



## The Integrated HIV/HTN Consortium Meeting and Dinner 2023

*Kampala, Uganda – March 27<sup>th</sup> 2023*

The Integrated HIV/HTN Consortium Meeting was held at the Infectious Diseases Research Collaboration (IDRC) Nakasero Office. The aim of the meeting was to bring together collaborators; IDRC, Ministry of Health of Uganda (MoH), Uganda Heart Institute (UHI), London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and Makerere University who are involved in the HIV and hypertension project to discuss and review progress made towards achieving the project objectives.

The meeting began with opening remarks from the principal investigator, Ms. Jane Kabami, who highlighted the importance of addressing the burden of HIV and hypertension in Uganda and the progress made thus far. The consortium members then gave updates on their respective tasks, highlighting successes, challenges encountered and proposed solutions.

The meeting also featured presentations from expert speakers on topics such as hypertension management in HIV patients, research methodologies and ethical considerations. The presentations were followed by engaging discussions and questions from the consortium members, which stimulated meaningful conversations and generated innovative ideas on how to address the challenges faced by the project.

The meeting culminated in the formulation of an action plan that outlined clear objectives, tasks and timelines to guide the project towards achieving its goals. The consortium members expressed their commitment to the project and their willingness to collaborate and contribute towards making a positive impact in the lives of people living with HIV and hypertension in Uganda.

“On behalf of IDRC we welcome the consortium members to this meeting. We are so proud of this consortium and the achievements it has made. We started this project under harsh conditions of covid-19 but we were able to put up SOPs that allowed us to continue working safely and continue working towards achieving the project objectives. We really look forward to the discussions on how we are going to continue delivering in Year 4.” Ms. Catherine Tugaineyo, from IDRC.

The meeting was followed by a celebratory dinner that took place in honour of Professor Heiner Grosskurth, who is retiring from his role in the consortium. The event was a grand affair, attended by consortium partners. The dinner was a fitting tribute to Professor Grosskurth, who has been instrumental in pioneering ground breaking research in the field of HIV and HTN.



The dinner was hosted to recognize Professor Grosskurth's relentless efforts in advancing the study of these two complex diseases. His vast experience and leadership have helped shape the consortium into a leading medical research group, providing much-needed support and resources to researchers in the Integrated HIV/HTN project.

The evening, filled with good food and drinks, was a time to reminisce and reflect on the Professor's remarkable achievements over many years. It was also a chance to celebrate the culmination of years of hard work and dedication to solving the challenges posed by these complex diseases that affect millions of people worldwide.

There were emotional testimonials and speeches given by the attendees added to the grandeur of the occasion, highlighting the Professor's lasting legacy and contribution to the medical world.

The Integrated HIV/HTN consortium dinner was a fitting celebration of Professor Heiner Grosskurth's long and illustrious career. As he moves on to the next phase of his life, his contributions to the field of medicine will always be remembered and cherished, inspiring future generations of medical professionals to take up the challenge of fighting HIV and HTN.

The consortium meeting was a successful and productive gathering that provided an opportunity for stakeholders to review progress made, identify challenges, and develop solutions to improve the HIV and hypertension project. With continued support and collaboration, the project is poised to make significant progress in the fight against coexisting HIV and hypertension in Uganda.



*Figure 1: Principal Investigator, Jane Kabami on the left. Ms. Joan Nangendo, Makerere University representative on the right*



Figure 2: Consortium partners at the Integrated HIV/HTN Consortium Meeting



Figure 3: Professor Heiner Grosskurth receives gift from consortium partners at the Integrated HIV/HTN Consortium Dinner



INTEGRATED HIV/HTN (Leveraging the HIV Platform for Hypertension Control in Uganda) is a five-year project funded by the Second European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP2) Grant Number: CSA2018HS-2518 to test the effectiveness of an integrated HIV/HTN care model in 26 districts in south western Uganda. This project is implemented by a consortium led by the Infectious Diseases Research Collaboration (IDRC) in collaboration with, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), the Uganda Heart Institute (UHI), the Ministry of Health Uganda (MoH) and Makerere University.

Learn more about INTEGRATED HIV/HTN on the project website: <http://integratedhivhtn.idrc-uganda.org/index.html>