

BRIEF ABOUT THE SECOND ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

10TH AND 11TH MAY 2023

KIGALI, RWANDA



WP leads and Co-leads of the EAPOC-VL Pausing for a picture on the 10th May 2023, Kigali Rwanda

The second annual general scientific meeting for the East African Point of Care HIV Viral Load (EAPOC-VL) was held for two days on the 10th and 11th May in Kigali-Rwanda with the aim of evaluating performance in period 1 & 2 of the project implementation and laying strategies to expedite performance of research activities in period 3. The purpose of EAPOC-VL project is to examine the feasibility, acceptability and effectiveness of using point of care viral load (PoC VL) monitoring to improve virological suppression among children and adolescents (age 0-24 years) living with HIV in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. Specifically, EAPOC-VL aims to evaluate feasibility, acceptability, and effectiveness of using PoC HIV VL monitoring to improve viral load suppression rates among children and adolescents living with HIV in East Africa.

The meeting objectives were to: - 1) evaluate EAPOC-VL performance in period 2, share challenges and chart a way forward for the planned activities in year 3 2) share and assess student progress with scientific and research work. 3) develop year three work plans and priorities including the sustainability plan.



EAPOC-VL is part of the EDCTP2 program supported by European Union under grant agreement

RIA2019IR-2873

Remarks from EDCTP were given by Dr. Johanna Shaefer, who reminded participants on the modalities of funding by EDCTP3-TGHTN urged the team to prepare adequately. Dr Simeon Tuyisimwe- the director of Rwanda Bio-Medical Centre gave a keynote address on the developments in VL monitoring among children and adolescents in Rwanda. The progress and challenges encountered in implementing EAPOC-VL in period 2 and planned activities for period 3 for the different work packages were presented by the WP leads and Co-Leads. The PhD and MSc students also made presentations on the progress of their research work, and they received guidance.

The EAPOC-VL would like to acknowledge EDCTP for creating avenues for research institutions and Universities in Europe and SSA to work together to solve problems affecting our communities in Africa. EAPOC-VL is part of the EDCTP2 program supported by European Union under grant agreement **RIA2019IR-2873**.



Pictures taken during student presentation on the day 2 May 11th, Kigali Rwanda



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