participants are encouraged to share their experiences on the
week’s topic, offer advice to one another, and set goals which are
specific, realistic, and attainable during the span of a week. Medical
students facilitate the group, which is further sustained through
partnership with a Community Health Worker associated with
CommunityHealth.

Outcome and Evaluation: An IRB approved survey study is
underway to determine if attending Grupo de Bienestar para
Mujeres increases participants’ confidence and motivation for health
behavior change. Initial results suggest an increase in confidence
associated with goal attainment and number of participant identified
sources of motivation.

Going Forward: Ongoing challenges include expanding recruit-
ment and sustaining long-term participant involvement. Unmet
goals include using objective measures to evaluate 1) growth in
participant knowledge, 2) improvements in individual and commu-
nity health, and 3) the effects of group support on goal attainment.
Future program activities will be directed at using feedback to
improve the Grupo de Bienestar para Mujeres and also to offer
this model to similar community based organizations.

Funding: SSOM CCGH 2015, Albert Schweitzer Fellowship
2014-2015.

Abstract #: 1.035_MDG

A retrospective chart review of treatment initiation and
outcomes following antiretroviral therapy (ART) delivery at
the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH) HIV clinic in
Kumasi, Ghana

Q. Heyward1, V. Brown1, B. Norman2, R. Reece1, A. Rana1; 1The
Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Providence, RI,
USA, 2Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Kumasi, Ghana

Background: There is no doubt that global access to anti-retroviral
medications has certainly helped to curb the HIV/AIDS epidemic,
but what is still open to interpretation is how successful we are at the
individual level in resource limited settings.

Methods: We reviewed the charts of patients who enrolled in care
at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH) HIV clinic in
Kumasi, Ghana in 2004. We collected information on demo-
graphics, clinical statuses at presentation, and treatment histories
over a 10 year period. We calculated descriptive statistics including
means, standard deviations, and percentages to describe various
characteristics and treatment outcomes (gaps in care, regimen
changes, loss to follow up) of this cohort.

Findings: Of a reported 1200+ people enrolled in 2004, we reviewed
charts for 474 (~40%). The average age was 39 years (range 15-90).
435/448 (97%) had disclosed their statuses at the time of enrollment.
201/439 (46%) were married and 100/439 (23%) were widowed.
Clinically, 54/459 (12%) were co-infected with tuberculosis, and
256/439 (58%) met WHO stage 3 or 4 criteria at enrollment. The
mean CD4 count at presentation to the clinic was 206 cells/uL (range
1-1278). 450/469 (96%) started ARTs during the study period with
a mean time from diagnosis to initiation of ART being 8 months
(range 1-98). 144/458 (31%) were discovered to have had no regimen
changes during this period, 99/458 (22%) had one change, 88/458
(19%) had two changes, and 127/458 (28%) had three or more
changes. Reasons for the initial switch included treatment failure
(26%), drug stockouts (14%), and drug toxicity (48%). Additionally,
204/457 (45%) had at least one gap in care (range 7-70 months)
and 74/467 (16%) were lost to follow up.

Interpretation: Over this 10 year period following the introduc-
tion of ARTs, there was a high percentage of patients experiencing
regimen changes, gaps in care, and loss to follow up. This highlights
the fact that simply providing ARTs is not enough to curb the HIV/
AIDs epidemic in resource limited settings.

Funding: The Warren Alpert Medical School Summer Assistant-
ship Grant ($3500).

Abstract #: 1.035_MDG

Delivering early essential newborn care training in Rural
Mongolia: an on-the-ground perspective

S. Hunter1, H. Ong1, D. Warburton1, B. Bayagalantai2, J. Badarch2;
1Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA, USA, 2Mongolian
National University of Medical Sciences, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Background: The under-five mortality rate in Mongolia has fallen
74% over the past 20 years, yet the fall in neonatal mortality rate has
lagged behind. Moreover, the country has seen a disparity in the
reduction in neonatal deaths across socioeconomic lines. The
WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and the Mongolian Ministry of Health
together have developed the Early Essential Newborn Care (EENC)
program to train local physicians on neonatal resuscitation
and routine newborn care. This program was implemented in 2014
with a goal of reducing the country’s neonatal mortality rate by half
by 2020. Objectives include sharing the perspective of two Mongo-
lian physicians on the front lines of this nation-wide program and
taking an in-depth look at the barriers in improving newborn
mortality in Bayan-Ölgii, an area with one the highest neonatal
mortality rates in the country.

Methods: This is a qualitative investigation by two physicians from
the US who served as independent observers to a three-day EENC
training program in Bayan-Ölgii. A neonatologist and an obstetri-
cian who led the program were interviewed. Pre and post-test
data was collected from 12 participants using a standardized set of
12 questions including questions about routine newborn care and
neonatal asphyxia.

Findings: Pre and post-test results (N=12) were 51.2% and 88.6%
respectively. Strengths of the program include: (1)use of multiple
modalities including didactic sessions and simulations, (2)inclusion
of various stakeholders including hospital administrators (3)
EENC use of the scale-up strategy, training physicians who subse-
quently train healthcare providers in lower level facilities. Challenges
include: (1)frequency of EENC training programs are dependent on
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geographical accessibility of the program, (3)limitations in personnel
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include: (1)frequency of EENC training programs are dependent on
the involvement of the local provincial department of health, (2)poor
geographical accessibility of the program, (3)limitations in personnel
allocation within the hospital during the program.
Interpretation: The EENC course provided a structured training program in rural Mongolia, which in this setting may prove an effective method of teaching neonatal care and resuscitation to both medical and non-medical personnel. The effectiveness of the training program must be assessed continuously on a larger scale.

Funding: Research supported by the NIH award 5D43ES022862 and the Children’s Hospital Los Angeles Global Health resident track.

Abstract #: 1.036_MDG

Impact of President’s Malaria Initiative on all-cause child mortality from 1996 to 2014: a difference-in-differences analysis

A. Jakubowski1,2, S.C. Stearns1, H. Thirumurthi1,2; 1Department of Health Policy and Management, Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, USA, 2Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, USA

Background: Since its launch in 2005, the U.S. President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI) expanded by 2012 to an annual budget of over $600 million in 19 sub-Saharan countries. PMI has financed the provision of evidence-based malaria interventions, including insecticide treated nets (ITNs), indoor residual spraying (IRS), and artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs), with the goal of reducing malaria-related mortality. Despite considerable investment, no studies have evaluated population-level impacts of PMI on use of malaria prevention technologies and child mortality.

Methods: We used individual-level data from 99 Demographic and Health Surveys conducted in 36 countries in sub-Saharan Africa between 1996 and 2014 to assess the likelihood of mortality before 5 years of age. We conducted a separate analysis using an annual country-level data on use of ITNs, IRS and ACTs between 2000-2014 from the Malaria Atlas Project. A difference-in-differences (DD) methodology was used to compare trends in PMI recipient vs. non-recipient countries and determine the impact of PMI. Models were adjusted for whether countries received support from the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and included country and year fixed effects. Standard errors were clustered at the country-level.

Findings: Our sample consisted of 7,945,703 person-year observations for children aged ≤5 years and 688 country-year observations of population’s coverage of ITNs, IRS and ACTs. DD results showed that PMI led to a significantly lower risk of mortality among children aged ≤5 years (odds ratio, OR, 0.83, 95% CI 0.73-0.93). This result persisted in models that controlled for PEPFAR (OR 0.82, CI 0.73-0.92). Lastly, we found that populations in PMI-recipient countries had 10 percentage points higher coverage of ITNs (P<0.01) and 6 percentage points more child fever cases treated with ACTs (P<0.001) than populations in non-recipient countries.

Interpretation: PMI led to a large reduction in all-cause child mortality in analyses that compared trends in recipient and non-recipient countries. This impact may have been due to increased use of malaria prevention strategies implemented with PMI support and was robust to controlling for PEPFAR. Our results should be interpreted with caution, as we did not fully account for all aid in the region; future research should address this limitation.

Funding: None.

Abstract #: 1.037_MDG

Social capital and networks and retention to HIV care among people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH) in Tanzania

S. Jong1, L. Thompson1, H. Siril1, D. Urassa3; 1University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, USA, 2Management and Development for Health (MDH), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 3Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Health, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Background: Mobile technology has become a promising communication and educational platform for both health care providers and patients. Mobile phone messages have been used to provide reminders to patients about medication adherence and medical appointments. While retention to care is a significant predictor for HIV health outcomes, this study aims to understand HIV patients’ social capital and networks and retention to care in relation to their use of mobile text messages (SMS).

Methods: A cross-sectional research study conducted among 163 HIV patients attending five outpatient HIV clinics in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania between August and September in 2015. Conveniently sampled study participants were mostly women (78%) and the average age was 41.9 years (range, 22-77). Trained research assistants administered questionnaires in Swahili and HIV biological markers and retention to care records were extracted from medical records.

Results: The study data is currently being analyzed using Stata version 12. Following research hypothesis will be presented: HIV patients with higher social capital and strong social networks 1) engage in HIV care with higher CD4 counts and lower WHO HIV/AIDS stages 2) stay in HIV care and less missed appointments. 3) have better quality of life (assessed by SF-12)

Content analysis on HIV patients use of mobile phone and text messages revealed that PLWH’s closest social networks were identified as immediate family members, followed by extended friends and relatives. Approximately 20% of the participants reported no use of SMS due to ‘vision problems’, ‘prefer calling’, or ‘not accustomed to SMS’. Seventy-three percent of participants sent none to 10 SMS over one week. Affordability, accessibility, and privacy are the top three stated reasons for preferring SMS.

Implications: SMS is an affordable and well-accepted mode of communication among this sample of Tanzanians living with HIV. SMS can be used to improve PLWH’s knowledge about the management of their chronic health status, retention and engagement to care.

Funding: None.

Abstract #: 1.038_MDG