



The Health Services, Implementation Research and Clinical Excellence Collaboration (SIRCLE) is a Consortium for National Health Research supported CoRe established in 2011 in the form of collaboration between KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme, the University of Nairobi, College of Health Sciences and the Ministry of Medical Services. SIRCLE's core activities are:

- To synthesise evidence to get research evidence into: Policies and Practice;
- To assess and improve Health Service Delivery;
- To promote Quality of Care and Uptake of Recommended Health Interventions.

### CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

The main research capacity strengthening achievement for SIRCLE during its funding period has been to provide training for young researchers drawn from or linked to the University of Nairobi, College of Health Sciences and the Ministry of Health. Funding enabled six trainees to work with SIRCLE for two and a half years during which they received formal training and undertook supervised research to build practical skills. In addition, SIRCLE was able to link its work with those of two CNHR funded post-doctoral fellows.

#### Philip Ayieko (MSc; PhD)



Philip holds a Master's degree in epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and a PhD from the University of Amsterdam. His main research focus is on the development of quality of hospital care measures in the MNCH arena that could be used to monitor service provision by county hospitals in Kenya.

#### Anticipated impact of research:

- To define appropriate approaches for analysing routinely collected hospital data.
- To build capacity for analysis of routinely reported data by personnel at the Ministry of Health.
- To promote use of routine data for monitoring service provision of Maternal Newborn and Child Health care.

#### Newton Opiyo (BSc; MSc; PhD)



Newton holds a BSc in Nursing from the University of Nairobi, an MSc in epidemiology from the University of London, and a PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Oslo. His research interests are evidence synthesis, systematic reviews and clinical practice guidelines as means of knowledge translation.

Newton's main focus of research is supporting the use of research evidence in newborn and child health policies and practices in Kenya. He has successfully led the development of several national guideline development approaches in Kenya and helped introduce the GRADE approach to Kenyan policy making.

#### Jalemba Aluvaala (MBChB; Mmed)



Jalemba is a Clinical Research Fellow (Paediatrics) in SIRCLE. He holds a Master of Medicine (MMed) in Paediatrics and Child Health from the University of Nairobi. He served as a medical officer for two years with the Ministry of Health prior to his MMed and as a paediatrician in a district hospital for 2 years prior to joining SIRCLE.

His current duties at SIRCLE focus on Health Systems Research focusing on quality of hospital care for sick newborns. He has completed a MSc in Epidemiology at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine supported by the SIRCLE Collaboration and has contributed to policy reviews on umbilical cord care. He led work on newborn quality of care surveys for the Ministry of Health and was recently awarded a small research grant by Kenyatta National Hospital for similar research within the hospital.

#### Jamlick Karumbi (Bpharm)



Jamlick is a Ministry of Health Pharmacist who joined SIRCLE as a research trainee and an honorary Tutorial Fellow, University of Nairobi. He holds a Bachelor of Pharmacy Degree from the University of Nairobi, and will soon complete a MSc in Epidemiology at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine supported by the SIRCLE Collaboration. His work supported development of new evidence based policy in newborn health and his current

work at SIRCLE is evidence synthesis linked to the Cochrane Infectious Diseases Group.

#### Elesban Kihuba (MBChB)



Elesban is a Research Medical Officer with the SIRCLE Collaboration and holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery from Moi University. He was a medical officer and subsequently a hospital medical superintendent while working for 4 years with MoH prior to joining SIRCLE.

He is currently undertaking a Master of Public Health (Health Systems theme) course at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine supported by the SIRCLE Collaboration. His research theme within SIRCLE has been to explore the performance of the existing health information systems and identify opportunities for improving the generation and use of hospital data and linking this to data on financing in support of policy and planning.

With his SIRCLE Colleagues he was part of the team that developed and conducted surveys in 22 hospitals nationally in 2012 with the MoH.

#### Babu Mwinga (MBChB)



Babu joined SIRCLE as a Research Medical Officer. He holds an MB.ChB from the University of Nairobi and was a medical officer in a district hospital setting for 3 years prior to joining the SIRCLE group. He has undertaken a part-time MPH (Health Systems Management theme) at Kenyatta University as part of his training.

Babu developed a paediatric audit tool adopted by the Ministry of Health as its recommended standard and examined its introduction in a public hospital. He subsequently worked with senior staff at MoH to develop quality indicators for adult medical and surgical inpatient care and led work on assessing the quality of this care as part of the SIRCLE survey in 22 hospitals in 2012.

#### Rose Kosgei (MBChB; Mmed)



Rose joined the SIRCLE team as a Clinical Research Fellow based at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Nairobi. She holds an MB.ChB from Moi University, and a MMed (Obstetrics and Gynaecology) from the University of Nairobi. Having completed a MSc in Clinical Trials by distance learning from LSHTM she undertook training within SIRCLE in qualitative and health services research methods.

Rose worked with senior staff at MoH to develop quality indicators for inpatient maternal and obstetric care and led work on assessing the quality of this care as part of the SIRCLE survey in 22 hospitals in 2012. Rose has presented her work to the Kenya Obstetrics and Gynaecological Society and was recently appointed as a full lecturer in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Nairobi.

#### Mercy Mulaku Ludahuli (Bpharm)



Mercy is a Tutorial Fellow at the School of Pharmacy, University of Nairobi and a trainee within the SIRCLE team. She holds a Bachelor of Pharmacy from the University of Nairobi, and will soon complete her MSc in Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine supported by SIRCLE Collaboration. Mercy's work led to the development of a new national policy on treatment of childhood sickle cell disease and has been published in an international journal. She intends to continue working on improving evidence based practice with a specific interest in sickle cell disease.