

The 2009-2010 AVAC-GCM HIV Prevention Research Advocacy Fellows
Updated November 6, 2009

1. Alliance Nikuze, *Institute of Human Virology of the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM-IHV), Rwanda*



Alliance was born on 25 October 1982 in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where she did her high school in biochemistry before going to Rwanda to complete her studies in biological sciences. She has been working with church members/leaders to empower them, and to support linkages between churches, hospitals and community clinics to increase access to healthcare, promote health and prevent diseases. Alliance currently works for the Institute of Human Virology, an institution with extensive

experience in HIV/AIDS, which supports three initiatives in Rwanda with funding from PEPFAR.

Alliance is so keen about the fight against HIV/AIDS because it touches her passionately. Three members of her family died of AIDS. She believes continuous commitment of government, organizations and individuals will help to continue slowing the pandemic, as the case has been in Rwanda where such efforts have brought HIV prevalence to two to three times lower than they were 10 years ago. She is interested in HIV biomedical prevention interventions because of their potential to empower women.

Alliance's Fellowship project will be centered on male circumcision (MC), an intervention planned to be implemented at the national level in Rwanda as an additional HIV prevention strategy. MC is not a generalized practice in Rwandan communities and its cost is not affordable for the poorest. She'll look at issues of acceptability of MC and involvement of partners in health – both crucial issues for the successful implementation of this strategy.

2. Caroline Odada, *Women Fighting Aids in Kenya (WOFAK), Kenya*



A second born in a family of seven children, Caroline was born on 5 February, 1976 in Mombasa, Kenya. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in geography and biology, and is currently enrolled at the Moi University for an ongoing Postgraduate degree in sociology. She has worked in the corporate world, and the civil society, and has developed extensive skills in lobbying and advocacy. She currently works for Women Fighting AIDS in Kenya (WOFAK) as a Program Assistant on thematic areas of prevention, capacity building, care and support, advocacy, networking and collaborations.

Caroline has keen interest in epidemiology, HIV and AIDS – its prevention strategies, mitigation and advocacy as a crosscutting issue around it. In her Fellowship, she'll conduct mobilization, sensitization, outreaches and training of the fisher folk population of Lake Region on microbicides and male circumcision.

3. **Gift Trapence**, *Centre for the Development of People (CEDEP), Malawi*



Gift is a Programs Manager for Centre for CEDEP, a Malawian Non Governmental organization working on Sexual health and human rights of minority groups. He is an HIV/AIDS and human rights activist especially on issues of sexual minorities. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in development studies. Gift has worked extensively on men who have sex with men (MSM) sexual health and HIV prevention projects since 2005. He contributed to the pioneering of the first HIV Sero prevalence study among the MSM community in Malawi. He was one of the principal investigators of this MSM study which was published in PLUS ONE, an online journal. The publication can be

accessed on <http://dx.plos.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0004997>

In this fellowship program, Gift is interested in assessing the feasibility and acceptability of certain biomedical prevention strategies such as rectal microbicides, male circumcision and HIV vaccines among MSM in Malawi and also to advocate for MSM inclusion in studies by researchers. Gift likes reading informative publications, watching football and visiting friends.

4. **Jauhara Nanyondo**, *Makerere University Walter Reed Program (MUWRP), Uganda*



Jauhara was born on 27 July, 1979, in Kampala, Uganda. She holds a bachelor's degree in Adult and Community Education, and has five years working experience in public health. She joined the Makerere University Walter Reed Project (MUWRP) as a Research Assistant/Counselor, and was part of a team that successfully recruited and retained over 2000 cohort participants. Currently, she's part the program's community outreach department where she's charged with mobilization and sensitization of different stakeholders including; community leaders, health professionals, media and community advisory boards (CABs) in relation to HIV vaccine research. Previously, Jauhara worked with Plan Uganda and the Makerere University Case Western University as a community mobilization volunteer and a home visitor. She has reached diverse communities during efforts to build HIV vaccine literacy and drafted CAB by-laws to streamline operations of the CAB.

In her Fellowship, Jauhara will develop a standard training curriculum on HIV vaccine research for the media in Uganda. The media is a strong advocacy tool, and she strongly believes that with standard training, an informed community base of advocates for HIV vaccine research and other new HIV prevention technologies can be built in Uganda. Over

the past 5 years, she has developed a passion to advocate for the acceleration of the search and development of these technologies especially those that can be used in Africa.

5. Magret Cynthia Mungofa, Zimbabwe Women Against HIV/AIDS, Poverty and Violence (ZWAAPV), Zimbabwe



The eldest in a family of four, and a mother of three (two boys; Sacha, 16 years, Zivai, 11 and a girl; Tendayi, 10, Magret Cynthia Mungofa was born on 3 October 1968 in Zimbabwe. She holds a BSc (Hons) degree in Politics and Administration from the University of Zimbabwe and a Masters degree in Development Administration from the Australian National University. She currently works as a Program Manager at ZWAAPV. Cynthia is also a keen publisher, and has written several articles including;

“The Corporate Public Sector” and *“Tapping the Economy’s Hidden Potential”* (*Business Herald*); *“Performance Management in the Public Service”* and *“Budget 2000: Some Lessons”* (*Financial Gazette*), and *“Gender Dimensions of HIV/AIDS”* (*Gender Forum Magazine*).

Previously, Cynthia worked for the Public Service Commission, IRED-Development Innovations and Networks (an international NGO) and the Zimbabwean Ministry of Youth Development, Gender and Employment Creation. She has also served as chair or co-chair on several committees including: the Interministerial Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law; Millennium Development Goals Task Force; Provincial AIDS Action Committee and the Zimbabwe United Nations Development Assistance Framework (ZUNDAF).

In her Fellowship project, Cynthia will conduct an audit on ongoing biomedical HIV prevention in Zimbabwe, and will specifically target commercial sex workers.

6. Patrick Mwai Muchai, Kenya AIDS NGO’s Consortium (KANCO), Kenya



Patrick has been involved in HIV prevention programs with Kenya AIDS NGOs Consortium (KANCO) for the past four years and his passion has been working with the community to understand their reproductive health problems and partnering with them in seeking solutions by involving them in participatory education.

Patrick currently serves as the Chairperson of the Kenya Medical Research Institute-University of Washington Community Advisory Board (CAB) in Coast Province, and is the coordinator of the Coast Vaccine Support Network in Kenya which is supported

by IAVI. In this capacity, he links the research institutions and the community by repackaging the information on HIV Vaccine awareness in an easy to understand language.

A graduate of the University of Nairobi, Patrick holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree majoring in Sociology and Communication. He also holds a Diploma in Management Information Systems from Strathmore University-Nairobi.

For the Fellowship, Patrick's main interest is in community advocacy where he seeks to develop a curriculum to educate Kenyan men who have sex with men (MSM) and female sex workers about participation in clinical trials of microbicides, PrEP and HIV vaccines. He'll also work with CABs to document their involvement in research, use workplace structures to reach community members as well as document beliefs of the local community in relation to clinical trials. He'll then conduct forums to develop messages in Kiswahili to address these beliefs and in the process form new coalitions to advocate for more education of minority groups.

7. Richard Hasunira, HEPS-Uganda, Uganda



Richard wears many hats. He's an economist, policy analyst, journalist, and passionate HIV/AIDS advocate. He's currently a Communication Manager at HEPS-Uganda, a health rights advocacy civil society organization. He holds a bachelor's degree in Arts, an MA in economic policy and planning, and other qualifications in journalism, communication and business management. He's experienced in writing for the media on issues of policy, health and the economy as journalist, editor and publisher. He has been team leader of policy advocacy research studies for the International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC) and the Regional Network for Equity in Health in East and Southern Africa (EQUINET) for past several years. Richard's advocacy work for HIV prevention research started in 2007 when he was part of a media and advocacy mapping study for new prevention research in Uganda. He is keen on biomedical research into microbicides because of the hope they offer women, who remain vulnerable to, and are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS.

In his fellowship, Richard will investigate and analyze the effects, on the community, of the closure of the phase III clinical trial MDP 301 of microbicide candidate PRO 2000/5. One arm was stopped in February 2008, but the results of the second arm are expected in November 2009.

Note: Additional fellows will be confirmed by the end of 2009.