



SMART Africa Center

Brown School



**Fifth Annual Conference on Child Behavioral Health in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)  
South to South Collaboration to Strengthen Child and Adolescent Mental Health in SSA:  
Lessons Learned from SMART Africa Center**

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**BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS**



**Ms. Zenaib Abubakar**  
**SMART Africa MFG Facilitator; Teacher**

Ms. Zenaib Abubakar is a teacher by profession. At her school, she is tasked with additional responsibility as the School health teacher. In this role, she promotes health and hygiene among pupils and students. She is a graduate of the University of Cape Coast, Ghana with a Bachelor of Education in Social Studies. Zeinab is passionate about educating adolescent children especially the Girl-child on how to keep themselves healthy during their adolescent stage. Zeinab also served as a facilitator in the SMART- Africa Ghana Amalga Programme at the SHE SHEP (School Health and Education Program) school in 2019. During this period, she was trained and served as a facilitator for the Dang-Malgu (Family Togetherness) multiple family group intervention for the SMART Africa-Ghana study. She has interest in listening to the adolescent child and finding solutions to their problems.



**Dr. Emmanuel Asampong**  
**Senior Lecturer, School of Public Health, University of Ghana**

Dr. Emmanuel Asampong is a senior lecturer in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences of the School of Public Health, University of Ghana. He is a licensed clinical psychologist with immense experience in teaching, research and service. Asampong's research focuses on mental health issues among adolescents, impacts of psychosocial factors on human health, family health and social support systems in both rural and urban areas in developing countries, family initiatives on psychological well-being and school achievement in urban slums and/or deprived urban communities. He has successfully led and/ or co-led a number of funded mental health-focused programs and research including a Unilever sponsored program, which addressed adolescent mental health challenges via a Ghanaian radio station. He is a regular contributor on radio and television discussions on mental health issues in Ghana. Emmanuel was recently appointed an advisory board member of the Ghana-West Africa Program to Combat AIDS & STI (WAPCAS).



**Dr. Florence Baingana**  
**Regional Adviser for Mental Health, WHO Regional Office for Africa**

Dr. Florence Baingana is a psychiatrist and public health specialist who works in mental health policy and planning. She worked for four years as the National Mental Health Coordinator with the Ministry of Health of Uganda (1996-2000), where she established the Mental Health Unit in the Ministry, developed standards and guidelines for mental health care and got mental health included as a component of the Uganda Minimum Health Care Package in the Health Policy and the Health Sector Strategic Plan. She also has a wide portfolio of consulting work, having worked with The Carter Center Mental Health program in Liberia from 2009 to 2014, as well as doing

evaluations for UNHCR, TPO Uganda, and BasicNeeds Uganda. From 2007 to 2014, she was a Research Fellow with Makerere University School of Public Health. She has also served as Principal Investigator for the Mental Health Beyond Facilities Project, a Grand Challenges Canada Grant that involved Uganda, Liberia and Nepal. Dr. Baingana is a member of the Finance Committee of the World Psychiatric Association, the Advisory Committee of the Children and War Foundation, and the Board Chair TPO-Uganda. She is Chairperson of the Association of Psychiatrists of Uganda and has a number of publications to her name. Her major interest areas are evaluation of mental health programmes, and how to strengthen and finance mental health programs in low income countries.



**Dr. Geetha Bansal**  
**Program Officer, National Institutes of Health**

Dr. Geetha Bansal has a PhD in Immunology/Biochemistry from the University of Maryland and her post-doctoral training at the U.S. National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. She continued her interest in biomedical research on vaccines and monoclonal antibodies for a number of infectious diseases at MedImmune, Inc. and is a licensed patent agent of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. She spent eight and a half years as a Scientific Review Officer, and as a Program Officer in the Vaccine Research Program, Division of AIDS, at NIAID and gained valuable experience in the NIH extramural grants process and overseeing research portfolio in basic vaccine discovery for HIV. She joined as Associate Dean for Research and faculty at the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at Tulane University in New Orleans where she worked on malaria vaccines and initiated interdisciplinary programs and support for NIH grant writing. Currently, she oversees the HIV/AIDS research and research training portfolio at the Fogarty International Center, NIH.



**Dr. Arvin Bhana**  
**Chief Specialist Scientist, the South African Medical Research Council**

Dr. Arvin Bhana is a Chief Specialist Scientist in the Health Systems Research Unit at the South African Medical Research Council, an Honorary Associate Professorship at the Centre for Rural Health in the School of Nursing and Public Health at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He holds a PhD in Clinical and Community Psychology from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in the U.S. and is a registered clinical psychologist in South Africa. He has an established record of grantsmanship and is currently one of three PI's on the NIMH Southern African Research Consortium for Mental Health INTegration (S-MhINT) HUBS, and the capacity development lead on the SMART Africa NIMH HUB. His publication record spans the authoring and co-authoring of more than 100 journal articles. His scholarly interests include child and adolescent well-being and mental health as well as integrating mental health into primary care.



**Dr. Ama Boadu**  
**Institutional Care and the Family Health Division, Ghana Health Service**

Dr. Ama Boadu is a mental health practitioner at the Ghana Health Service supporting the health needs of local communities in Ghana. She previously served as the Head of Communication for Accra Psychiatric Hospital.



**Dr. Rachel Brathwaite**

**Post-doctoral Fellow, International Center for Child Health and Development**

Dr. Rachel Brathwaite is currently a Post-doctoral Research Associate at the International Center for Child Health and Development at the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis. She has a PhD in Epidemiology and Population Health from the London School of Hygiene and Population Health. Her academic work experience thus far has focused on population health research, harm reduction and preventative research. She conducts epidemiological research with a focus on early prevention/intervention to improve physical and mental health outcomes of vulnerable and marginalized populations. Her research investigates the impact of behavioral or social risk factors on health and how health-related interventions can be utilized to modify behavior and improve access to resources vulnerable populations need to improve, and maintain good health.



**Mr. William Byansi**

**Doctoral Candidate and Research Associate, International Center for Child Health and Development**

Mr. William Byansi, MSW, is a doctoral candidate at the Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis, and a Research Associate at the International Center for Child Health and Development (ICHAD). His research interests are children and adolescent mental health services, community-based economic development, and adolescent HIV care in limited-resource settings, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. His current work explores the individual, community, and structural level factors that facilitate access and utilization of mental health services among adolescent girls as well as the different pathways through which access and utilization are influenced. Previously, Byansi worked at Kampiringisa National Rehabilitation Center in Uganda—the only facility established for children experiencing behavioral difficulties providing counseling and support services. In addition, Byansi worked as a Senior Programs Assistant for International Center for Child Health and Development, a research center based in Uganda overseeing field research activities.



**Dr. Holly Campbell-Rosen**

**Program Officer, Center for Global Mental Health Research, Division of AIDS Research, NIH**

Dr. Holly Campbell-Rosen, PhD, is a Program Officer at the National Institute of Mental Health in the Center for Global Mental Health Research and Division of AIDS Research. Holly is advancing research on the mental health challenges experienced by mobile populations (migrants, forcibly displaced, labor migrants, etc.) and the impact of mobility on HIV outcomes. Prior to joining NIMH, Campbell-Rosen managed an extramural research program on psychological trauma at the Department of Defense. As an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow at NIH she supported policy development of Federal Advisory Committees and reported to Congress on stroke and childhood disorders at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. Campbell-Rosen is a neuroscientist whose prior research examined the neural basis of predictive coding in sensory systems with an eye toward understanding the evolution of neuronal circuitry. Campbell-Rosen is an amateur photographer and lives in Germantown, Maryland.



**Dr. Kurt T. Dirks**

**Vice Chancellor for International Affairs, Washington University in St. Louis**

Dr. Kurt Dirks, the Bank of America Professor of Leadership, serves as the Vice Chancellor for International Affairs and Director of the McDonnell International Scholars Academy for Washington University in St. Louis. Dirks works closely with stakeholders across the university to advance the research and education mission for Washington University through global engagement. Dirks also leads the McDonnell International Scholars Academy. The McDonnell Academy recruits outstanding PhD and Masters students from a broad range of academic disciplines and a diverse set of countries developing their leadership abilities and creating a unique global community. The McDonnell Academy also fosters academic commerce with other international universities through a network of partners around the world. Dirks received a PhD from the University of Minnesota and a B.S. and M.S. from Iowa State University. His academic research is on the determinants, barriers, and outcomes of trust within organizations and institutions. He has published a number of highly cited and award winning articles on the topic. The research has been covered by popular press such as Business Week, New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, USA Today, CNN.com, among other media outlets.



**Dr. Keng-Yen Huang**

**SMART Africa Co-Investigator, Associate Professor, Dept. of Population Health & Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, New York University**

Dr. Keng-Yen Huang is a child mental health prevention and implementation researcher, with expertise across developmental psychopathology, prevention science, quantitative modeling, and immigrant and global public health. More specifically, her research focuses on investigating mechanisms of child health disparities, testing cost-effective family and system approaches of preventive strategies to address child health disparities, and broadening evidence-based program implementation and dissemination among underserved child populations. She is the Principle Investigator and Co-Investigator on numerous early childhood prevention and developmental research projects that focus on vulnerable children both in the U.S. and in global contexts.



**Mr. Joshua Kiyingi**

**Research Associate, ICHAD Uganda**

Mr. Joshua Kiyingi is a first-year Public Health Sciences doctoral student at the Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis. He is a study coordinator for two NIMH funded multisite studies in Uganda: 1) SMART Africa – Uganda, aimed at reducing gaps in child and adolescent mental health services and research in SSA through a population approach to child mental health (MPIs: McKay and Ssewamala) and 2) Suubi+Adherence-R2 which examines the longitudinal HIV treatment adherence among youth living with HIV transitioning into young adulthood in Southern Uganda (MPIs: Ssewamala, Nabunya and Sensoy), both studies under the International Center for Child Health and Development (ICHAD). His research interests are child behavioral health, HIV and STI risk reduction and youth and women livelihood in low-resource communities in Sub-Saharan Africa.



**Dr. Manasi Kumar**

**SMART Africa Co-Investigator, Senior Lecturer & Clinical Psychologist, University of Nairobi**

Dr. Manasi Kumar has been working on issues around psychological ramifications of poverty, trauma, and disasters for the past eight years and has considerable experience on mental health issues in refugee child populations. She is interested in extending her



research further into childhood adversity, poverty, and gender linkage in developing countries using perspectives from critical psychology, attachment research, and development studies. She is a research fellow in the Department of Psychology at University College London and the University of Cape Town. Dr. Kumar is deeply committed to capacity building programs for young social workers and health care workers and has trained young professionals in Kenya, United Kingdom, and India to identify mental health disorders and on trauma-counseling skills.



**Mr. Kingsley Kumbelim**  
**Study Coordinator, SMART Africa Ghana**

Mr. Kingsley Kumbelim is a Social Development Administrator by training. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Integrated Development Studies, with specialty in Social and Development Administration from the University for Development Studies in Ghana. He is currently a project officer of BasicNeeds-Ghana and the study coordinator for the SMARTAfrica-Ghana study. Prior to joining the SMART Africa team, he coordinated a youth and women mental health project which was funded by the Department for International Development, U.K. and implemented by BasicNeeds-Ghana to promote youth mental health issues in schools as well as support women in addressing their mental health needs. He also coordinated a UNICEF-funded project focused on raising awareness on Ebola and cholera among students in schools in Ghana. His research interests include youth's and women's mental health and effectiveness of community-based mental healthcare delivery in Ghana.



**Chancellor Andrew Martin**  
**Washington University in St. Louis**

Dr. Andrew D. Martin is Chancellor and Professor of Political Science and Law at Washington University in St. Louis. Since his tenure began in 2019, Chancellor Martin has laid the groundwork and bold vision for the university's momentous future — with three strategic pillars at the forefront of that vision: academic distinction, educational access, and the university's role and impact “in St. Louis and for St. Louis.” Prior to serving as chancellor, Martin was dean of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts at the University of Michigan and served in various positions at Washington University, including as the Charles Nagel Chair of Constitutional Law and Political Science, vice dean of the School of Law, and chair of the Department of Political Science in Arts & Sciences. Throughout his career, Chancellor Martin has contributed widely to the areas of judicial politics, quantitative political methodology, and applied statistics, with attention paid specifically to the U.S. Supreme Court. He earned his doctorate in political science from Washington University in 1998 and his A.B. from the College of William & Mary in mathematics and government in 1994.



**Dr. Muthoni Mathai**  
**Psychiatrist and Senior Lecturer, University of Nairobi**

Dr. Muthoni Mathai is an Associate Professor at the Department of Psychiatry, University of Nairobi. She graduated as a doctor from the University of Nairobi in 1983, awarded a Masters' degree in Psychiatry (M. Med Psychiatry) at the same university in 1990 and a PhD in Psychiatric Social Work in 2005 at the University of Kassel in Germany as a recipient of a scholarship by the Heinrich Boell Foundation. She is a mental health and medical education researcher as well as a clinician. She is a Co-investigator in the SMART- Africa Project and a PI of the NIMH funded study based in Kisumu on Depression- SMART-DAPPER.; Co-investigator of NIH/Fogarty funded Project Health-Professional Education Partnership Initiative (HEPI). She is currently engaged in an

intervention study offering Psychosocial Support to COVID-19 Frontline health workers at Kenyatta National Hospital. She is also an African representative to the global World Association of Cultural Psychiatry.



**Dr. Anne Mwayo**  
**SMART Africa In-Country Principal Investigator; Lecturer and Clinical Psychologist, University of Nairobi**

Dr. Anne Mwayo has taught in public high schools in Kenya for over 20 years, during which she served as Head of the Department of Guidance and Counseling, giving her a chance to come face to face with mental health obstacles for adolescents in school settings. . She is passionate on mentoring young people and serves as the local PI of SMART Africa - Kenya. Both her Master's and Doctoral theses were conducted in schools, and investigated bullying and students' mental health functioning as well as the impact of a school-based psycho-educational intervention program on students' academic and mental health functioning.



**Dean Mary McKay**  
**SMART Africa Principal Investigator;**  
**Dean of the Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis**

Dr. Mary M. McKay joined the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis as dean in 2016, continuing the School's legacy of creating vital knowledge, initiating social change, and preparing leaders to address social and health challenges both locally and globally. Dean McKay's academic experience connects deeply to both social work and public health. She has received substantial federal funding for research focused on meeting the mental health and health prevention needs of youth and families impacted by poverty. She also has significant expertise in child mental health services and implementation research methods, as well as over 20 years of experience conducting HIV prevention and care-oriented studies, supported by the National Institutes of Health. In addition, she has collaborated with NIMH, the New York State Office of Mental Health, and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to create evidence-based engagement interventions and to test models of dissemination and training for mental health professionals in engagement best practices. She has authored more than 150 publications on mental and behavioral health, HIV/AIDS prevention and urban poverty, and more.



**Dr. Teresia Mutavi**  
**Lecturer, Department of Psychiatry, School of Medicine, University of Nairobi**

Dr. Teresia Mutavi is a Psychiatric Social Worker who has worked with children who have experienced trauma for close to 10 years. She holds a PhD in Psychiatric Social work and has published extensively in the area of child and adolescent mental health. Currently Dr. Teresia mutavi is a lecturer at the Department of Psychiatry, School of Medicine, College of Health Sciences, University of Nairobi in Kenya. She has also been a Global Fellow in the SMART Africa Project.



**Ms. Josephine Nabayinda**  
**Student Coordinator, ICHAD Uganda**

Ms. Josephine Nabayinda holds a Master of Science degree in Development Management from the University of Agder-Kristiansand-Norway and an incoming PhD student at the Brown School-Washington University in St. Louis-August 2021. She currently works with the International Center for Child Health and Development (ICHAD) as a Coordinator of two NIH funded Studies: 1) Strengthening Mental Health and Research Training (SMART Africa) a 5-year U19 (Grant: U19MH110001 – Ssewamala/McKay MPI) funded by the National Institute of Mental Health aimed at reducing gaps in child and adolescent mental health services and research in SSA through a population approach to child mental health; and 2) Kyaterekera Project; a 5-year randomized control trial (Grant: R01MH116768 – Ssewamala/Witte MPI) funded by the National Institutes of Mental Health aimed at testing the impact of economic empowerment vs. traditional HIV risk reduction (HIVRR) in reducing new incidences of STIs and HIV among women engaged in sex work (WESW) in Southwestern Uganda.



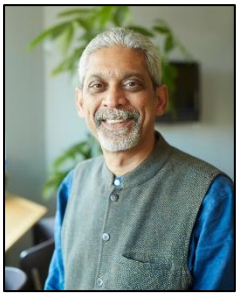
**Dr. Proscovia Nabunya**  
**Co-Director, ICHAD, Washington University in St. Louis**

Dr. Proscovia Nabunya's research focuses on HIV-stigma reduction interventions, family and community-based support systems as protective factors for the development and well-being of children and families impacted by HIV/AIDS. She has research expertise in poverty-reduction strategies that utilize asset-based interventions and their impact on the social, economic and health well-being of children and families in HIV-impacted communities in sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Nabunya serves as the co-director for the International Center for Child Health and Development (ICHAD), which contributes to the reduction of poverty and improvements in public health outcomes for children and families in low resource settings in sub-Saharan Africa. Before joining the Brown School, Nabunya completed the Provost's Post-Doctoral and Transitional Program for Academic Diversity Fellowship at New York University's Silver School of Social Work.



**Dr. Noeline Nakasujja**  
**Chair for the Department of Psychiatry, Makerere University**

Dr. Noeline Nakasujja is Chair for the Department of Psychiatry at the College of Health Sciences and the first female Associate Professor of Psychiatry in Uganda. Her training was at Makerere University and Karolinska Institute, Sweden. She has served numerous associations including the International Psycho-geriatrics Associations, the World Psychiatric Association. Currently, she is the president of The Uganda Society for Health Scientists and Chair for the Community Care for the Elderly task force of The Network: Towards Unity for Health (TUFH). Her work focuses on neurocognitive assessments across the life span as well as other areas in the field of psychiatry with a passion for training of the future generation of mental health researchers for Uganda and beyond. Prof Nakasujja has been honored for outstanding mentor for the American Academy of Child and Adolescent psychiatry and was the recipient of the James Kimani award 2017, Society of Neuroscientists of Africa.



**Dr. Vikram Patel**  
**The Pershing Square Professor of Global Health and Wellcome Trust Principal Research Fellow at the Harvard Medical School**

Dr. Vikram Patel is the Pershing Square Professor of Global Health in the Blavatnik Institute's Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School. He is an adjunct professor at the Public Health Foundation of India, honorary professor at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, and is a co-founder of Sangath, an Indian NGO which won the MacArthur Foundation's International Prize for Creative and Effective Institutions in 2008 and the WHO Public Health Champion of India award in 2016. He is a co-chair of the Lancet Commission on Reimagining India's Health System.



**Dr. Ozge Sensoy Bahar**  
**Co-Director, ICHAD, Washington University in St. Louis**

Dr. Ozge Sensoy Bahar serves as the lead to the SMART Africa Center which aims to advance child behavioral health services and implementation science capacity across three countries in Africa, including Uganda, Ghana and Kenya. Her research focuses on child and family well-being in global contexts characterized by poverty and associated stressors. Specifically, her dissertation project utilized ethnographic methods to examine the interrelatedness of poverty, migration and marginalization, and the consequences (such as child labor) for children and families in a poverty-impacted ethnic community in Turkey. Her current research program focuses on youth experiences of child work and labor, as well as the individual, family, and contextual factors leading to child labor in two country contexts, Turkey and Ghana. The goal of her work is to develop culturally and contextually relevant interventions to reduce risk factors associated with child labor. Sensoy Bahar recently completed a three year, externally funded post-doctoral fellowship at the McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research at New York University Silver School of Social Work.



**Dr. Fred M. Ssewamala**  
**Director, ICHAD/SMART Africa, Washington University in St. Louis**

Dr. Fred Ssewamala, the William E. Gordon Distinguished Professor of Social Work and Public Health at the Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis, directs the International Center for Child Health and Development (ICHAD) and the SMART Africa Center. Through various NIH-funded field projects and training programs, Ssewamala leads innovative, interdisciplinary research that informs, develops and tests economic empowerment and family strengthening combination interventions aimed at improving long-term developmental impacts for children, adolescents and families impacted by poverty and health disparities in low-resource communities. Currently, Ssewamala, together with the ICHAD team, is conducting seven NIH-funded large-scale longitudinal RCTs across sub-Saharan Africa. This is in addition to three NIH-funded training programs (R25MH118935, T37MD014218, and D43TW011541) that focus on training early-career researchers from under-represented groups committed to careers in child behavioral health, and health disparities. His scientific work has been published in over 100 peer-reviewed Journal articles.





**Ms. Asanatu K. Sumani**  
**SMART Africa MFG Facilitator Parent-Peer**

Ms. Asanatu Sumani Kande is a principal midwifery officer by training. She has a background in community health nursing dating back to 1983. She has worked in several places in Ghana attending to the health needs of people. She supported the works of BasicNeeds-Ghana, a mental health and development advocacy organization in Ghana working to promote initiatives to transform the lives of persons with mental illness or epilepsy. During her time at BasicNeeds-Ghana, she delivered community mental mobile services to people of Karaga district of Northern Ghana. She was then transferred to Tamale Central Hospital where she was the Incharge of Reproductive and child health/family planning unit and had the privilege of being a member of Northern Regional family planning resource team and a mentor of rural emergency services for maternal and child health. She has had the opportunity of being a resource person to Marie Stopes Ghana. She also served as a facilitator for the SMART Africa-Ghana study delivering the Dang Malgu (*Family Togetherness*) sessions to families of the study.



**Dr. Yesim Tozan**  
**Assistant Professor of Global Health, New York University**

Dr. Yesim Tozan's research investigates the economic burden of disease and costs and cost-effectiveness of public health interventions in low- and middle-income countries. Over the past 15 years, Dr. Tozan's research has focused on infectious disease prevention and control, with an emphasis on vector-borne diseases. She has recently expanded her research focus to HIV/AIDS and mental health disorders in vulnerable populations. In NIMH-funded studies in Uganda, Dr. Tozan is currently leading economic evaluation studies alongside two trials assessing the efficacy of economic empowerment interventions in reducing HIV risk and incidence in adolescence girls (Suubi4Her, PI: Ssewamala) and in women engaged with sex work (Kyaterekera, MPIs: Ssewamala & Witte), and two further trials evaluating the effectiveness of a family-strengthening intervention (Amaka Amasanyufu, MPIs: Ssewamala and McKay) and an early childhood school-based intervention (MPIs: Huang & Nakigudde) in reducing child behavioral problems through task shifting strategies.



**Mr. Cornelius Williams**  
**Associate Director & Global Chief of Child Protection, Programme Division, UNICEF**

Mr. Cornelius Williams, MA, is the Associate Director and Global Chief of Child Protection for UNICEF's Programme Division. For over 30 years, Cornelius has managed child protection programmes with UNICEF and Save the Children. He has been involved in advocacy that led to improved protection of children from sexual exploitation and abuse in humanitarian settings, reduced recruitment and use of children by armed forces and increased access of children to identity documents/birth certificate and social assistance. Cornelius represents UNICEF on the Advisory Boards of the WePROTECT Global Alliance to End Child Sexual Exploitation Online, ID4Africa, CPC Learning Network and Changing the Way We Care. Williams is a national of Sierra Leone and holds a Masters from the University of East Anglia, United Kingdom.