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## **periCOVID Africa – RIA2020EF-2926**

### **Understanding COVID-19 infections in pregnant women and their babies in Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, The Gambia and Mozambique**

#### **EDCTP COVID-19 Webinar**

Zoom, 18-19 Mar 2021

Professor Kirsty Le Doare | MRC/UVRI@LSHTM Uganda Research Unit and St. George's, University of London

Principal investigator – on behalf of the periCOVID consortium



# Rationale and objectives

periCOVID Africa



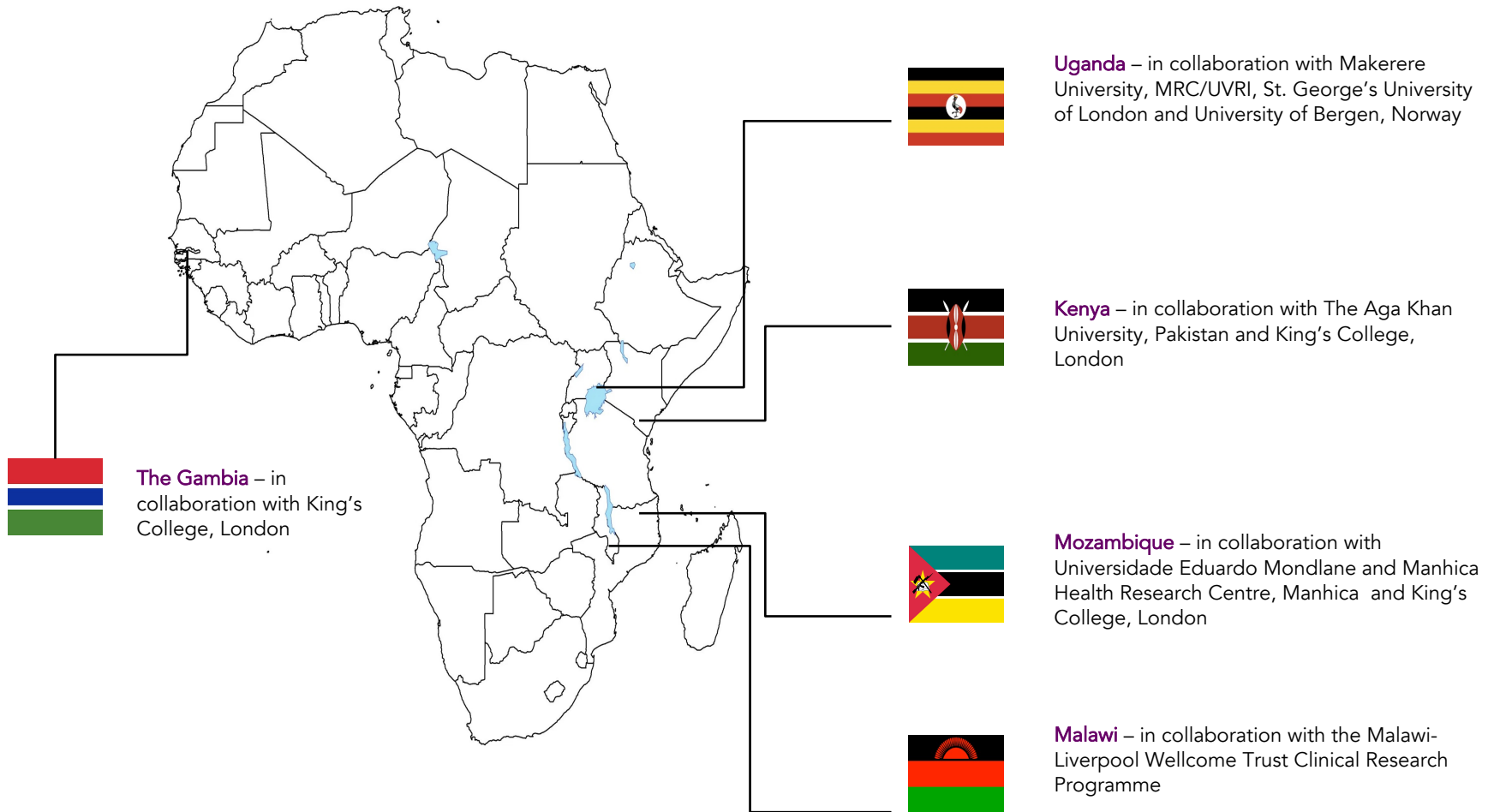
## **Primary objectives**

- To describe the sero-epidemiology of COVID-19 among pregnant women
- To determine risk and routes of mother-to-child transmission

## **Secondary objectives**

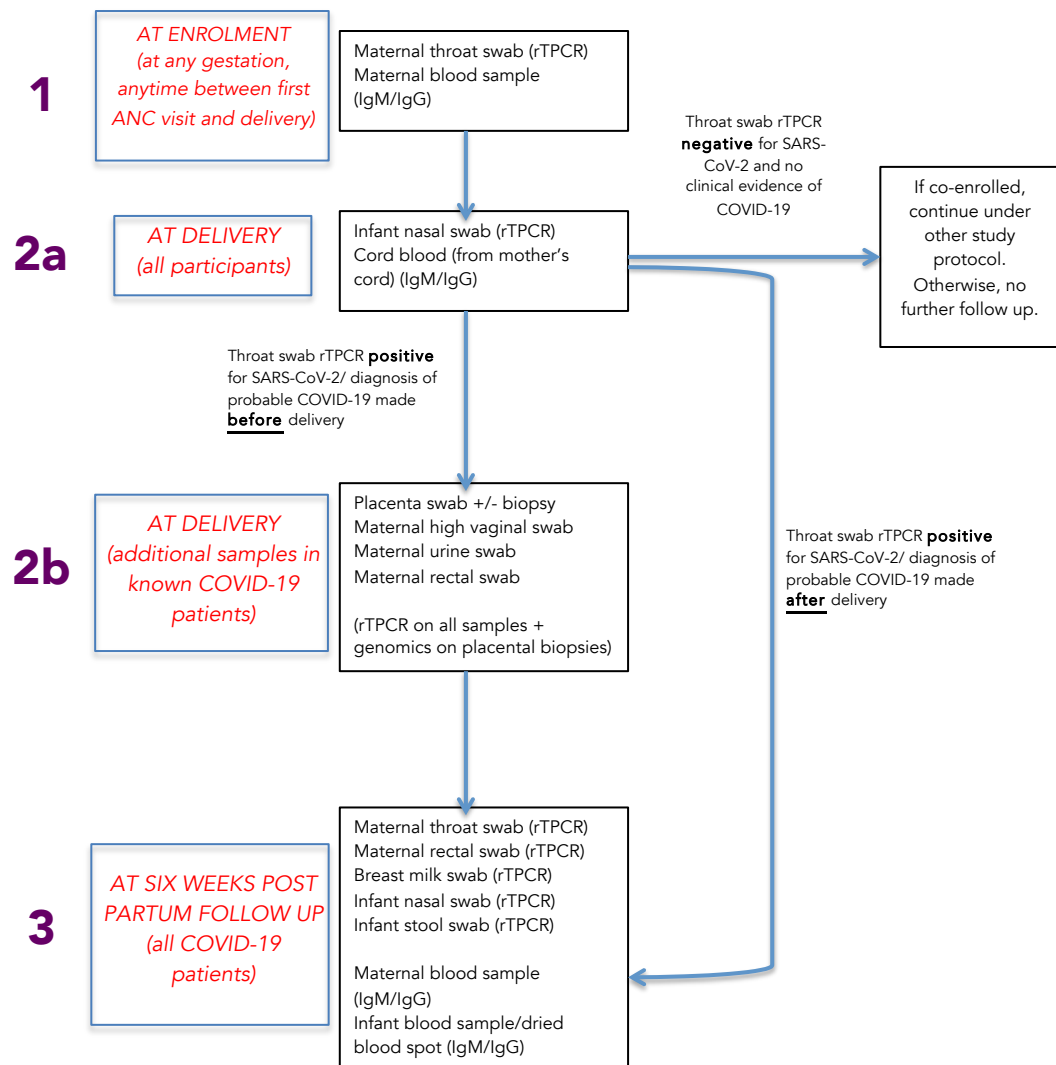
- To determine the clinical course and pregnancy outcomes in women infected with SARS-CoV-2 during pregnancy
- To determine the presence of SARS-CoV-2 in various mother and baby samples and estimate the duration of viral excretion
- To assess the immune responses to SARS-CoV-2 in pregnant women and their babies
- To work with communities to understand perceptions surrounding infection prevention and control techniques to reduce the spread of COVID-19 amongst the pregnant population

# Study design



# Focus on special populations

knowledge gaps in risk, transmission and immunity in pregnant women and their infants



## periCOVID Africa WP2

- Designed to align with WHO Unity Protocol and PREPARE//PRECISE/BAMBII
- Uses validated assays for total and specific IgG/IgM against Spike and Nuclear capsid

## periCOVID Africa WP3

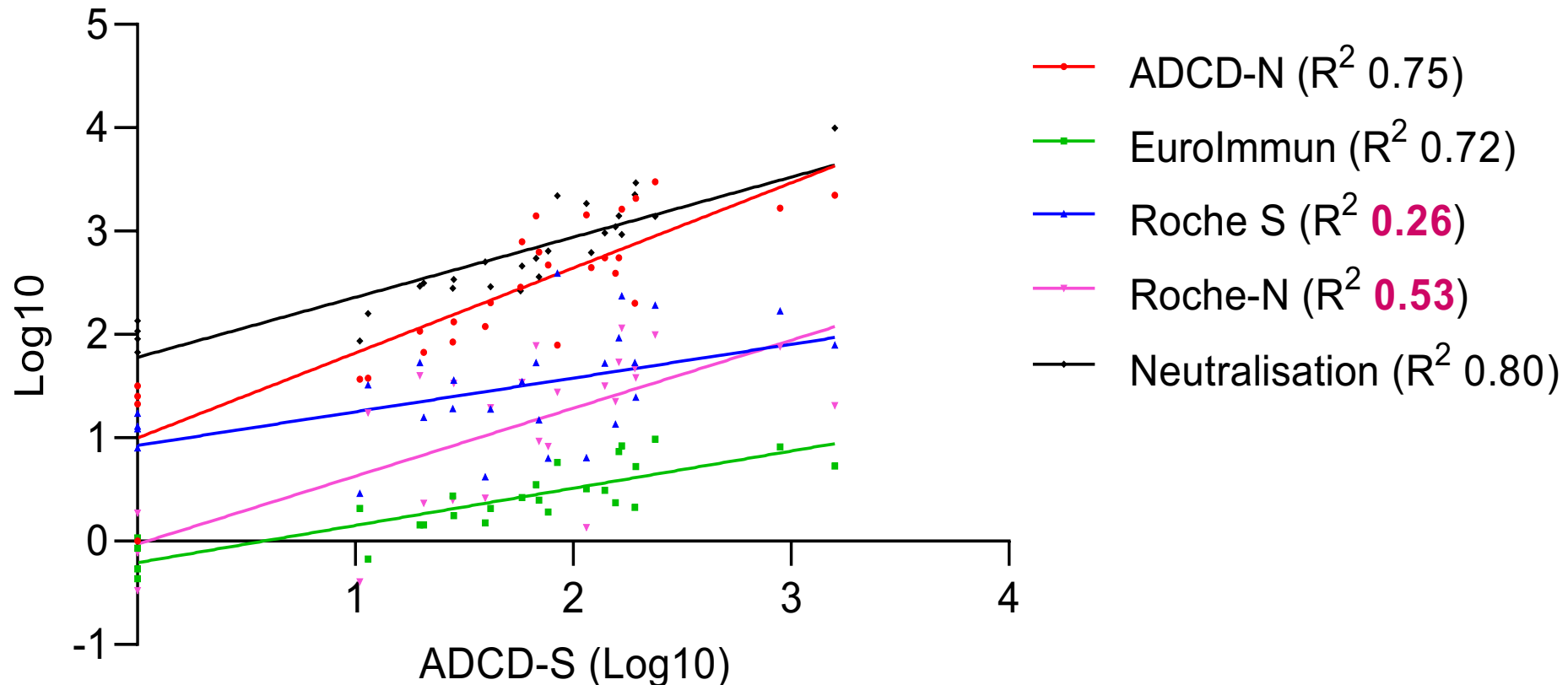
- patient and public involvement, communications, capacity strengthening and stakeholder engagement
- Designing patient facing documents and providing training for researchers to align with community values

# Preliminary findings

## Mother/Baby – All Data

Very little COVID19 in any cohort

- Fear, mistrust and stigma around testing at many sites
- Many staff have had COVID19, leading to staffing issues
- Good immune responses crossing the placenta



# Publications and other communications

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Pregnant Women and Their Newborns

Inclusion of pregnant women in COVID-19 vaccine development



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

**EClinicalMedicine**

journal homepage: <https://www.journals.elsevier.com/eclinicalmedicine>



## Research Paper

### SARS-CoV-2 infection in pregnancy: A systematic review and meta-analysis of clinical features and pregnancy outcomes

Asma Khalil<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Erkan Kalafat<sup>a,c</sup>, Can Benlioglu<sup>a</sup>, Pat O'Brien<sup>d,e</sup>, Edward Morris<sup>d,f</sup>,  
Tim Draycott<sup>d,g</sup>, Shakila Thangaratnam<sup>h</sup>, Kirsty Le Doare<sup>i</sup>, Paul Heath<sup>i</sup>, Shamez Ladhani<sup>j,k</sup>,  
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