

5TH MEPI SYMPOSIUM

THEME- Sustaining MEPI Achievements: Leadership Built, Lessons Learnt and Partnerships Created towards an AIDS Free Generation

Harare – Zimbabwe, July 14-16 2015

The Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI) is a five year project (2010-2015) funded by PEPFAR through the office of the US Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC) in the State Department and by National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Human Resources for Services Administration (HRSA). The project provides funding to 13 sub-Saharan African medical schools that are included in of consortia 32 African institutions and 20 institutions from US and UK.

The goals of MEPI are a) to increase the capacity (number and quality) of medical graduates and specialists b) increase their retention in their countries c) implement country/regional relevant research. This 5th MEPI symposium was held at Rainbow Towers Hotel in Harare between July 14, 2015 and July 16, 2015. The theme for this year's symposium was "Sustaining MEPI Achievements: Leadership Built, Lessons Learnt and Partnerships Created towards an AIDS Free Generation". During the 5 years of the MEPI program, it had been observed that MEPI had influenced major transformations in the following areas; education innovations, retention strategies, translating research, impact on health systems, achieving an AIDS free generation and leveraging leadership. During the meeting, participants shared experiences, challenges, best practices and lessons learnt from education innovations. Participants learnt about retention strategies adopted by various universities and discussed additional measures that could be adopted to combat this problem. Participants also discussed steps to be taken to enhance and support regionally relevant research and were able to link MEPI interventions and their impact on health systems. During the symposium, participants also shared what had been done in the area of AIDS prevention, care and treatment and demonstrated the leadership that has contributed to the outstanding outcomes of MEPI.



Prof Kibwage leading the plenary session

The University of Nairobi (UON) team of participants was led by Prof Isaac O. Kibwage who is the Principal Investigator for the University of Nairobi MEPI program and also the Principal, College of Health Sciences which houses the Kenyan MEPI program. During the meeting Prof Kibwage moderated two sessions; The Community Based Education breakout session and the plenary session on Translating MEPI Research. He also led a workshop discussion on research capacity in MEPI schools. Dr Onesmus Gachuno gave two presentations; 1) PRONTO simulation training and 2) Impact of UON MEPI program on health outcomes in Kenya. Prof Ruth Nduati gave a presentation on decentralized clinical training that is being

implemented at the UON while Prof Dalton Wamalwa talked about decentralized research at UON and Dr Julius Oyugi presented on availing research resources for faculty retention at UON. Prof James Machoki presented the UON research grants management information towards a vibrant research enterprise. Mr Francis Njiri moderated the discussion on the evaluating the impact of the MEPI program in Africa through the Monitoring and Evaluation technical working group. As partners of the UON MEPI program, Prof Sylvia Ojoo from University of Maryland gave a presentation on transformative medical education partnership between her university and UON while Prof Carey Farquhar from University of Washington talked about bilateral benefits and sustainable initiatives realized through partnership with UON in the MEPI program. This meeting was also attended by senior US government officials including NIH and HRSA program officers, Fogarty Director Dr Roger Glass, a representative of the current OGAC director and the immediate former director of OGAC ambassador Eric Goosby.