

The AMAG Steering Committee 2007



Elizabeth Bukusi

Dr Bukusi is a principal Research Officer at the Kenya Medical Research Institute. Elizabeth also holds an honorary faculty appointment in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Nairobi, a professional Research position at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Washington and a Research Administrator position at the

University of California San Francisco.

She has worked in clinical research since 1995 and is passionate about reproductive health concerns and prevention of STI's including HIV, especially among young/vulnerable women in Africa. She served on the DSMB for UCSF's multi site MIRA study, and currently serves on the DSMB for CAPRISA's microbicide trial. She also serves on the WHO Reproductive health country development program since 2002 and on the International Medical Advisory Panel of IPPF since 2005. Elizabeth trained for her medical degree and her masters of Medicine in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Nairobi and earned her degree in Public health and PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Washington.

Manju Chatani

Manju coordinates the African Microbicides Advocacy Group (AMAG). She was part of the team that co-founded AMAG in 2003. She has been active in international microbicides advocacy for the last seven years. Her early projects included: mainstreaming microbicides into the larger HIV/AIDS discussion; mapping microbicides-related research & advocacy in Africa and Asia; training journalists and advocates to report on and critique microbicides-related trends; and leading e-advocacy initiatives.



Manju has worked in AIDS for over 12 years now. Prior to AMAG, she worked with Health & Development Networks (HDN, Pretoria & Chiang Mai) as a Programme manager, managing several project teams, facilitating networking amongst the international civil society involved in HIV/AIDS work - enhancing advocacy, networking, and information-sharing through online tools. Before that: she worked with Fondation du Present in Geneva, moderating forums and leading HIV-conference reporting teams; in Ghana as a community mobilizer, specifically with GHANET and SWAA-Ghana, and as a case-manager in an AIDS Service Organization, the Life Foundation in Hawaii. Manju has Master's degree in Public Health, and is based in her hometown in Accra, Ghana - as an HIV/AIDS consultant.



Kim Dickson

Dr. Kim Eva Dickson is a Medical Officer in the HIV Department of the World Health Organisation, Geneva. She is the focal person for emerging prevention technologies in the Prevention in the Health Sector (PHS) Unit of the HIV Department. Before joining the World Health Organisation she was DFID's HIV/AIDS Advisor in Nigeria, prior to this she worked for several years as a DFID Technical Cooperation Officer seconded to the Reproductive Health and HIV Research Unit of the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa.

Dr. Dickson has been involved in microbicides work since 1997. She has worked as a research physician and co investigator on microbicide trials in South Africa. She is also a keen advocate for microbicides; she chaired the Global Campaign for Microbicides Steering Committee from 2004 to 2007, and is the current chair of the African Microbicides Advocacy Group Steering Committee. Dr Dickson was a Conference Co Chair for the 2006 Microbicides conference held in South Africa and is currently the Track D Co Chair for Microbicides 2008. Dr Dickson also has a background in reproductive health technologies and programmes introduction at national level; she led programme development and implementation for the female condom and manual vacuum aspiration in South Africa.

Bernice Heloo

Bernice is the President of International Society of Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA – International). She also directs an NGO in Ghana, Pro-Link.



Miriam Katende

Miriam worked with TASO in Uganda for many years. She now works with CEDEP in Abuja, Nigeria.

Chidi Nweneka

Dr Nweneka has a Medical background with specialisation in Paediatrics. He is also a certified HIV/AIDS Physician from the IDSA/AAAPA/Makerere University (now Infectious Diseases Institute, Kampala). Currently, he works with the UK Medical Research Council, in The Gambia as a Research Clinician, and



also heads the Clinical Services of Keneba Field Station. Chidi's research interests are Malaria, HIV and Reproductive health. His major work on Microbicide research has been looking at the acceptability of microbicides among professionals. Professionally, he is a member of the Infectious Disease Society of America/HIV Medicine Association, and the Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics. In the civil society, he volunteers for a number of organisations working with various vulnerable groups. He also serves as the Technical Adviser to Pro-Hope International, The Gambia, assistant co-ordinator of the Gambia Microbicide Advocacy Group, and a member of the Civil Society Working Group for the Microbicide Development Strategy. He was a member of the Rivers State (Nigeria) team that designed the State Action Plan against HIV/AIDS in 2002, and a member of the UNICEF/FGN research team for the prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV, Port Harcourt Unit. Chidi is also a member of the Rotary Club of Banjul, Board of Directors of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency, The Gambia, and a member of the Central Working Committee of the Gambia Mission of Seventh-Day Adventists. His hobbies include travelling, music, reading, community service and tennis.



Susan Thevar

Susan is the Organizational Development Manager for the Gender AIDS Forum in South Africa. She has a B.Com degree and is currently studying towards Honors in B. Com Business Management. Susan is trained as an Accountant and is a member of Institute of Commercial and Financial Accountants. She has been with the Gender AIDS Forum for 3 years.

Morenike Ukpog

Dr Ukpog is a Paedodontist by training. She currently co-coordinates the Nigerian HIV Vaccine & Microbicides Advocacy Group (NHVMAG). She has been active in microbicides and HIV vaccine advocacy for the last seven years, and now focuses on coordinating the Nigerian network of researchers and community advocates; mainstreaming microbicides and HIV vaccine into the larger HIV/AIDS discussion; mapping HIV Vaccine and microbicides-related research & advocacy in the country; leading advocacy initiatives; mobilizing civil society groups on preparing for HIV vaccine and microbicides advocacy; and ensuring community has a role in providing ethical oversight for NPT researches conducted in the country. She was involved with the drafting of the 2005-2009 National HIV/AIDS Strategic Framework. Her efforts and role as an adept NPT advocates has helped placed Nigeria and NHVMAG on the regional and international scene. She is an author of many technical reports and articles published in internationally reputable journals. She currently works a senior lecturer with the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife and as a consultant with its affiliated teaching hospital.

