.

The first three days of the workshop involved opening and theoretical sessions which were held at MUHAS, Multipurpose Laboratory (MPL) board room while the last day involved a hands-on training at Government Chemistry Laboratory Authority

The workshop was attended by faculty and postgraduate students from Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, University of Dar es Salaam, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA), and Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS). The objective of the training was to empower faculty and postgraduate students with Mass Spectroscopic techniques to aid in interpretation of spectra for structure elucidation of molecules particularly the natural products.

During the opening session the guest of honor Prof. Andrea Pembe, the Vice Chancellor of the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) welcomed all participants from MUHAS and the collaborating institutions. He stated clearly the purpose of the training. He appreciated the coordination and smooth implementation



*The Acting manager of Toxicology Laboratory Mr. Kagera Ng'weshemi (right), describing to workshop participants the functions of "LCMS/MS" machine in one of the GCLA laboratory*

of the MUHAS TRI-SUSTAIN project that has brought together partners (including Prof. Dr. Michael Spitteler) from academia, research institutions, innovation hubs (academy to industry), and pharmaceutical companies.

During the theoretical session lectures were centered on Chromatographic and Mass Spectroscopic techniques for analysis of molecules particularly the natural products. Quizzes and take-home assignments were given.



*A group photo during the closing ceremony at GCLA. Seated from left are Prof. Dr. Mary Justin-Temu (MUHAS), Prof. Dr. Michael Spitteler (Facilitator), Dr. Fidelice Mafumiko, the guest of honour and Chief Government Chemist of Tanzania (middle) and Dr. Faith Mabiki a participant from SUA (right).*

## MUHAS, KCMUCo AND CUHAS LAUNCH HEPI-THET PROJECT

**T**o Reach the People: Transforming Health Professionals Education in Tanzania (THET) Project was launched on 19th February, 2019 at the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) Campus, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. THET is a five-year project (2018-2023), funded by Fogarty under Health-Professional Education Partnership Initiative (HEPI) program.

It is a consortium of three Tanzanian Universities; MUHAS, Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College (KCMUCo), and the Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences (CUHAS) in collaboration with two United States partners, the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF) and Duke University.

The overall aim of the project is transforming the educational environment for doctors and nurses in Tanzania so that they can deliver quality care and improve health outcomes for the all people including marginalized communities and those with HIV/AIDS.

In this event the Principle Investigator (PI), Prof. Ephata Kaaya gave the background and overarching goals of HEPI and THET. He made clear that the goal of THET is to transform the educational environment for doctors and nurses so that they can deliver quality care and improve health outcomes for the Tanzanian people.

The PI further said that this will be done through addressing the quality of medical and nursing training by developing harmonized competency-based curricula (CBC) across our institutions. It will further provide the skills needed to practice in rural communities, harnessing the power of technology and introduce innovative teaching pedagogies.



*The MUHAS Deputy Vice Chancellor - Academic, Research and Consultancy (DVC-ARC), Prof. Appolinary Kamuhabwa pressing a button to officially launched THET*

He said that, the faculty will be mentored to develop academic careers as educators and researchers, and building communities of practice. The project will facilitate attainment of enabling environment at each institution to retain the best faculty for research and to teach the next generation of nurses and doctors and other professions.

The Project was launched by the MUHAS Deputy Vice Chancellor - Academic, Research and Consultancy (DVC-ARC), Prof. Appolinary Kamuhabwa representing the Vice Chancellor of MUHAS. In his launching speech, the DVC-ARC said that, MUHAS is honoured and privileged to be the lead for the project "Transforming Health Professions Education in Tanzania (THET)".

Prof. Kamuhabwa said that this event marked the beginning of an era of collaboration among national institutions. "The strong relationship between our institutions is bearing deserving fruits and I strongly suggest that we should not allow this burning fire to fizzle out, but rather we should see more joint activities and collaborative projects in the near future", he added.

The CUHAS Deputy Vice Chancellor - Academic, Research and Consultancy, Prof. Stephen Mshana, gave the vote of thanks to the Guest of Honor and said it was an honor to have him launching this important project since he is the one who will be overseeing the success of it.



Moreover, he thanked the collaborating partners for this initiative, the funders Fogarty through NHI and the PI for managing the success of the project.

The event was attended by partners from the collaboration institutions (MUHAS, KCMUCo, CUHAS, UCSF and Duke University) and stakeholders of the project including the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), health professionals' bodies and councils, medical and nursing students' professional bodies organizations, students' organizations, Health Professions Educators Groups (HPEGs), Young Research Peers and MUHAS Heads of academic departments.



*Participants cheering the launching of THET*

## MUHAS HOLDS A RECEPTION TO WELCOME INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



*The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Andrea Pembe in a pictures with some of International students*

**T**he External Relations Unit of Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) threw its first International Students welcoming reception to MUHAS International students. The party was held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and was graced by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Andrea Pembe as the Guest of Honor.

The aim of this welcoming party was to get to know the International students studying at MUHAS and make them feel at home, but also to introduce to them the External Relations Unit as their supporting office.

Speaking during the event the MUHAS Vice Chancellor conveyed his appreciation to the External Relations Unit for organizing this event which brought together students of different nationalities studying at MUHAS. He further requested the International students to be good ambassadors of the University in their home countries and wherever they will go.

In this event, the External Relations Unit invited deans, directors and head of departments who directly deals with international students in one way or another. As most of the International students are postgraduate students, the Director of Postgraduate Studies, Dr. Emmanuel Balandya was privileged to speak and he informed the students that his office is ready to assist them in anyways possible. Therefore, they should not hesitate to approach her office when a need arises.

Speaking on behalf of other international students', Dr Ivan who is a third-year postgraduate students expressed his pleasure of having this occasion and stated that, this is an important event as it seethes the international students and wish for it to happen every year.

In her welcoming remarks, the Head of the External Relations



*A representative of occasional students speaking during the party*

Unit, Dr Belinda Balandya said that the main reason of having the Unit is to make the lives of international students studying at MUHAS as easy as possible around the University as well as in the country at large. She further said that the door is always open regarding all the matters including VISA and living permit which seems to be the main challenge.

She explained that they started to plan the "farewell party" for the outgoing students and she thanked all for their participation on this year's party.

In this event, the international students and invited guests had a chance to be entertained by a traditional dance group called Wanne Star.



*Some of MUHAS International Students enjoying the party.*



# THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HEALTH PLEASED WITH UPDATES ON RESEARCH IN SICKLE CELL DISEASE IN TANZANIA: GENOMICS AND GENE THERAPY



*The Deputy Minister of Health in Tanzania Giving a talk during the MUHAS symposium on how Tanzania is developing a Strategy for Gene Therapy for Sickle Cell Disease, on the left is the MUHAS DVC ARC Professor Apolinary Kamuhabwa*

**T**he Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDEC), Dr Faustine Ndungulile attended a symposium on updates on

research in Sickle Cell disease in Tanzania: genomics and gene therapy on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019 at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences.

In this symposium, the Deputy Minister met representatives of patients' communities, who are key stakeholders of research. This included Tanzania Sickle Cell Disease Alliance, Sickle Cell Disease Patients Community and Sickle Cell Youth Foundation.

Also, during this visit, the Deputy Minister took a tour of research facilities including the Sickle Cell Centre, the MUHAS Genetics Laboratory, Malaria Culture Laboratory and the Hematology Clinical Research Laboratory.

The aims of the tour were to familiarize and see research activities about gene therapy and bone marrow that is conducted for sickle cell disease and also hear some challenges from sickle cell patient community.



*Professor Julie Makani, The Head Department of Haematology and Blood Transfusion presenting during the MUHAS symposium on how Tanzania is developing a strategy for Gene Therapy for Sickle Cell Disease*



*Participants of the MUHAS symposium on how Tanzania is developing a strategy for Gene Therapy for Sickle Cell Disease*

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