

July

NEWS LETTER



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Editorial



As we near the beginning of a new Academic year, we reflect on the past year's accomplishments, and we look forward to new beginnings. 2023/2024 has started off great. We are pleased to welcome new colleagues and teammates to the CIU family. It is an absolute honor to have a new Deputy Vice Chancellor, Dr. Milka Singh. We are excited to have his expertise and experience at such a critical time, when we are expectant and hoping for charter. Our library has undergone a complete face lift, and in this edition, we meet our newly appointed University Librarian, A seasoned librarian with a deep passion for knowledge.

In this issue we also dive into what it means to celebrate a golden jubilee in marriage. This year marks 50 years of Dr. Clarke and Robbie Clarke's union. Read about their love story! As we start the new semester, remember you can earn 5 percent when you recommend a student to CIU. So, tell your friends and family about how great CIU is. Admissions are ongoing until September.

Daphne Bukirwa

PR and Marketing Manager

Welcome Dr. Milka Singh NEW DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR



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Congratulations

Dr. Milka Singh

the new Deputy Vice Chancellor of
Clarke International University

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Meet the new Librarian

Welcome profile:

Ms Flavia Ouma Nagemi is the new University librarian of Clarke International University. She has over 10 years experience working in an institution of higher learning library. Ms Flavia is a professional librarian with a Masters Degree in Information science and a Bachelors Degree in Library and information science from Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.

She is well versed with library management systems such as KOHA and Dspace

Ms Flavia is very passionate about promoting the use of the library resources among staff and students to promote teaching, learning and research.

She is thrilled to be a member of the CIU Community and she looks forward to working and interacting with all of you.

Univeristy Librarian

Nagemi Flavia



New face of Library at CIU



Congratulations to Dr Catherine upon completion and publishing another piece of Research together with her team.



We congratulate our very own Dean of School of Graduate Studies and Research, Dr. Catherine Lwanira, upon completion and publishing of yet another piece of research together with her team.

Title: TREATMENT COMPLIANCE AMONG ADULT CERVICAL CANCER PATIENTS RECEIVING CARE AT UGANDA CANCER INSTITUTE, UGANDA: A RETROSPECTIVE DATA REVIEW

Abstract
Background

Cervical cancer is one of the most common cancers and a major cause of morbidity among women globally. Chemoradiation therapy is the preferred standard treatment for women with stage IB to IVA. However, the benefits of this treatment can only be achieved if patients adhere to the treatment guidelines. In this study, the proportion of compliance or adherence to chemo-radiation treatment among cervical cancer patients at Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI) was determined.

Methods

This was a cross-sectional study that reviewed data retrospectively for 196 cervical cancer patients who were prescribed to chemo-radiation therapy at UCI between November 2020 to May 2021, having been diagnosed with disease stage IB to IVA. Patient data and information on treatment uptake was obtained by review of the patient's medical records. Treatment compliance was determined by calculating the number of participants who completed the prescribed treatment (definitive pelvic concurrent chemoradiation to 50 Gy external beam radiotherapy with weekly concurrent cisplatin followed by intracavitary brachytherapy 24 Gy in 3 fractions at 8 Gy once a week over 3 weeks). Associations between patient factors and treatment adherence were determined using logistic regression analysis. In all statistical tests, a P-value of < 0.05 was considered as significant.

Results

The proportion of patients who were administered with external beam radiation (EBRT), chemotherapy and brachytherapy were 82.6%, 52.04% and 66.2% respectively. However, only 23 of 196 patients (11.7%) were found to have adhered to the treatment plan by completion of all definitive pelvic concurrent chemoradiation to 50 Gy external beam radiotherapy (5 weeks) with weekly concurrent cisplatin (5 cycles) followed by intracavitary brachytherapy 24 Gy in 3 fractions at 8 Gy once a week over 3 weeks (3 sessions). There were no significant associations between patient factors and treatment adherence after multivariable analysis.

Conclusions

Treatment compliance was found in only 12% of the cohort participants. No association of patient factors with treatment compliance was found. Additional studies on treatment adherence with larger sample sizes are needed to confirm the associations.



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Mr. Lukenge Mathew, who authored one of the chapters in the book. "Sensory ecology of disease vectors" donates book to CIU library

Title of his chapter is "Assessment of the taste of blood by arthropods: the final step in disease pathogen transmission."

What are "Arthropods" and why should we care?

In a biological sense, arthropods are invertebrates generally characterised as organisms with segmented bodies, jointed legs and an exo-skeleton. The group is home to thousands of different species but despite this high number, just a small proportion is of public health concern, predominated by insects and flies e.g., mosquitoes, ticks, kissing bugs, black flies, tsetse flies, etc. These insects have evolved within the past 150-200 million years to share habitats and adopt behaviours that enhanced their ability to acquire higher nutritional value meals from their human hosts. Irrespective of their small proportion, they are believed to have caused more than half of approximated 108 billion mortalities of the humans who have populated the earth till-date. This was as a result of their increased survivalship and competence to transmit pathogens of disease inclusive of: malaria, yellow fever, dengue fever, Zika fever, tick-borne encephalitis, bubonic plague, relapsing fever, African and American trypanosomiasis, River blindness, among others, placing them as insects of major medical importance. In a scientific sense however, the critical question often asked is, how do these small creatures perceive or sense their world? the answer to which holds fundamental rational steps towards advances in their control and/ or elimination in the current times.

This book titled "Sensory ecology of disease vectors" is a state-of-the-art compendium, targeting students and researchers in the Life Sciences discipline, to show how arthropods use their sensory abilities to make use of cues and signals in finding and discriminating among various resources during their normal physiological behaviours. These behaviours include identifying food, hiding places, sexual partners, where to lay their eggs etc., in totality contributing to their ability to transmit and sustain pathogens in the human population, which can be exploited in their control and management. In this 34-chaptered book however, I contributed to chapter 17 titled "Phagostimulants drive the acceptance of a blood meal in disease vectors". The chapter brings together the wealth of knowledge about the dynamics that surround blood-tasting in blood-feeding vectors, a step critical in the final decision to either imbibe or reject a blood meal and the ultimate step in the pathogen transmission to the human host. Herein, a logical connection of the behavioural, neuronal/ physiological, and molecular correlates of how the vectors, and mosquitoes as the exemplar blood-feeding species, uses its sensory mouth parts to detect key blood constituent cues, such as adenine nucleotides, as reliable signals determining the quality and acceptability of a blood



meal. Further still, insights about how the intrinsic and extrinsic factors such as blood group antigens, size of red blood cells, heat, and blood ionic compositions modulate the host meal selection and preference, with concluding remarks about how this valuable information can be used to develop novel taste-based and cost-effective methods to improve the narrow arsenal of existing vector control tools.



Alumni highlight:

Meet Veronichah Masanja who completed her Bsc in Public Health, Class of 2015. She is currently working at Baylor and Ministry Of Health as an Epidemiologist.

Question: How have you applied the skills and values you got from CIU in your community and career?

CIU uses a problem based approach where learning involves real problem solving approaches. I have been able to apply these skills in leadership roles that I have undertaken in my work space.

Most importantly I have often applied those skills in my current role as an Epidemiologist where am faced with real time problems such as infectious disease outbreaks for example COVID-19, Ebola, Yellow fever, Anthrax among others. In the most recent Ebola outbreak, I was deployed as the National surveillance pillar head in Kassanda district before stepping in for the incident when he left. This involved applying patience, leadership and coordination skills to enable me work well with the district task force and pillar heads, as well as the supporting implementing partners.

CIU visits high schools in Outreaches

Empowering the Future: Clarke International University's Inspiring Career Guidance Outreach

In a world that is evolving at an unprecedented pace, the importance of informed career choices cannot be overstated. Recognizing this critical need, Clarke International University (CIU) has taken a proactive approach by reaching out to local high schools, including Seeta High School and Kibuli High School, to provide invaluable career guidance and open doors to a world of possibilities.

The initiative, led by CIU's dedicated staff members and accompanied by enthusiastic university students, aims to inspire young minds and broaden their perspectives on potential career paths. By engaging with students at these high schools, CIU seeks to empower them with the knowledge and insight needed to make well-informed decisions about their higher education and future careers.

Seeta High School and Kibuli High School, two well-regarded institutions in Uganda, played host to this enlightening outreach effort. The CIU team's presence in these schools was a beacon of inspiration, demonstrating the power of collaboration between academia and secondary education in shaping young lives.

The career guidance sessions, facilitated by CIU's experienced faculty members, covered a di-





verse range of fields and professions. From medicine to engineering, business to the arts, the sessions aimed to showcase the myriad of possibilities that await these high school students upon entering the world of higher education. Interactive discussions, presentations, and hands-on activities provided students with a taste of the academic and professional journeys that lie ahead.

What truly sets this initiative apart is the active involvement of CIU students. These university students, who themselves have walked the path of uncertainty when choosing a career, bring a relatable perspective to the outreach events. Their firsthand experiences, challenges, and triumphs create a bridge between the aspirations of high school students and the realities of university life. This peer-to-peer interaction fosters an environment of openness and encourages candid discussions about the highs and lows of pursuing higher education and carving out a meaningful career.

The impact of CIU's career guidance outreach is undeniable, with ripple effects that extend beyond the bounds of a single event. By helping high school students make informed decisions about their future, CIU is fostering a generation of empowered individuals who are more likely to excel in their chosen paths. The engagement also serves as a valuable platform for CIU to showcase its commitment to academic excellence, holistic development, and community engagement.

Furthermore, the outreach efforts have the potential to influence future enrollments at CIU. As the participating high school students gain firsthand exposure to the dynamic environment and dedicated faculty members at CIU, they are more likely to consider the university as their destination for higher education. The relationships fostered during these sessions create a sense of familiarity and trust that can guide their decision-making process when applying to universities.

In an era where educational institutions are not just academic sanctuaries but also pillars of community development, CIU's career guidance outreach exemplifies a holistic approach to education. By investing in the future of young minds and extending a helping hand to local high schools, CIU is embodying its commitment to being a catalyst for positive change.

As the impact of this initiative continues to resonate within Seeta High School, Kibuli High



Dr Ian & Robbie Clarke celebrate 50 years in Marriage

shared goals, and a commitment to making a positive impact, can withstand the test of time. Dr. Ian and Robbie Clarke's legacy is etched not only in the institutions they have built but also in the countless lives they have touched and transformed.

In an age where fleeting trends often overshadow enduring values, the story of Dr. Ian and Robbie Clarke stands as a testament to the power of love, dedication, and the profound impact that a true partnership can have on the world. As they celebrate 50 years of marriage, their journey continues to radiate warmth, hope, and the promise of a better tomorrow.

A Remarkable Journey of Love and Dedication: Dr. Ian and Robbie Clarke Celebrate 50 Years of Marriage

In an era where commitment and enduring love are often challenged, the heartwarming story of Dr. Ian and Robbie Clarke stands as a shining example of an unbreakable bond. This year, in the month of July, the couple, hailing from Ireland but residing in Uganda, joyously celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, marking an astounding five decades of unwavering companionship, shared dreams, and remarkable achievements.

Their love story, deeply rooted in their commitment to each other and their shared vision, began half a century ago. Dr. Ian Clarke, a dedicated physician, and Robbie Clarke, a compassionate educator, found each other amidst their journeys of purpose and service. Their mutual love for making a positive impact on society led them to the fertile lands of Uganda, where they would embark on a journey that would not only shape their lives but also transform the lives of countless others.

Upon their arrival in Uganda, the Clarks were quick to recognize the pressing need for quality healthcare and education in the region. Driven by their shared values and an unyielding determination to make a difference, they established a hospital that would go on to serve as a beacon of hope for the local community. Through years of dedication, their hospital became a sanctuary of healing, providing medical care to those who needed it most.

However, their vision extended beyond healthcare. Recognizing the transformative power of education, the couple established schools that not only provided students with a solid academic foundation but also instilled in them the values of compassion, empathy, and social responsibility. The fruits of their labor were evident as generations of young minds emerged as leaders, each equipped with the tools to drive positive change in their communities.

The Clarks' commitment to education didn't stop at the school level. Their visionary outlook led them to establish Clarke Junior and Clarke International University, institutions that continue to shape the intellectual landscape of Uganda. These universities not only emphasize academic excellence but also emphasize the importance of fostering well-rounded individuals who are not afraid to tackle the complex challenges of the world.

Beyond healthcare and education, the couple's ventures extended into real estate, where they played a pivotal role in developing Uganda's infrastructure. Their contributions have left a lasting mark on the landscape, creating spaces that stand as a testament to their enduring commitment to the country they call home.

While their professional achievements are undoubtedly remarkable, it is their personal journey that truly exemplifies the concept of "couple goals." Walking side by side through every triumph and challenge, Dr. Ian and Robbie Clarke have demonstrated what it truly means to build a life together. Their unwavering support for each other's dreams, their shared values, and their mutual respect have served as the cornerstone of their enduring love story.

As they celebrate their golden anniversary, the Clarks' journey serves as an inspiration to couples around the world. Their story is a reminder that love, when coupled with determination,



Dr Ian & Robbie Clarke celebrating their anniversary with their children and grandchildren



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