



Fogarty-leDEA Mentorship Program 2020-2022

Trainee profiles

- *Asia-Pacific*: Dyna Khuon, USA; Johanna Beulah Tria Sornillo, Philippines
- *CCASAnet*: Lara Coelho, Brazil; Yanink Caro-Vega, Mexico
- *Central Africa*: Eric Walter Pefura Yone, Cameroon; Charles Ingabire, Rwanda
- *East Africa*: Dorean Nabukalu, Uganda; Allan Kimaina, Kenya
- *Southern Africa*: Tamsin Phillips, South Africa
- *West Africa*: Aminu Yusuf, Nigeria; Désiré Lucien Dahourou, Burkina Faso

Asia-Pacific

Dyna Khuon, University of California Los Angeles – USA



Dyna Khuon is a PhD Candidate in Epidemiology at the University of California Los Angeles. She graduated as a Pharmacist from the University of Health Sciences in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and has a Master's degree in Nutrition from the country's National Institute of Public Health. Her research interests include HIV, sexually transmitted infections, mental health, mother and child nutrition, and non-communicable diseases. Under the FIMP, her research has focused on the incidence and determinants of high blood glucose, hypertension, and hyperlipidemia among adults on antiretroviral therapy within the Asia-Pacific region. After completing her PhD,

she plans to return to the University of Health Sciences as a public health professional, and to conduct local research with a focus on HIV, comorbidities, and mental health outcomes among aging populations.

Johanna Beulah Tria Sornillo, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine – The Philippines

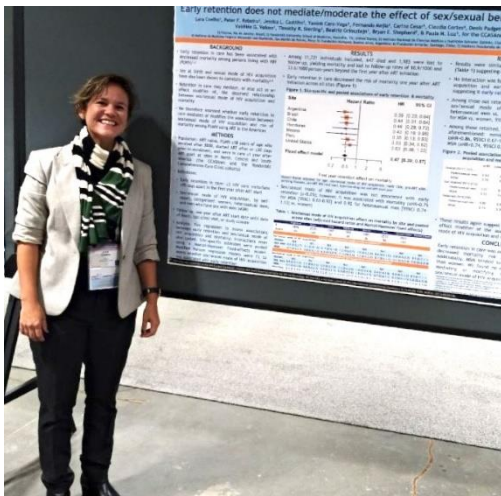


Jobel Sornillo has a Master’s degree in Public Health from the University of the Philippines, and is a researcher in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM), where she focuses on infectious and neglected tropical disease research. She also is a licensed medical technologist, with field and laboratory experience on malaria projects. Under the FIMP, she is studying the HIV disclosure status of children and adolescents with HIV enrolled in the TREAT Asia Pediatric HIV Observational Database of IeDEA, and the effect of disclosure on HIV disease progression, mortality, and loss to follow-up. After FIMP, she plans to be involved in large-scale research studies at RITM that will contribute to

improved health service delivery, and assess interventions that address HIV and other infectious and tropical diseases.

CCASAnet

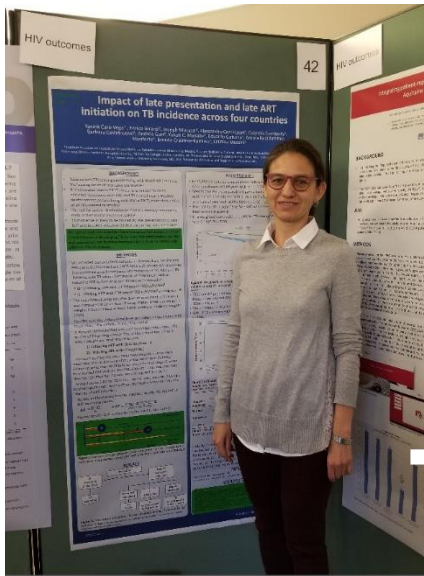
Lara Coelho, Evandro Chagas National Institute of Infectious Diseases - INI/Fiocruz, Rio de Janeiro – Brazil



Lara Coelho, MD, PhD is an Infectious Disease physician with both a Master’s degree in Clinical Research from Evandro Chagas National Institute of Infectious Diseases/Oswaldo Cruz Foundation and a PhD in Epidemiology from the National School of Public Health/Oswaldo Cruz Foundation. She is a research scientist of the Evandro Chagas National Institute of Infectious Diseases - INI/Fiocruz and a member of the Caribbean, Central and South America network for HIV epidemiology (CCASAnet) collaboration. Her main research interests lie in clinical research and clinical epidemiology of HIV and HIV prevention. Dr. Coelho has led several analyses using the INI cohort database and the

CCASAnet database, and currently serves as the principal investigator of a yellow fever vaccine study in people living with HIV, funded by the Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development. Dr. Coelho is looking forward to expanding her experience working with large datasets; her FIMP analysis will be investigating obesity incidence across the Americas using data from CCASAnet and NA-ACCORD sites.

Yanink Caro-Vega, National Institute of Medical Sciences and Nutrition Salvador Zubirán (INCMNSZ), Mexico City – Mexico



Dr. Yanink Caro-Vega is a medical science researcher at INCMNSZ in Mexico City. She received her Masters in Science (MSc) in Probability and Statistics in 2005 from the Center for Mathematical Research (CIMAT) in Mexico, and a second MSc in Health Economics from the National Institute of Public Health of Mexico (INSP) in 2007. She completed her PhD in Epidemiology at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) in 2012. Her research focuses on understanding the HIV epidemic in Mexico and Latin America through the application of statistical and epidemiological analyses of cohort datasets. Her main goal is to produce evidence to improve clinical retention of HIV patients and to optimize economic resources in Mexico. For her FIMP project, she plans to use the CCASAnet dataset to investigate the effect on mortality and morbidity of the time that ART patients spend at CD4 levels below 200 cells/mm³. Dr.

Caro-Vega is looking forward to working with mentors at the CCASAnet Regional Data Center at Vanderbilt to expand her biostatistics analysis skills.

Central Africa

Eric Walter Pefura Yone, University of Yaoundé 1 – Cameroon



Dr. Pefura Yone coordinates leDEA activities at the Jamot Hospital in Cameroon. A Doctor of Medicine with a PhD in public health, Dr. Pefura Yone is an Associate Professor of Internal Medicine and Pulmonology at the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences of the University of Yaoundé 1, Cameroon, and he also heads the Pneumology Department at Yaoundé Jamot Hospital and serves as the Hospital Medical Advisor. His research interests include non-communicable diseases in individuals living with HIV and co-infections with tuberculosis. He is also interested in the analysis of large multicenter data, and plans to train his research team in applying big data analytic

techniques to the study of HIV infection and tuberculosis. For the Fogarty-leDEA Mentorship Program, Dr. Pefura Yone's research will focus on examining the prevalence and determinants of renal function impairment among adult patients newly initiating antiretroviral therapy within the Central Africa leDEA cohort. In his planned research project, he will focus on patients aged 19 years and above who have pre-ART laboratory testing results for serum creatinine levels to explore socio-demographic, clinical, and behavioral factors associated with impaired renal function.

Charles Ingabire, Rwanda Military Hospital – Rwanda



Mr. Charles Ingabire is the qualitative research coordinator for the Einstein-Rwanda Research and Capacity Building Program (ER-RCBP) at the Rwanda Military Hospital (CA-leDEA). He has an MSc. in Public Health from Clarke International University, Kampala, Uganda, and a bachelor's degree in Clinical Psychology from the University of Rwanda. Mr. Ingabire has additional training in qualitative and quantitative research techniques. He has worked in the area of HIV and AIDS, mental health, and human rights since 2007, focusing primarily on vulnerable populations affected by HIV including adolescents and young adults, children, orphans, widows, and refugees, as well as on interventions to address stigma and other barriers to care. For the Fogarty-leDEA Mentorship Program, Mr. Ingabire will lead a

qualitative analysis exploring the impact of HIV stigma on health service utilization under universal HIV treatment policies in Rwanda. The aim of this project is to understand the impact of HIV stigma on healthcare utilization from patients' and healthcare providers' perspectives. Specific objectives include exploring how stigma within the family, community, and health center, along with internalized stigma, affect utilization of HIV services. The analysis will use transcripts from in-depth interviews conducted in 2018 and 2019 with 37 adult patients enrolled in HIV care at leDEA-affiliated clinics in Rwanda, along with nine health care providers.

East Africa

Dorean Nabukalu, Rakai Health Sciences Program – Uganda



Ms. Dorean Nabukalu is a Statistician with Rakai Health Sciences Program (RHSP). She has an MSc. in Epidemiology from the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, and a Bachelor of Statistics (Hons) from Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda. She has worked in the area of HIV and AIDS since 2006. She is mainly interested in longitudinal data analysis and demographic measurements in the era of HIV/AIDS with specific interest in mortality analyses.

For the Fogarty-leDEA Mentorship Program at East Africa leDEA, Ms. Nabukalu will focus on estimating mortality of HIV-positive people in an HIV care and treatment program implemented by RHSP. The aim of this project is to estimate and analyze trends and risk factors in patient mortality by augmenting data obtained from routine clinical care with records from patient outreach, in order to infer vital status of clients with missed appointments. This work will provide information on the true lost to follow-up rates within East Africa leDEA.

Allan Kimaina, AMPATH (Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare) – Kenya



Mr. Allan Kimaina completed his MSc. in Biostatistics at Brown University as part of the D43 Brown-Moi Partnership for Biostatistics Training in HIV. His research focused on statistical learning algorithms with applications to solve HIV care and monitoring challenges within resource-constrained settings. His research interest centers on statistical and computational methodologies for analyzing large-scale clinical data necessary for patient-level clinical decision support and program-level strategic information. As a Fogarty-leDEA Mentorship Program trainee, his research utilizes prognostic modeling for personalized monitoring of HIV viral load and has three components: 1) assessing the association of potential risk factors with the outcome of virologic failure; 2) generating temporal risk models that take

into account RNA detectability limits; and 3) investigating whether variations of each model differ by time, leDEA country, or care program. The ultimate goal of this work is to assist clinical sites in identifying patients at high risk of virologic failure for early intervention.

Southern Africa

Tamsin Phillips, University of Cape Town – South Africa



Dr. Phillips is a maternal and child health researcher in the School of Public Health & Family Medicine, University of Cape Town. She is currently a Fogarty Global Health postdoctoral fellow through the Vanderbilt-Emory-Duke-Cornell consortium. Her research interests include the methodology of measuring adherence and retention in antiretroviral therapy (ART) services, as well as investigating interventions to support adherence and retention, particularly among pregnant and postpartum women. She is interested in the use of routinely collected data to understand and strengthen the continuum of care for mothers living with HIV and their children. For the Fogarty-leDEA Mentorship Program, Dr. Phillips will use leDEA Southern Africa cohort data to investigate viral suppression and retention of women who are i) pregnant and newly initiating ART, ii) not pregnant and newly initiating ART, and iii) pregnant and already on ART.

West Africa

Aminu Yusuf, Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Bayero University Kano – Nigeria



Dr. Aminu Abba Yusuf is a consultant hematologist working with the Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital and a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Clinical Sciences, Bayero University Kano, Nigeria. He is a Fellow of the Medical College of Pathologists (FMCPPath) in Nigeria, a VECD-Fogarty Global Health Program alumnus (2018/2019 cohort) and a Fogarty-leDEA Mentorship Program mentee (FIMP, West Africa, 2020/2021 cohort). His main areas of research interest include HIV-associated non-communicable diseases (NCDs), sickle cell disease, and genomics of NCDs relevant to the African setting. Dr. Yusuf's current leDEA-FIMP project is focused on the burden, predictors and impact of peripheral blood cytopenias on survival among HIV-positive adult in West Africa.

Désiré Lucien Dahourou, Institut de Recherche en Sciences de la Santé, Ouagadougou – Burkina Faso



Désiré Lucien Dahourou, MD, PhD, is an epidemiologist working as a research assistant at the Institut de Recherche en Sciences de la Santé, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. After receiving his medical degree in 2010 at the University of Ouagadougou, he worked as a clinician in a community-based clinic in Ouagadougou. Dr. Dahourou then became a research assistant with the MONOD ANRS 12206 trial assessing long-term antiretroviral strategies in infants with HIV. This was the topic of his PhD in public health and epidemiology, which he obtained from the Bordeaux School of Public Health, France, in 2017. Dr. Dahourou's research focuses on maternal, child, adolescent health, in relation with infectious diseases in West Africa. Since 2018, he has been

involved in the leDEA pediatric West African Database (pWADA). He is currently working with Valériane Leroy, the co-principal investigator of the OPTIMISE-West Africa project ANRS 12390, which is co-funded through West Africa leDEA. The project is being conducted in three leDEA pediatric cohorts (Abidjan, Lomé, Bamako), and aims to assess the effectiveness of a comprehensive care and treatment package for adolescents living with HIV.