Doctoral Dissertation Announcement

Ronald Anguzu

“Intimate Partner Violence during pregnancy in Uganda: Healthcare Provider screening practices, policymaker perspectives and spatial accessibility to antenatal care services”

Candidate for Doctor of Philosophy in Public and Community Health
Division of Epidemiology
Institute for Health and Equity
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
Medical College of Wisconsin

Committee in Charge:
Laura D. Cassidy, PhD, MS (Chair)
Rebekah J. Walker, PhD, MS
Kirsten M.M. Beyer, PhD, MPH, MS
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Monday, May 24th, 2021
9:00 AM (CST)

Live Public Viewing:
https://mcw-edu.zoom.us/j/91474142263?pwd=MEdhQk14c2FZb0txa0Q1bUFETYWFUZz09
Graduate studies

Biostatistics I
Introduction to Epidemiology
Community Health Improvement I
Qualitative and Mixed Methods
Doctoral Seminar
Community Health Improvement III
Community Health Improvement IV
Introduction to Statistical Analysis using Stata
Qualitative Data Analysis
Ethics and Integrity in Science
Readings and Research
Foundations of Maternal and Child Health
Regression Analysis – Stata
Survey Research Methods
Theories and Models of Health Behavior
Research Ethics Discussion Series
Community Health Improvement II
Health and Medical Geography
Doctoral Dissertation
INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV) REMAINS A PERVERSIVE YET PREVENTABLE PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE. IN UGANDA, 39.6% OF WOMEN EXPERIENCE AT LEAST ONE FORM OF IPV (PHYSICAL, SEXUAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL FORMS). ALTHOUGH UGANDA CLINICAL GUIDELINES RECOMMEND ROUTINE IPV SCREENING IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS, LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIES TO INCREASE ROUTINE FACILITY-BASED IPV SCREENING. THIS STUDY EXAMINED THE FACILITATORS AND BARRIERS TO FACILITY-BASED, PROVIDER IPV SCREENING IN RURAL AND URBAN ANC CLINICS (AIM 1), EXPLORED STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES TO IMPROVE IPV PREVENTION STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION (AIM 2), INVESTIGATED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PERINATAL IPV AND SPATIAL ACCESSIBILITY TO ANC SERVICES (AIM 3) AND DETERMINED THE ASSOCIATION AND FACTORS THAT EXPLAIN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IPV AND ANC UTILIZATION IN UGANDA (AIM 4).

METHODS: IN THIS MIXED METHODS STUDY, QUALITATIVE IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWS WERE CONDUCTED AMONG TWENTY-EIGHT PRENATAL CARE PROVIDERS AND FOURTEEN PROVIDERS OF IPV PREVENTION AND RESPONSE SERVICES IN EASTERN (RURAL) AND CENTRAL (URBAN) UGANDA. QUALITATIVE DATA WERE COLLECTED ON BARRIERS AND FACILITATORS TO IPV SCREENING (AIM 1) AND CHALLENGES, SUPPORTIVE PROCESSES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVED IMPLEMENTATION OF IPV PREVENTION ACTIVITIES (AIM 2). WEIGHTED CROSS-SECTIONAL ANALYSES WERE CONDUCTED USING THE 2016 UGANDA DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY AND 2014 UGANDA BUREAU OF STATISTICS HEALTH FACILITY DATASETS. THE STUDY OUTCOMES AND INDEPENDENT VARIABLES WERE SPATIAL ACCESSIBILITY TO ANC SERVICES AND IPV EXPOSURE DURING PREGNANCY (PERINATAL IPV) (AIM 3) AND UTILIZATION OF ANC SERVICES AND EXPOSURE TO PHYSICAL, SEXUAL AND/OR EMOTIONAL IPV (AIM 4) RESPECTIVELY. ITERATIVE INDUCTIVE-DEDUCTIVE THEMATIC ANALYSES WERE CONDUCTED (AIMS 1 AND 2). SEQUENTIAL ADJUSTMENT OF COVARIATES IN BLOCKS WERE SELECTED BASED ON ANDERSEN’S BEHAVIORAL MODEL OF HEALTH SERVICE UTILIZATION. ADJUSTED LINEAR REGRESSION ANALYSES EXAMINATED FACTORS THAT EXPLAINED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PERINATAL IPV AND SPATIAL ACCESSIBILITY (AIM 3). ADJUSTED POISSON REGRESSION ANALYSES TESTED THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN IPV AND ANC UTILIZATION (AIM 4).

RESULTS: AIM 1: AMONG TWENTY-EIGHT PRENATAL CARE PROVIDERS, ELEVEN ROUTINELY SCREENED FOR IPV WHILE TEN RECEIVED IPV-RELATED TRAINING. BARRIERS TO IPV SCREENING WERE LIMITED STAFFING AND SPACE RESOURCES, AND LACK OF COMPREHENSIVE IPV TRAINING. FACILITATORS TO SCREENING WERE ESTABLISHING TRUST WITH PATIENTS AND CREATING A SAFE ANC ENVIRONMENT FOR IPV DISCLOSURE. PROVIDERS SUGGESTED MODIFICATION OF ANC CARDS TO INCLUDE IPV ITEMS AND SCREENING AT TRIAGE. AIM 2: AMONG IPV PREVENTION SERVICE PROVIDERS, SUPPORTIVE PROCESSES WERE THE AVAILABILITY OF IPV SCREENING TOOLS, INVOLVING LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS, MULTI-INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING AND ADVOCACY. CHALLENGES WERE RELATED TO POLICY IMPLEMENTATION, LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY AND CONTEXTUAL CHALLENGES RELATED TO COVID-19 RESPONSE STRATEGIES. RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDED CONTEXTUALIZING THE UNDERSTANDING OF IPV, CONDUCTING MORE IN-DEPTH IPV-RELATED RESEARCH, STRENGTHENING FACILITY-COMMUNITY LINKAGES, ADDRESSING SAFETY CONCERNS, CREATING NOVEL GBV DATABASES, AND APPLYING SURVIVOR-CENTERED POLICY FRAMEWORKS. AIM 3: PERINATAL IPV SURVIVORS HAD SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER ANC SPATIAL ACCESSIBILITY COMPARED TO PREGNANT WOMEN WITHOUT IPV EXPOSURE AFTER CONTROLLING FOR PREDISPOSING FACTORS (COEF. 84.3 95%CI 11.6-157.0) AND ENABLING FACTORS (COEF. 73.6 95%CI 15.6-131.7). AFTER CONTROLLING FOR NEED FACTORS (DIFFICULTY GETTING TREATMENT MONEY, AFRAID OF PARTNER, IPV-RELATED INJURY AND PREGNANCY INTENTION), THE RELATIONSHIP WAS NO LONGER SIGNIFICANT (COEF. 94.8 95%CI -4.90-194.5). AIM 4: IPV EXPOSURE WAS ASSOCIATED WITH ANC UTILIZATION (COEF. -0.03; 95%CI-0.06,0.00) WHEN COMPARED TO WOMEN WITHOUT IPV EXPOSURE AFTER CONTROLLING FOR ENABLING FACTORS. PREDISPOSING (COEF. -0.01 95%CI -0.03,0.02), NEED (COEF. -0.03 95%CI-0.06,0.00) AND HEALTHCARE FACTORS (COEF. -0.02 95%CI -0.05,0.01) ALL EXPLAINED THE SIGNIFICANT UNADJUSTED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IPV AND ANC UTILIZATION.

CONCLUSIONS: RESULTS FROM THIS STUDY CAN INFORM EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN FACILITY-BASED INTERVENTIONS AIMED AT INCREASING ROUTINE IPV SCREENING IN ANC CLINICS IN UGANDA. INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE ROUTINE IPV SCREENING SHOULD FOCUS ON INCREASING PROVIDER STAFFING LEVELS, COMPREHENSIVE IPV TRAINING, RAISING AWARENESS OF IPV SEVERITY AND BUILDING TRUSTING PATIENT-PHYSICIAN RELATIONSHIPS. THESE FINDINGS ALSO URSKORE THE NEED FOR SUSTAINED, MULTI-INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATIVE LINKAGES BY ADDRESSING BARRIERS AT POLICY IMPLEMENTATION, HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICES AT DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL. IPV PREVENTION INTERVENTIONS AIMED AT WOMEN SHOULD TARGET NEED FACTORS NAMELY, DIFFICULTY GETTING MONEY FOR TREATMENT, FEAR OF PARTNERS, IPV RELATED INJURY AND UNINTENDED PREGNANCY. UTILIZATION OF ANC SERVICES MAY INCREASE AMONG IPV SURVIVORS IF IPV PREVENTION INTERVENTIONS TARGET PREDISPOSING, NEED AND HEALTHCARE FACTORS. FUTURE RESEARCH SHOULD ADOPT SURVIVOR-CENTERED MODELS TO UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT OF IPV FROM SURVIVORS’ PERSPECTIVES. DEVELOPING A UNIQUE IPV DATABASE MAY INFORM AND IMPROVE IMPLEMENTATION OF IPV PREVENTION AND RESPONSE ACTIVITIES IN UGANDA.
Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

PhD  PhD Candidate - Public and Community Health
     Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, US
     May 2021 (Expected)

MPH  Master of Public Health
     School of Public Health, Makerere University, Uganda
     November 2012

MD   Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB)
     School of Medicine, Makerere University, Uganda
     June 2007

PUBLICATIONS (IN PRINT AND IN PRESS)


MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED


Anguzu R, Williams JS, Shour A, Palatnik A. Association between partner pregnancy intent and short interpregnancy intervals in the United States. Submitted to Maternal and Child Health Journal on October 1, 2020

Featured science in press


ABSTRACTS


Book Chapter

TEACHING EXPERIENCE
Graduate Teaching Assistant, Medical College of Wisconsin Fall 2020
Course: Global Maternal and Child Health

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Medical College of Wisconsin Fall 2018
Course: Introduction to Epidemiology

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Makerere University, School of Public Health Jul 2012, Sept 2016
Course: Health Planning and Management – Negotiation

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE
Co-Investigator, School of Public Health, Makerere University Jul 2020 - Nov 2020
Project: Adherence to COVID-19 preventive guidelines and its association with intimate partner violence and depressive symptoms among women living in Kampala slums.
Graduate Research Assistant, Medical College of Wisconsin  
Project: Gigiigoo’inaan (Our Fish): A New Advisory to Promote Anishinaabe Health and Wellness  
Aug 2019

Graduate Research Assistant, Medical College of Wisconsin  
Project: Decision Making by Patients Seeking Care for Fertility Problems  
Aug 2017 - Aug 2018

Clinical Research Fellow, School of Medicine, Makerere University  
Project: Doxycycline for the treatment of Nodding Syndrome: A Randomized Controlled Trial  
Nov 2016 - Jul 2017

Co-Investigator, School of Medicine, Makerere University  
Project: Extended postpartum family planning use study, Mityana district, Uganda.  
Nov 2015 - Oct 2016

Co-investigator, School of Medicine, Makerere University  
Project: Prevalence of malaria infection and bed net coverage among school going children, Karamoja sub-region  
Oct 2015 – Nov 2015

Field Team Leader, School of Public Health, Makerere University  
Project: National Tuberculosis Prevalence Survey  
Aug 2014 - Sep 2015

Study Coordinator, School of Public Health, Makerere University  
Project: Male Involvement in Birth Preparedness Study (MIBEST)  
Aug 2012 - Jul 2014

Medical Officer, St. Francis Nsambya Hospital, Uganda  
Project: Homecare HIV Centre of Excellence, TIBOTEC study.  
Jul 2008 - Jul 2010

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Medical Officer, Africa Air Rescue Health Services, Uganda  
Aug 2011 - Jul 2012

Medical Officer, St. Francis Hospital, Nsambya, Uganda  
Homecare HIV Centre of Excellence  
Jul 2008 - Jul 2010

Intern Medical Doctor, St. Francis Hospital Nsambya, Uganda  
Jul 2007 - Jun 2008

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer, American Public Health Association (APHA)  
• Maternal and Child Health program, APHA 2020 Annual Meeting and Expo (Oct. 24 - 28).  
Apr 2020

Panel Reviewer, Global Health Workforce Review Panel  
• Consortium of Universities of Global Health (CUGH) and PHI/CDC Global Health Fellowship Program.  
Feb 2020

Reviewer, Scientific Program Advisory Committee  
• Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH), 9th Annual Global Health Conference.  
Mar 2018

Graduate Student Advisor, School of Public Health, Makerere University  
Aug 2014 - Sep 2015

National Supervisor, World Health Organization (WHO), Uganda Head Office  
• Health facility assessment for readiness for pneumococcal vaccine (PCV10) introduction in two districts (Sironko and Kyankwanzi) in Uganda  
2011 - 2014

Outbreak response and disease surveillance for Acute Flaccid Paralysis in three rural districts (Kamwenge, Bundibugyo and Nwoya) in Uganda.

National Supervisor, Uganda National Expanded Programme on Immunization (UNEPI)  
• Implemented the Yellow Fever Reactive Vaccination campaign in one district (Abim), Uganda  
Aug 2011

Coordinator, Nsambya Hospital  
• Continued Medical Education, Homecare HIV Center of Excellence, Uganda  
Jul 2008 – Jul 2010

• Focal Person for Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (eMTCT)
Volunteer Physician, Northern Uganda Medical camp, St. Mary’s hospital Lacor, Gulu, Uganda

AWARDS AND HONORS

Outstanding Service on The Global Health Workforce Panel
Consortium of Universities for Global Health and Public Health Institute/US CDC
Global Health Fellowship Program

Global Health Travel scholarship
Funded by the Office of Global Health, Medical College of Wisconsin

Faculty Research Award
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation through Bloomberg School of Public Health.
Project: Family Planning use during the extended postpartum period among women in a rural Ugandan setting

MIBEST Travel Award
Funded by the Grand Challenges Canada.
Project: Can a male-integrated model of prenatal care cost-effectively improve birth preparedness and perinatal outcomes?

Gates Graduate Student Research Award
Funded by the Family Health Research and Development Centre (FHRDC)
Dissertation: Factors associated with use of long-acting reversible contraceptives among women of reproductive age in Lubaga division, Kampala district.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

2019 - American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
2019 - American Public Health Association (APHA)
2015 - North American Forum for Family Planning - Society for Family Planning (SfP)
2012 - International Society of Pharmaco-economics and Operations Research (ISPOR)
2007 - Uganda Medical and Dental Practitioners Council (UMDPC)

JOURNAL REVIEWER

2019 - American Journal of Perinatology
2016 - BMC Public Health
2016 - BMC Women’s Health
2016 - North American Forum on Family Planning (FORUM)
2015 - Contraception journal