



Flower Power

Vincristine, one of the three main chemotherapy drugs used to treat BL patients, is a plant-based drug that comes from a group of flowering plants of the genus *Vinca*. Most of us know that it grows in East Africa, but have we ever seen it? Do we know which flower it is?

Last month, a visiting doctor decided that our nascent EMBLEM complex at Shirati of offices, lab, and treatment unit needed beautification. During a visit to an outlying clinic, she spotted some roadside flowers that seemed to fill her requirements. On the next trip, she took along a hoe and basin, and came back with the purple and white flowers, that she planted all around the courtyard of the EMBLEM office. Much to my delight, I soon confirmed, thanks to Wikipedia, that she had surrounded the place with ***Vinca minor***, popularly known as Periwinkle!

EMBLEM Uganda

Case and control enrollment: EMBLEM has screened 81 subjects and enrolled 39. On July 12th, the EMBLEM team trained staff from six HC-IIs from six districts of the North Central region to collect HC-II Registry data on OPD attendances. The trainees will collect data from HC-IIs for 14 days. This information will be used to guide enrollment of pilot HC-II controls. The trainees will also serve as EMBLEM Community Representatives to facilitate enrollment of population controls.

Laboratory Setup : The Laboratory equipment delivered to Kuluva hospital included the CBC machine, centrifuge, safety cabinet and other laboratory supplies. The freezer will be taken at a later date.

Visitors: The Uganda EMBLEM team hosted a number of visitors including the EMBLEM PI Dr. Sam Mbulaiteye, Study Manager Benjamin Emmanuel, and Study Administrator Erisa Sunday. The PI's visit coincided with a training visit by three laboratory technicians and a data manager from Tanzania, and a laboratory technician from Kuluva.



PI and Trainees



Loading Lab Equipment and Supplies for Kuluva



PI with some Tanzania and Uganda EMBLEM Staff



L to R: Herry Dhudha, Felician Mgasa, Kheri Simeo, James Tunguye of EMBLEM Tanzania



EMBLEM Kenya building at Homabay

EMBLEM Kenya

The Homabay Laboratory was completed and handed over to the Medical Superintendent. Homabay District Hospital and is ready for occupation. The Assistant Minister for Internal Security Hon Orwa Ojode toured the facility and was very happy with what EMBLEM is doing in the region.

Healthcare providers were sensitized about childhood cancer in the two participating institutions and given the registry forms.

EMBLEM Tanzania

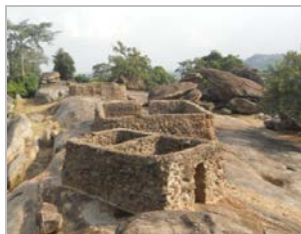
An EMBLEM Study data manager and 3 lab technicians underwent training at Lacor Hospital in Gulu, Uganda, hosted by AFENET and EMBLEM Uganda. Meanwhile, renovations were carried out on the buildings which will house the EMBLEM study center in Shirati. At Bugando Medical Center in Mwanza, registration and enrollment of cases for the INCTR treatment trials for BL are underway and the final lab and office setup plans are being completed for EMBLEM.



A successfully treated BL patient at the EMBLEM study center in Shirati

Addendum:

EMBLEM Team on a Fact Finding Mission: After the training, the Uganda EMBLEM team took its visitors to learn more about the history of Uganda. The teams visited one historical site in Uganda where Sr. Samuel Baker established a fort (1872–88). This fort accommodated other prominent historians who included Sr. Gordon and Sr. Emin Pasha. The place is gifted with naturally molded rocks that one shouldn't miss visiting. Before Sr. Samuel Baker occupied the fort, it was used to keep slaves. The execution marks of slaves which are still visible were distressing to the visitors.



EMBLEM Team on a Tour mission to Sr. Samuel Baker Fort. L to R: Team moving to the Fort. Existing structures at the Fort. Naturally curved stones.

EMBLEM Newsletter is a monthly on-line publication based on contributions of the EMBLEM Study staff.

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EMBLEM Quiz

Sr. Samuel Baker Occupied the Fort (1872-88).
“What momentous events took place where you live during that period?”

One of the local terminologies used at the fort is “Anyadwe”. What does this mean?

A big reward from Uganda and Tanzania Team to those who get both questions correct.

Kinyera, Study Manager for EMBLEM Uganda