

The Principal, College of Health Sciences to present the following for the Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Public Health)

ORYEMA-LALOBO Michael

The Principal, College of Health Sciences to present the following for the Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Medicine)

BUWEMBO William

"Viridans Streptococci Group: Antibiotic Susceptibility Profiles, Cotrimoxazole Prophylaxis and the Molecular Basis of Cotrimoxazole Resistance in Uganda"

Dr. Buwembo investigated the extent and methods by which bacteria normally present in our mouths and throats prevent drugs from killing them. These bacteria are usually harmless, but occasionally cause life-threatening diseases, hence need drugs to kill them. He found that these bacteria have developed high abilities to prevent commonly used drugs killing them and share these abilities with disease causing bacteria. The common practice of septrin prophylaxis in HIV patients led to a significant increase in bacteria causing tooth decay with these abilities. This development may make commonly used drugs ineffective and calls for alternative drugs, and continued surveillance of the bacterial abilities to withstand drugs.

Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Medicine)

KIWUWA Stephen

"Gene diversity of Plasmodium falciparum in children with mild and severe malaria"

Dr. Kiwuwa investigated genetic diversity of human blood stage parasites causing mild and severe in children using Polymearse Chain Reaction (PCR) based assays. The genetic determinants of malaria disease outcomes are not completely understood and yet various forms of the malaria parasite genetic make-up are thought to contribute to it's disease causing mechanisms. Continued surveillance for changes in parasite gene characteristics provided an important tool for early screening for the development of drug resistance to the currently used anti-malarials and identification of rational targets for drugs or vaccines that could be used to improve survival. The knowledge acquired from monitoring variation in parasite populations after change of treatment policies may enable us to predict what will happen as a consequence of further adjustment of the policies. The study was funded by Mak-Sida bilateral Research programme and the Belgian Technical cooperation in Uganda.

Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Medicine)

NAKAYAGA Joan Kalyango (Ms)

"Integrated community Case management of malaria and pneumonia in eastern Uganda: Care-Seeking adherence, and Community-health work performance".

Ms. Nakayaga assessed care-seeking and quality of care in integrated community case management of malaria and pneumonia in children aged less than five years. This study was motivated by the need to inform the implementation of a new strategy "the integrated community case management of childhood illnesses (ICCM)" adopted by the Ministry of Health, Uganda. The results revealed that care-seeking from community healthy workers (CHWs) that provide integrated care is high. Although CHWs are faced with challenges in assessment of pneumonia symptoms, their performance on malaria was not affected by additional roles of pneumonia management. None-the-less CHWs should be supported with continued training, adequate supervision and provision of drugs, diagnostics and other supplies. Supervisors; Dr. Charles Karamagi, Prof Stefan Peterson, Dr Tobias Alfven, Dr. Elizeus Rutebemberwa, and Dr Sarah Ssali.