

## **Reproductive Health Session Bios**

### **Moderators: Scott McClelland and Lucy Mukura**

#### **Invited Presenters:**

**Nelly Mugo, MbChB, MMed, MPH** is a research scientist working with International Clinical Research Center (ICRC), University of Washington on HIV prevention clinical trials in Kenya. She is a Principal investigator for one of the Partners PrEP study sites, in Central Kenya, Thika site, which is currently exiting HIV-1 discordant couples from the “Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis” (PrEP) clinical trial. Her other responsibilities include clinical and teaching responsibilities at the Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH)/ University of Nairobi, Kenya. She is currently the head of research and programs at Kenyatta National Hospital, Kenya.

**Mardge Cohen, MD** is an attending physician in the Division of General Medicine at John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County and has been on the front lines of the AIDS epidemic for more than two decades. She founded the Cook County Women and Children HIV Program in 1987 which provides comprehensive medical and psychosocial care to women, their partners and children with HIV. Mardge has been the Principal Investigator in several federally funded research studies, including the Chicago site of the National Institute of Health's Women Interagency HIV Study (WIHS), a cohort study begun in 1994 to investigate HIV disease progression in women, and the Center for Disease Control's Mother Infant Rapid Intervention at Delivery (MIRIAD) study. She led the statewide initiative to implement rapid HIV testing in labor and delivery areas of all birthing hospitals in Illinois. Since 2004, Mardge has also worked with Women's Equity in Access to Care and Treatment (WE-ACTx) in Kigali, Rwanda to facilitate HIV primary care for women who were infected after being raped during the 1994 genocide period.

**Charles R. Wira, Ph.D.** is Professor of Physiology at Dartmouth Medical School and is an internationally recognized scientist with specific expertise in endocrinology and mucosal immunology as it relates to the immune system at mucosal surfaces of the female reproductive tract. Dr. Wira's research focuses on how female sex hormones influence innate and adaptive immunity in the female reproductive tract of animal models and humans. As Principal Investigator of an NIH funded Program Project grants for 14 years, he has led a major collaborative effort at Dartmouth Medical School to characterize immune functions in the Fallopian tube, uterus, cervix and vagina to define the roles of estradiol and progesterone in mucosal immune regulation. His research focuses on the phenotypic and functional characterization of the mucosal immune system and in understanding at the cellular and molecular level the ways in which this system is regulated to protect against potential pathogens including HIV. Recent studies focus on the role of mucosal immunity in natural and vaccine induced protection against HIV. Wira has published approximately 175 research papers in this area.

#### **Mulindi Mwanahamuntu**

University of Zambia School of Medicine, Lusaka, Zambia

#### **Oral Presenters:**

##### **Laura Dainton, MA**

Laura Dainton is a graduate student at Brown University. She currently resides in her country of birth, Australia, where she works as a consultant and a research assistant at La Trobe

University. Laura has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, graduate and post-graduate diplomas in Psychology, and is currently completing her Masters of Science in Behavioral and Social Sciences Intervention within Brown's School of Public Health.

**Roksana Karim, MB, BS, PhD**

Roksana Karim, MB,BS, PhD., is Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and Preventive Medicine in University of Southern California , Los Angeles, CA. Her primary area of interest is in Women's health specifically in menopause and menopause-associated morbidities in HIV-infected and HIV-uninfected women. She has published multiple major research articles involving the impact of sex steroid hormones on markers of inflammation and subclinical atherosclerosis in healthy postmenopausal women. She has been involved with the Women's Interagency HIV Study (WIHS) as an investigator over a number of years and co-authored over 15 major articles. Currently, she is leading research projects involving fat redistribution and ovarian hormones; and also projects involving immune activation and subclinical atherosclerosis in HIV-infected women in the WIHS. Some of her future research is directed toward understanding the impact of adipokines on menopause-associated health outcomes.

**Rebecca Pellet Madan, MD, MS**

Dr. Madan attended medical school at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and completed her pediatric residency and pediatric infectious diseases fellowship at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. She is currently Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, where her research focuses on genital mucosal immunity in adolescent women.

**Daniel Westreich, PhD**

Daniel Westreich received his PhD in Epidemiology from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2008, and did his postdoctoral work with Dr. Stephen R. Cole, also at UNC. He is currently an assistant professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Global Health at Duke University. His work focuses substantively on women's reproductive health and HIV, especially response to treatment; and methodologically on causal inference in observational data.