



# Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI), EDCTP, IANPHI, IAVI and MRC-UK



## A successful example of capacity development through international partnerships

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The collective input of UVRI and collaborator staff (on-campus and external partners) has been critical to this achievement.

1 Uganda Virus Research Institute

2 MRC/UVRI Uganda Research Unit on AIDS



# Objectives



- UVRI is a leading scientific research institution in Uganda and the region.
- From the late 70's to mid 80's research and infrastructure at UVRI deteriorated due to civil strife and interruption of international collaboration.
- **The objective** was to reverse this process through partnerships such as the on-going capacity building support by the EDCTP, IANPHI and MRC among others.



# Methods



- To strengthen human resource and infrastructural capacity, support provided to UVRI through the following, among others, is being used:
  - IANPHI funded UVRI capacity building project.
  - EDCTP funded Fishing communities project, in collaboration with UVRI-IAVI, MRC/UVRI and others.
  - EDCTP funded Microbicide Feasibility Study, in collaboration with LSHTM and MRC/UVRI.
  - MRC UK to prepare for an application to the EDCTP for the formation of a regional Network of Excellence.



# Results (1)



- Over the last 36 months the following has been achieved:
  - The capacity of UVRI's Science and Ethics Committee (SEC) has been enhanced by provision of a regulatory office, equipment, scientific input, secretarial support, training of SEC members and by the creation of operating procedures and protocols.
  - Administration and financial management have been strengthened through the recruitment of an administrative officer and a senior grants officer.
  - An experienced scientific officer has been recruited to strengthen UVRI's capacity for networking and research.



# Results (2)



The UVRI Science and Ethics (SEC) regulatory office



UVRI SEC Secretary Ms. S. Nankabirwa



# Results (3)



EDCTP/IANPHI-supported UVRI and regional partner institutions' Ethical Review Board (ERB) member training



# Results (4)



- UVRI 5 yr strategic plan has been created.
- Training courses have been organized by UVRI on grant application writing, grant management, GCP and GCLP. Other training included statistics and epidemiology, use of web based medical data systems, preparation of publications, and interaction with the media.
- Information technology capacity at UVRI has been enhanced with the establishment of a Local Area Network to facilitate information access, data management and storage capacity.



## Results (5)



- A resource center is being created.
- A UVRI website is being designed.
- A centralized molecular biology/informatics lab is being set up.
- UVRI and partners within the UVRI campus have been successful in the joint acquisition of several grants provided by EDCTP and other donor institutions. **Grants include: creation of the regional EACCR network.**



# Results (6)



Part of the centralized bioinformatics and Molecular biology laboratory core facility being set up



IANPHI/EDCTP-funded training in grants writing and management for UVRI and regional partner public health and research institutions



# Discussion & Conclusions



- The joint efforts of EDCTP, IANPHI, IAVI and MRC (UK) with the involvement of the MRC/UVRI Uganda Research Unit on AIDS, UVRI-IAVI, and other partners within the UVRI campus have been effective in the facilitation of institutional capacity strengthening.
- This model of capacity building has been demonstrated to work well.

## Future perspectives

- Use the acquired strength and network platform to secure additional funding to address remaining gaps in capacity for UVRI and network partner institutions.