Blantyre-Blantyre Clinical Research Facility

M Mipando
Kamuzu University of Health Sciences
Fast facts

a) Collaboration btwn KUHeS (formerly CoM)& University of Glasgow to establish a fully internationally accredited clinical research facility
https://www.gla.ac.uk/researchinstitutes/iii/wcip/blantyreblantytheresearchfacility/

b) The lab will allow researchers to compare the causes of poor health & low life expectancy in both Blantyre, Scotland and Blantyre, Malawi.

➢ the lab name – Blantyre Blantyre.
Fast facts

c) ‘One-stop’ laboratory facility.
   • Research & diagnostic service
   • PG Training
   • IGA

d) Funding
   - £1M (Scottish Govt)
   - £0.5M in equipment (World Bank)
   - £0.5M in trainings (Wellcome Trust)
   - CoM provided the lab & office space etc
Milestones

a) Recruitment of key personnel
b) Training of staff
c) Refurbishment of the lab space
d) Procurement of state of art equipment
e) Solar energy installed
f) Research studies commenced
MANAGEMENT TEAM

Kamuzu University of Health Sciences
• Dr Mwapatsa Mipando (Project Director)
• Dr George Chirambo (Project Manager)
• Mr Dikani Salema (Lab Manager)
• Mr Youngson Ghambi (Commercial Manager)

University of Glasgow
• Prof Paul Garside, (Project Director) & Dean for Global Engagement (Africa & Middle East)
• Prof Andy Waters (Project Director) & Director Wellcome Trust Centre for Integrative Parasitology
• Ms Alex Mackay (Project Administrator) Wellcome Centre for Integrative Parasitology
Main lab
Office space for staff
Reception area

Staff locker area
 Highlights

• ‘Public’ research facility.
• Internationally accredited facility.
• Open to any KUHeS and international researchers at a cost
• Sustainable Business plan
• Exemplar clean energy i.e solar power
• The European Commission Directorate General for Research and Innovation chose Bt-Bt project as a collaborative research best practice between African and European institutions
Highlights

• Instrumentation
  - Chem & Heam analyzers
  - Luminex
  - Access 2 immunoassay (Beckman)
  - Live cell imaging microscopy
  - ELIspot reader
    - Storage space (-80°C, Liquid Nitrogen and normal Freezers)
Power systems

a) Gen set - 25kV

b) Solar power – 30kW
Solar panels on the roof of the facility
Power packs & Monitoring system
Current studies

1. Immunogenicity study
   • An Observational Cohort Study of T-cells, Antibodies and **Vaccine Effectiveness** against SARS-CoV-2 in Malawi.
   • Lead - Dr Mipando

2. Dyslipidaemia in diabetic & Hypertension patients at QECH
   . Lead – Dr Katundu
Thank You!

Zikomo!