

Tanzania TEAM - Getting Underway

“If we achieve anything, it will be because we are standing on the shoulders of giants”. In western Tanzania, the giants in Burkitt’s Lymphoma are Dr. Glen Brubaker working with Dr. Arthur Levin from the mid-1970’s, and, more recently, the work of IMA World Health. Through their efforts, treatment was brought to children with BL in Lake Zone of Tanzania, and also a data registry of patients was kept for all the treating hospitals.



EMBLEM Tanzania TEAM (L to R):

Mr. Herry Dhudha (Data Manager),
Dr. Nestory Masalu (Bugando Medical Center),
Dr. Esther Kawira (PI Tanzania),
Capt. Josiah Magatti (Study Coordinator),
Dr. Simplicie Harusha (Sengerema DDH)

The Tanzania EMBLEM team spent several days in mid January visiting hospitals in Mara and Mwanza Regions, the target study area, who have treated more than 1500 BL patients during the last 10 years. In Mwanza region, those hospitals are Bugando Medical Center, Sengerema Designated District Hospital (DDH), Bukumbi and Sumve, also DDH’s. In Mara Region the hospitals are Bunda, Nyerere, and Shirati, all DDH’s.

Each hospital gave permission for its historical data on BL to be used to compile a comprehensive report of the EMBLEM Tanzania study area during the 10 years prior to the study. Hospital stakeholders were also briefed on the progress of the study and the timeline

for training and for starting registration of patients.

In every place we found interest, eagerness to participate, and gratitude for the benefits to patients that will be produced by the study.

Tanzania Staff Personal Notes:

Mr. Herry Dhudha, data manager for the EMBLEM Tanzania team, and his wife Rosemary, became parents for the second time with the birth of Shawn on 30th December 2010. Baby Shawn joins his older brother Aaron.



Progress Reports from Uganda

St. Mary’s Hospital, Lacor: So far, 15 cases (11M, 4F) have been enrolled at Lacor Hospital. In early January, a team of monitors from the Micro Laboratory, Makerere University came to monitor study conduct at Lacor Hospital and perform additional training. Led by Prof. Moses

Joloba, Ph.D., they certified that the EMBLEM processing laboratory at Lacor was now fully equipped and its 2 QBC machines, -80°C freezer, 2 microscopes with cameras, centrifuges, height and weight measuring scales, hood, were functional.

The three lab technicians had adjusted and were performing at a high standard.



Scenes from the EMBLEM Processing Laboratory, St. Mary's Hospital, Lacor, Uganda

Kuluva Hospital, Arua: Office and laboratory space at Kuluva Hospital were inspected and approved for reconfiguring and furnishing to prepare for case enrolment by March 2011.

Preparation for control enrollment:

Planning meetings for census and control enrolment were held in three districts, Oyam, Dokolo, and Amolator. Kitgum was skipped because of a yellow fever epidemic. Three health centers and villages in these districts were visited and also mobilized.



EMBLEM Uganda TEAM (L to R):
Ms. Peace Amito, Mr. Isaac Otim, Mr. Mike Mbaziira, Mr. Simon Ojok, Mr. Fredrick Odur, Mr. David Chemshuk, Dr. Tobias Kinyera

Progress Report from Kenya



EMBLEM Kenya TEAM (L to R):
Prof. Robert Tenge, RN, Pamela Akinyi-Were, Dr. Constance Tenge, and Dr. Walter Nalyanya

Kenya EMBLEM completed office set up, including installing a landline to ease communication. They have energetically embarked on reviewing EMBLEM SOPs to prepare for case enrolment.

EMBLEM Newsletter is a monthly on-line publication based on contributions of the EMBLEM Study staff. Editor-Dr. Esther Kawira, Email address: elkawira@gmail.com

Reporters: EMBLEM Uganda – Mike Mbaziira
EMBLEM Kenya – Pamela Akinyi Were
EMBLEM Tanzania – Josiah Magatti