



University Clinical Research Center



Second E.C meeting: perspectives are considerable



These memorable successes of 2019

Professor Seydou DOUMBIA won the re-election of the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (FMOS).

Professor Mahamadou DIAKITE was appointed Vice-Rector of the University of Sciences, Techniques and Technologies of Bamako (USTTB).



Newsletter from August to October 2019



Potential partnership for better clinical research
Prof Seydou DOUMBIA received Rhoel DINGLASAN



He was welcomed in the UCRC meeting room by Prof. Seydou DOUMBIA, UCRC Director. After a brief presentation of the center with some focus on its background, the vision and the mission, and the ways of improvement of the center in the future, the UCRC Director said that "Research in African countries is not easy due the lack of resources". After discussing for about 1 hour, in the UCRC meeting room, the visitor was taken out to see the UCRC facility including the Laboratory.

The UCRC received on Wednesday, August 7th, 2019, Rhoel DINGLASAN from Florida. The mission aimed to visit the University Clinical Research Center, discuss with its staff, in order to develop a potential partnership for better clinical research.

The visit of the laboratory and all the equipment on place was led by Djeneba Dabitaou, Chief of the Immuno-Core Laboratory. Thus, Rhoel DINGLASAN was able to see the UCRC capacity in term of research infrastructure.

Laboratory capacity building
UCRC and USAID towards a future partnership



improving the national diagnostic networks, laboratory systems and surveillance mechanisms. This helps to deal effectively with the ever-growing number of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases.

As demonstrated by recent outbreaks of Ebola and multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, these diseases can have a devastating impact on populations and quickly cross geographical borders.

At the end of the meeting, Professor Doumbia welcomed the focus on the center for this potential partnership and expressed his eagerness to explore with USAID the best way to work together.

The UCRC Director, Professor Seydou Doumbia received on Friday, August 16, 2019, two stakeholders of the Infectious Disease Detection and Surveillance (IDDS) project, including Aimé Césaire Kalambry and Seydou FOMBA.

The meeting took place in the UCRC lab meeting room, in the presence of the NIH representative Prof. Laure Juompan, the UCRC Financial and program manager Mr. Cheick Oumar Tangara, the UCRC study coordinator Dr. Oumar Guindo, the head of the UCRC molecular biology unit Dr. Amadou Koné, and the head of the UCRC Bio Chemistry/Hemato Lab Dr Yeya dit Sadio Sarro.

Discussions focused on possible partnership on laboratory capacity building, with a view to developing or

WHAT IS IDDS project ?

Infectious Disease Detection and Surveillance (IDDS) is a five-year USAID-funded project with the following overall objectives:

- Improve the detection of diseases of public health importance and identification of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in priority infectious diseases through an accessible, accurate, adaptable, timely, and integrated diagnostic network system;
- Improve the quality of real-time surveillance systems for pathogens of greatest public health concern, including AMR and zoonotic diseases, and;
- Generate evidence-based guidance and innovative solutions to strengthen in-country diagnostic networks and surveillance systems.



Second E.C meeting: Perspectives are considerable



The UCRC Executive Committee met for the second time on Friday, August 16, 2019, in the UCRC lab meeting room. This high-level meeting chaired by the UCRC Director, Prof. Seydou Doumbia, gathered about ten participants from the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, the University of Sciences, Techniques and Technologies of Bamako, the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, the Malaria Research and Training Center and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, etc.

The agenda was about: Overview on Goal and Structures, recommendation from previous meeting, update Ongoing Research/projects, capacity building (Training, Infrastructure), collaborations/perspectives, capabilities within UCRC center and laboratory Achievements, and challenges. After his welcoming words, Professor Doumbia recalled the objectives and strategies of the UCRC. These include: Develop and maintain the UCRC as a sustainable entity capable of conducting excellent clinical research, facilitate the training and development

of the next generation of clinical research scientists and professionals, and generate knowledge, disseminate research results and promote the utilization of findings.

Planned activities

As Planned activities, the UCRC has a strong ambition. As part of the Sustainable entity for excellent clinical research, it wants to train 2 internal monitors - Ongoing, implement 3 research protocols (EID, IVCC Trials, Ebola Trials), etc. For preparing the next generation of clinical research scientists, the center plans to bring a Continued support to training-Short term and degree training, to organize a West Africa regional consortium-November 2019 and the Clinical trials and Grants writing workshop-December 2019. In terms of disseminate and promote the utilization of research findings, website-maintenance and update, Newsletter and brochure, Symposium at ASTMH are planned.

Challenges at the center

Nowadays, the center faces huge challenges, including a space problem and a lack of vehicles (For 175 staff members with 130 people working in office; At the laboratory: 5 offices shared by 14 people; At the Clinic: We have 4 offices shared by 15 people The remaining staff are working in conference rooms, labs, and or other offices on the campus). To overcome these difficulties, it is planned to build: the lobby + 1 floor and storage project with estimated budget of 180 millions CFA. Finally, many recommendations have been made, by which we can note the capitalization of the Community engagement position, which remains a boon for the achievement of research objectives

Prof. Djimdé, Director of PDNA : " The genetic composition of parasites is changing"



Friday, August 23, 2019, Prof. Abdoulaye Djimdé intervened to comment on an article published in the Journal of science of which he is co-author. The authors of the study "showed that the genetic

composition of parasites is changing" on the African continent. In his intervention, the professor recommends taking into account these differences when developing new drugs.

Malaria in Africa: how to prevent drug resistance?

Will the resistance to malaria drugs spread to Africa? This is the question posed by African scientists, grouped for the first time in a network. The Plasmodium Diversity Network Africa (PDNA) published Thursday, August 22 an article in the prestigious American Journal of Science. The challenge of this research is to understand the strains of specifically African malaria. Since 2013, 15 African scientists in 15 countries of the continent have

been studying the genetics of the parasites that cause malaria. Until now, African parasites were considered uniform, compared by Western researchers with those in Asia or Latin America. However, according to the first network research of Plasmodium Diversity Network Africa (PDNA), their genetics are beautiful and distinct from Cape Verde to Ethiopia, from South Africa to Côte d'Ivoire. Far from being harmless, this advance is essential because it will better prevent resistance to anti-malarial drugs.

Changing genetic composition

"We have shown that the genetic composition of parasites is changing," says Professor Abdoulaye Djimdé, director of PDNA, the network of african researchers who wrote the article in the journal of Science. This must be taken into account when developing new drugs, but also when developing new vaccines against malaria and when developing new diagnostic tools. "This resistance to treatment made its appearance in 2008 in Cambodia and is still spreading in Asia. But according to African biologists, first-fruits could lead to drug resistance also in Africa. They observed genetic changes in parasites in Ghana and Malawi.

12th conference of the AfSHG : "Genetics and Human Genomics as a Unifying factor for Harmony and Progress in Africa"



200 scientists, including experts in human genetics, from around 20 African, American, and European countries gathered in Bamako, from 18 to 21 September 2019. It was in the framework of the the joint 12th conference of the African Society of Human Genetics (AfSHG) and the 1st Congress of the Malian Society of Human Genetics (MSHG), held at the Sheraton Hotel in Bamako. The theme around which the reflections were conducted was: "**Genetics and Human Genomics as a Unifying factor for Harmony and Progress in Africa**". The aim was to mobilize the scientific community, especially those working in the field of Human Genetics, to share experiences in the field of Human Genetics throughout the continent.

During the work, the experts presented studies carried out on hereditary diseases, especially emerging ones such as sickle cell disease. And thanks to appropriate methodological approaches, they have carried out an adequate analysis of the structuring of genetic diversity among African people, with a view to retracing their evolutionary histories in relation to their linguistic and cultural

differentiation. Indeed, this information will constitute a database that will be widely accessible. "**We can say that our objectives are achieved, because the work went well and no incident occurred ...**", Said, Prof. Seydou Doumbia, President of the local organizing committee and UCRC Director. He added that this conference was a great opportunity to bring closer Malian researchers. For his part, Professor. Mahamadou Traoré, President of the Malian Society of Human Genetics thanked the participants for their attendance during the work, and commended the Executive Committee for the trust placed on Mali to host the 12th Conference of the African Society Human Genetics.

In his closing address, the Rector of the University of Sciences, Techniques and Technologies of Bamako (USTTB), Prof. Ouateni Diallo said that humanity has the right to rely on geneticists. "**Through these conferences, you contribute to the development of humanity and the building of the African Union ...**", he continued, wishing them a safe trip back home.



HIV Early infant Diagnostics: The 2nd Workshop ended

The closing ceremony of the WANETAM Early Childhood HIV Diagnostics Workshop held on September 7, 2019, at the UCRC HIV Resistance Lab, at the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (FMOS). This 6-day workshop was organized by the University of Sciences, Techniques and Technologies of Bamako (USTTB) through the University Clinical Research Center (UCRC) laboratories, and the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (FMOS). It was part of the West African Network for Tuberculosis, AIDS and Malaria (WANETAM). The presentation of the certificates to about twenty participants, ended the closing ceremony of the 2nd Workshop on the HIV Early infant Diagnostics.



University diploma of HIV / AIDS : The 3rd promotion graduated



19 students of the third promotion of the University Diploma in HIV / AIDS, composed of Malians, Mauritians, Cameroonians, Nigerians (from Niger) and Djiboutians, received their diplomas on Monday, October 7, 2019.

It was after a training that lasted 1 month at the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (FMOS). The ceremony, which took place in the conference room of the FMOS, was attended by the UCRC Director, Prof. Seydou Doumbia, the UCRC Senior researcher and Principal Investigator, Prof Soukalo Dao, the head of the UCRC molecular biology unit, Dr. Amadou Koné and teachers.

This short training on HIV and AIDS focused on the clinical, epidemiological, therapeutic, preventive, psychosocial and legislative aspects of HIV and

AIDS in general. Its objectives were to know the epidemiology of HIV / AIDS in Mali, Africa and the world, the different therapeutic and preventive strategies of HIV, the psychosocial and legislative aspects of HIV and AIDS. It was also about helping to achieve the goals of the three 90s.

During the training, the mechanism of immunodepression and clinical manifestations, the natural history of HIV and AIDS, as well as the clinical manifestations of HIV and AIDS were exposed to the learners. This University Diploma on HIV and AIDS was organized by the University of Science, Techniques and Technologies of Bamako (USTTB), through the University Clinical Research Center Laboratory (UCRC-Lab), and the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (FMOS).

Research: The PMI team from Mali, Atlanta and Washington DC visited the UCRC Labs



sor Seydou Doumbia, and his Deputy Professor Mahamadou Diakit , the visit continued.

From the Entomology lab where the visit was conducted by the Head of the Lab, Dr. Mamadou B. Coulibaly, the delegation went to inquire about Immunocore facility.

In this UCRC Laboratory, the visit was conducted by the Head of the ImmunoCore Laboratory, Dr. Djeneba Dabitao.

At the end of the visit of the Epidemiology and Drug Resistance Unit led by Prof. Abdoulaye Djimd , the both sides had talks; during which, possible partnership in the field of research was mentioned.

After the welcoming words of the Director of the University Clinical Research Center (UCRC), Profes-

ing which, possible partnership in the field of research was mentioned.

Trilogy Care-Training-Research: The Hospital-University Convention signed



It is in a very friendly atmosphere that the hospital-University convention between the University of Sciences, Techniques and Technologies of Bamako (USTTB) and the public hospitals of Bamako, signed on Friday, October 25, 2019, in the meeting room of the USTTB Rectorate. It aims to give real content to the status of "Bi-membership" which aims to promote the trilogy Care-Training-Research, to meet the health needs of the people.

Chaired by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Dr. Mama Koumaré, and his counterpart of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Prof. Drissa Diallo, this ceremony was attended by the Rector of the USTTB, Prof. Ouaténi Diallo and the Vice Rector, Prof. Mahamadou Diakité. It also registered the presence of the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (FMOS), Prof. Seydou Doumbia, the Representative of the Faculty of Pharmacy (FAPH), as well as the heads of public hospitals in Bamako.

These include: the University Hospital Center-(UHC) Gabriel Touré, the UHC-Point G, the UHC-"Hopital du Mali", the UHC-"Hopital de Kati", the UHC-National Center of Dentistry (CNOS), the UHC-Institute of

Tropical Ophthalmology of Africa (IOTA) and the UHC-Dermatological Hospital of Bamako. By this agreement, both parties undertake to establish between them, a formal framework of collaboration, through the faculties of Medicine and Dentistry (FMOS) and Pharmacy (FAPH). This partnership marks an important step in the implementation of the hospital law.

The USTTB Rector, Prof. Ouaténi Diallo, welcomed this partnership agreement which will allow internal students to be well trained. "It will not solve all the problems, but it's a big step towards better training of medical students," he said. At the end of the signing of the agreement, the heads of public hospitals committed to respecting and enforcing the contents of this convention on "Bi-membership". However, they urge the representatives of line ministries to expedite the obtaining of a decree before its implementation.

Warm handshakes, heavy with symbols and meanings, between the Rector and the Heads of public hospitals, and a group photo, ended the signing ceremony of the Hospital-University Convention to give a true content to the status of the Bi-member. 

These memorable successes of 2019

Election at the FMOS: Prof. Seydou DOUMBIA is the winner!

According to provisional results announced by the supervisory commission of the University of Sciences, Techniques and Technologies of Bamako (USTTB), the first candidate list, won the election of the Dean and Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (FMOS).

After a few hours of suspense, the USTTB Rectorate Supervisory Commission finally announced the provisional results of the election. Having obtained 60 votes, against 43 for the second list composed of Prof. Bakarou KAMATE and Prof. Adègnè TOGO, Prof. Seydou DOUMBIA and Prof. Mariam SYLLA are proclaimed provisionally elected Dean and Vice-Dean of the FMOS. The FMOS is one of the three faculties of the USTTB. It is hosting the UCRC laboratories.



USTTB: Prof. Mahamadou DIAKITE was appointed Vice Rector

Professor Mahamadou DIAKITE, Deputy Director of the UCRC, appointed Vice-Rector of the University of Science, Techniques and Technologies of Bamako (USTTB).

Under the authority of the Rector, specifies the decree, he has to carry out the following specific attributions: to ensure the coordination, the follow-up and the control of the educational and research activities of all the structures of the University; to carry out all the tasks entrusted to him by the Rector.



Reiterating our congratulations, we wish them all the best!