

THE HOLISTIC

MONTHLY FAMILY MEDICINE NEWSLETTER

VOL 3 ISSUE 1

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

UNDERGRADUATE

POSTGRADUATE

UPCOMING EVENTS

PARTNERS

FACULTY

FROM THE HoD

UNDERGRADUATE

2016-2017 marks the 6th year of undergrad intake of the MBBS IV students. This is a 6 week block program of 4 groups per year. The students rotate through a four week, daily supervised clinical placement in various district hospitals preceded by a one week of didactics at the main campus in Blantyre. The final week is for clinical and written examinations at the main campus. March, 8 2017 marked the end of the third group's rotation, the 4th group will commence on 20th March 2016. We would like to thank the preceptors in Mangochi, Mulanje, Neno, and Nkhoma hospitals, and the whole faculty for smoothly running the undergrad program maintaining a 95%+ plus pass rate all throughout!



Dr. Anna & Mangochi Crew



Dr. Erin & Neno group



OPD staff at Nkhoma & MBBS IV

POSTGRADUATES

For the 1st cohort of postgraduate trainees in Family Medicine, March 2017 marked the half-way point for this 4 year Masters in Medicine (MMed) program. The first cohort, Drs Mbamba, Chinyama, and Mnenuloa, sat for their Part 1 Exams at Mangochi campus on 8 & 9 March 2017. There is a total of 3 postgrads in each cohort of training. The 2nd intake, in September 2016, expanded the number of postgraduate teaching sites. We continue at Mangochi district hospital with Dr. Chise and also welcome Drs Masina and Chisepo who are based at Nkhoma mission hospital. It is the first time we are partnering for postgraduate training with a Christian Health Association of Malawi (CHAM) facility. We are so excited to have our own very first qualified postgrads in 2019. Asked how he would like to contribute to Family Medicine practice after his training, Dr. Chise said, "It will all have to be a step by step approach, starting with policies, providing a foundation for the other generations of family medicine physicians to practice".



In action! Dr. Masina in the pediatric ward at Nkhoma mission hospital



Postgraduates & preceptors at Mangochi district hospital

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. 20th March-28th April. 4th and final group of MBBS IV rotating through Family Medicine
2. 16th -17th May 2017. Evaluation of undergraduate program by faculty and preceptors.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FAMILY MEDICINE MALAWI

The Dutch charitable fund [Stichting Dioraphte](#) began supporting the Department of Family Medicine with a grant in 2015. Dioraphte sponsors MMed scholarships for the 1st cohort of Family Medicine postgraduate students. In February 2017 we welcomed a visit from Dioraphte. The Family Medicine team spent a day with Mr. Henk (director), Mr. Arnold (president of board) and Mrs. Jacqueline (board member) showing them the work in Mangochi hospital. Seen in the picture, the Dioraphte visitors are sharing a lunch with Family Medicine students.



dioraphte

This US organization, [Seed Global Health](#) partnered with the Family Medicine Department in 2015. It is through its partnership with American Peace Corps that Global Health Service Partnership (GHSP) derives. Seed Global Health sends volunteers yearly to work as lecturers and Clinical lecturers in the undergraduate and post graduate programs. Apart from working with the College of Medicine students, the GHSP also supervise Clinical officers, Medical assistants and students from other health science training institutions. “It is truly a lot of work”, says Dr. Anna, “but we have a strong and able team”. In the picture Dr. Anna and Dr. Gail pose for a picture with clinicians at the Mangochi district hospital.



Seed
GLOBAL HEALTH

In April 2016, the department entered into a relationship with **United States CDC** as a sub-awardee of a larger educational grant to the Malawi College of Medicine. The Principal Investigator of the project is Professor Kenneth Maleta. Family Medicine is a sub-awardee of the larger grant entitled: Improving Medical Education in Malawi (IMEM).



FACULTY AND STAFF

A number of Faculty transitions occurred in the first months of 2017. Dr. Martha Makwero, who served as Head of Department for Family Medicine from Sept 2014 to March 2017, has transitioned to the role of Senior Advisor to the Department. Dr. Makwero has started the journey towards a PhD through the [Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa](#) (CARTA) program and will be enrolled at Witwatersrand University in South Africa researching in the area of primary care, a subject for which she great passion.

As part of the transition Dr. John Parks was elected by the Full-Time faculty to serve in the role of Head of Department and Dr. Prosper Lutala was chosen as the Deputy Head of Department. Dr. Miriam Van Goor continues to serve as coordinator of undergraduates (MBBS) programs. [Profiles of faculty and staff members](#)

The Department is pleased to work with 6 qualified and highly-motivated Honorary Faculty. Our departmental administrative assistant Mrs. Gloria Namacha brings energy to the department and is an invaluable part of the team to help us achieve our mission. As noted above, we continue to partner with the Global Health Service Partnerships (GHSP) program. We are in our third year of partnership with the GHSP program and work with 3 Family Physicians and 1 Obstetrician/Gynecologist all based in Mangochi District Hospital. Yearly, we also welcome registrars through our partnership with Swedish Family Medicine organization/[WWAMI](#) for Mangochi site who also assist with clinical supervision for the undergraduates.

The department is seeking to recruit more full-time faculty who have contextual experience to bolster district level teaching and operations. [A link to the job description can be found here.](#)

Meet the Head of Department (HoD)

Briefly tell us about the status of Family Medicine in Malawi.

Family Medicine is slowly gaining recognition, finding its place in health care systems. In Malawi, care is centralized; FM realizes that the population is in the rural areas. That is where we place ourselves to improve governance in areas of service delivery, mentorship, outreach and research.

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Dr. M. Makwero. HOD from
Sept 2014 to Feb 2017

Where do you see FM practice in Malawi come 5 years?

Taking center stage in a place where primary health care is available widely. Though we are in a resource deprived setting, we would like district hospitals to not only be primary health care leaders but also be academia centers where practice, research and learning can take place.

How do you plan to fit your department objectives in line with that broad picture you have?

For instance, we focus our research to be impact generating in order to convince the policy makers. Just to mention a few we are involved with management of non-communicable diseases at and maternal and child health at primary health care level.

Take us through your experience as the Head of Department.

It has been a joy to work as one of the few family practitioners at district level and be able to understand their challenges and the best way in which those can be addresses. Working with multiculturals and multinationals who have brought in different perspectives has also added a great thrill to the job. However, as FM is multifaceted, it has not been easy to prove oneself in many different areas. Inadequate human resource has also posed as a challenge. On the brighter side, we have learnt to take chewable bites to achieve our goals.

Any recommendations for the next HoD?

Well, this job requires someone who is able to build relationships, listen to local views, and be very organized. Dr. John Parks is the best at all this and will ably take the department to greater heights. I would also recommend keeping the vision in focus, looking out for general changes and making priorities in line with the HSSP.

Thank you for sparing your time Dr. Makwero. We wish you all the success as you continue with the PhD.

From the Desk of the Family Medicine Head of Department

I follow in the foot-steps of two people I admire greatly. Dr. Luckson Dullie, the founding Head of the Department, lead the team to get the ball rolling with the undergraduate program in 2011 and ushering the postgraduate MMed curriculum through the necessary processes. Dr. Martha Makwero carried the torch as the program started the first-ever postgraduate program based at a District hospital and oversaw a time of growth and expanding partnerships-not an easy task!

I have walked alongside Dr. Makwero for past year and a half as her Deputy and appreciate the trials and tribulations that come along with developing family medicine. It is a pleasure to work with a great team and an honor to carry the torch of family medicine forward.

Warm Regards, John Parks



Dr. John Parks.