NIMR : A LEGACY OF HEALTH RESEARCH IN TANZANIA 1980-2012

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Director General
ESTABLISHMENT OF NIMR

• NIMR was established by act of parliament No 23 of 1979 following break up of East African Community

• NIMR is a Parastatal service organization under the Ministry of Health & Social Welfare
NIMR MANDATE

• Carrying out medical research

• Carrying out research in traditional medicine

• Managing health research

• Coordinating research and promoting the use of research findings
Core Values

• Innovation
• Service
• Commitment
• Excellence
ORGANIZATIONS LINKED TO THE HEALTH RESEARCH SYSTEM

• Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology
• Tanzania Food and Drug Authority
• Universities
• Civil Society Research Institutions
Organization Structure

- NIMR – Council
- Director General’s Office
- Coordinating Directorates:
  - Directorate of Finance, Human Resources and Planning
  - Directorate of Information Technology and Communication
  - Directorate of Research Coordination and Promotion
- NIMR Centers: Lead Directors

National Institute for Medical Research www.nimr.or.tz
NIMR CENTERS

- **AMANI Centre:** Malaria-Vector biology & Ecology and control
- **MWANZA Centre:** HIV/AIDS & STDs
- **MUHIMBILI Center:** TB and TB/HIV Co-infections
- **TABORA Center:** Human African Trypanosomiasis
- **TANGA Center:** Malaria – Clinical Epidemiology & Clinical Trials
NIMR CENTRES

- MBeya Centre: HIV/AIDS, TB
- Ngongongare Centre for Alternative Medicine: Ethnobotanical Studies
- Tukuyu Centre: NTD & NCD
- Headquarters: Coordination, Promotion, Health Systems Research, Environmental Health, GIS, Research in Traditional Medicine
RESEARCH STATIONS

- KOROGWE RESEARCH STATION
- HANDENI FIELD STATION
- HAYDOM FIELD STATION
- KILOSA
- GONJA FIELD STATION-MALARIA
- NGONGONGARE
- AMANI HILL
NIMR Centers and Stations
**VISION**
A Tanzania Where People Enjoy Quality Health and Well-being

**MISSION**
To Conduct, Coordinate, Regulate, and Promote Scientifically and Ethically Sound, High Quality Health Research in Order to Deliver Evidence-Based Information that is Responsive to the Broader Needs of the Tanzanian Community

- **Objective 1:** NIMR Organizational Capacity Strengthened
- **Objective 2:** Health Research to alleviate disease burden and improve the health status of Tanzanians
- **Objective 3:** Health Research promotion, coordination, control, and monitoring
- **Objective 4:** Commercialization of research products
- **Objective 5:** Promotion and utilization of research findings

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STAFF PROFILE

• 698 Permanent & Pensionable
• **221 SCIENTISTS**
• **477 OTHERS**
• **38 PhD HOLDERS**
• **87 MSC/MPhil/MA HOLDERS**
• **51 Bachelor HOLDERS**
• **45 LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS**
GCLP COMPLIANT LABS WITHIN HOSPITAL VICINITY AT BOTH KOROGWE AND TANGA

- AMBRELA Next to Bombo Hospital has Facilities to Support Clinical Research and Advanced Biomedical and Basic Research

- Korogwe Lab at Korogwe Hospital has Facilities to Primarily Support Clinical Research and Drug/Vaccine Trials

- Tanga Centre’s Strategy is for the 2 Labs to Complement each other
LABORATORY CAPACITY

• Two P2 Level Laboratories In Dar-es-salaam
• One P3 Level Lab in Mwanza: Mwanza Intervention Trials Unit
• One P2 Level Lab in Tanga: Amani Biomedical Research Laboratory
• One P3 Level Laboratory in Mbeya: HIV Vaccine Research
• Center For Traditional Medicine Research: To Be Completed this Year
• Smaller Research Station with Extraction Facilities for Natural Products
# HEALTH RESEARCH PRIORITIES

## BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

| H | Communicable Diseases, Major |
| H | Communicable Diseases, “Neglected” |
| H | Maternal and Child Health |
| M | Disease Control |
| M | Non-Communicable Diseases |
| M | Nutrition |
| M | Basic Research |
| L | Environmental Health |
| L | Product Development |
| L | Gender |
| L | Traditional and Alternative Medicine |
| L | Occupational Health |

## HEALTH SYSTEMS RESEARCH

| H | Human Resources for Health |
| H | Reproductive and Child Health |
| H | Health Service Delivery |
| H | HIV/AIDS |
| H | Health Financing |
| M | Drugs and Medical Supplies |
| M | Health Information |
| M | Health Policy |
| M | Essential Health Interventions Packages |
| M | Decentralisation |
| L | Inter-sectoral Collaboration |
| L | Public Private Partnership |
| L | International Funding Initiatives |

## SOCIO-CULTURAL AND DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH
Strategic Plan (2008-2012): Strategic Objectives

• Organizational Capacity Strengthened;

• Health Research to alleviate disease burden and improve the health status of Tanzanians carried out;

• Health Research promotion, coordination, control and monitoring enhanced;

• Commercialization of research products carried out;

• Promotion and utilisation and research findings carried out
Current Research Programs (1)

• Basic and Biomedical research
• Capacity Strengthening Programme
• Clinical and epidemiology research program
• Diagnostics and Laboratory Sciences
• Health Interventions Advocacy and Dissemination
• Health Statistics, Bioinformatics, Information Technology and Documentation
• Health Systems and Policy Research
Current Research Programs (2)

- Non Communicable Disease Research and Control
- One Health and Zoonotic Disease Research and Control
- Parasitic Diseases Research and Control
- Product Development and Evaluation
- Sexual & Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS
- Vector Biology, Ecology & Control
- Environmental Issues
Capacity Strengthening: Student Exchange

• The institute has student exchange program with the following Universities:

  – Georgetown University

  – Morehouse College
Teaching and Supervision of Students

- **Local Universities: Established**
  - Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Collage (KCM Collage)
    - Building Strong University (KCMC-NIMR-Copenhagen Universities)
  - Muhimbili University of Health Sciences (MUHAS)
    - Involved in the Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program
  - Bugando University Collage of Health Sciences (BUCHS)
  - Supervision of students from different high learning Institutions upon request
Teaching and Supervision of Students

• **Universities Abroad: Established**
  – George Town
  – More house
  – London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

• **Universities Abroad: Prospective**
  – Medical University of South Carolina
    • Developing Tailor Made courses
      – Research Methodology
  – University of Notre Dame
Capacity strengthening

- Lecturer buy-outs
    - Research sabbaticals
    - Teaching
Capacity Strengthening: Tailor made courses

- International Training on Mosquito Ecology and Vector Control
- Training of District Personnel on Operational Research
- Training on Malaria and IMCI for Regions and Districts
- GCLP course
- Research methodology Course
Capacity strengthening

• Planned:

• NIMR Fellows
  – Fellowship program
    • Undergraduate
    • Postgraduate
ACHIEVEMENTS

- Training of Several Scientists to Masters and PhD Levels
- High Retention Rate Over 90%
- Infrastructure Development: High Quality GCLP Compliant Laboratories
- Conducting High Quality Research
- Expansion of Research Agenda
- Focus on “Implementation” Research
- Several Collaborative Programs and Projects
Production of Value Added Herbal Drugs (1)

- TMS 2001: Malaria treatment
- Warburgistat: Treatment of opportunistic infections
- Hepacure: Treatment of herbal disorders
- Persivin: Treatment of prostate hypertrophy in men
- Persican: Treatment of diabetes
Production of Value Added Herbal Drugs

- Mundex: Treatment of erectile dysfunction in men
- NIMREX: Herbal chest, cold and cough remedy
- NIMREVIT: Health drink
- Fukuza Mbu: Herbal mosquito repellent
- Kiluwicide: Mosquito larvicide
ACHIEVEMENTS

• Formation of the Tanzania Health Research Forum
• Formation of the Health Research Users Trust Fund to Support Evidence Based Research
• Support for Disease Control Programs
• Support for National Integrated Disease Surveillance
ACHEIVEMENTS

• Collaborative Workshops- National and Regional
• Support of Several Regional Networks
• Close Working Relationship with CHMTs
• Capacity Building for CHMTs
Achievements

• Journal:
  – Published quarterly

• Annual Joint Scientific Conference (1983)
  – April 15-19, 2012
COLLABORATIONS

Internal partners

- Ministries of Health and Social Welfare
- Ifakara Health Institute
- Sokoine University of Agriculture
- African Medical Research Foundation,
- Bugando University College of Health Sciences/BMC
- Muhimbili Univ. of Health and Allied Sciences
- Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre/KMC College
- Tanzania Essential Strategies against HIV/AIDS
- East African Community
External partners:

• Uganda Virus Research Institute,
• London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
• DBL-Centre for Health Research and Development, DK
• University of Copenhagen /CMP, Denmark
• Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK
• Centre for International Health, Norway
• Wageningen University and Research Centre, NL
• Dukes University, USA/University of Minnesota
• World Health Organization
CHALLENGES

- Funding
- Human Resource for specialized areas
- Infrastructure and equipment
- Research translation to policy: Capacity
- Slow pace of commercialization
- Dissemination
OPPORTUNITIES

- Increase in critical mass of researchers
- High retention rate over 90%
- Increased focus on innovation.
- State of the art Laboratories and equipment
- Engaging more actively with institutions of higher learning
- Political will to put research high on the development agenda
- Clinical and Laboratory Research Network
- Established sites for research
Commitment to increase the amount going to research from less than 0.3% to 1% of National GDP
Thank you for listening