

EDITORS NOTE

Welcome to this quarter's newsletter.

This issue includes the upgrade on pediatric care at Lighthouse, a receipt of another 5 year grant from PEPFAR and the great involvement of the Lighthouse in the organisation of an international science research conference (INTEREST). Finally a young Malawian inspired by his interaction with teen club members at Lighthouse recited a poem at INTEREST conference advocating for a discrimination free community regarding HIV.

Value added to Pediatric, Adolescent and Youth Care at Lighthouse

By Mercy Phiri Mikanda

In May this year Lighthouse brought on board the first Pediatric HIV Technical Advisor, Dr Prakash Ganesh, in order to strengthen its family-centered Treatment, Care and support especially for children, adolescents and youths.

According to the Executive Director of the Lighthouse, children, adolescents and youths are an indispensable part of the solution in response to HIV since they make the bigger and active population of the future.

Prof Phiri, says that Ganesh's experience and expertise as a family medicine physician will greatly contribute to the process of customizing Light-



"I am excited to collaborate with the talented team at Lighthouse" says Dr Ganesh.

house services and staff capacity to better serve children, adolescents and youths.

"I am excited to have Dr. Ganesh on board. In his role as a Pediatric HIV Technical Advisor he will lead in systemizing the services and developing the capacity building function with a focus on pediatric and adolescent HIV case finding, linkage to care as well as initiation and retention on ART." He said.

Dr. Ganesh will be working with Clinic Coordinator and the Clinical Technical Advisor to ensure the enhanced delivery of quality services to Lighthouse clients. He

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Lighthouse Trust Awarded 5 Year Grant

By Mirriam Chipanda



Umodzi ART Clinic at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital

In April 2017 the Lighthouse Trust Executive Director, Prof Sam Phiri, announced that Lighthouse Trust was among two of the recipients of the 5 year United States of America President's Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) grant (INU2GGH002003) through Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) which is aimed at Achieving HIV Epidemic Control by **(To page 3)**

Lighthouse Executive director nominated 2017 INTEREST Local chair *By Mercy Phiri Mikanda*



Prof. Sam Phiri giving a welcome remark during official opening of 2017 INTEREST conference

The main stirring committee for the 11th International Workshop on HIV Treatment, pathogenesis and prevention research in resource limited settings, INTEREST 2017 Conference, appointed Prof. Sam Phiri Executive Director for Lighthouse Trust as the local chairperson for 2017 INTEREST conference held in Malawi in May this year.

In his capacity as the local chairperson of INTEREST conference Prof. Phiri organized the conference in collaboration with Ministry of Health, who were the host of the conference, and other partners.

INTEREST brings together scientists involved in HIV treatment, pathogenesis, and prevention research in Africa to share pivotal findings, promote collaboration, and

transfer experiences across several fields and many continents.

Prof. Sam Phiri's appointment was based on the recognition of his achievements as a Medical Practitioner, a renowned researcher and a leader of a Malawian Centre of Excellence in the response to HIV, Lighthouse Trust.

Both Professor Catherine Hankins, the Scientific Chairperson and Professor Elly Katabira, International organizing committee chairperson identify with Prof. Phiri's progress as a researcher and an advisor of HIV policy through the Lighthouse innovations, since early 2000.

"INTEREST scientific and International organizing committee chairpersons recognized the role I have played as a Clinician, Clinical Epidemiologist, and Principal Investigator for Lighthouse Trust in Malawi with over 15 years' experience of strategic HIV Program design and Implementation. The Lighthouse innovations and initiatives are used to inform both national and international HIV- associated policies, and has won several large program and research grants to continue the role as a leader in model interventions in care between PMTCT and ART." Prof. Phiri said.

He further indicated that Malawi was proposed based on the tremendous progress it has made with its HIV Program including the innovation of the Option B+

implementation that World Health Organization has adopted and Lighthouse made great contribution towards this stride.

Prof. Phiri strategically led Lighthouse to become a World Health Organization (WHO) recognized Centre of Excellence in integrated HIV prevention, treatment and care.

Prof Phiri's membership in HIV teaching faculty and technical working groups in Malawi and internationally, his Professorship in the Department of Medicine at the University of North Carolina School Of Medicine at Chapel Hill, USA, as a Faculty at the University of Malawi, College of Medicine as well as his good collaboration experience with Ministry of Health and other partners also contributed to his appointment as INTEREST 2017 local chairperson.

Known as the "African CROI" the INTEREST Workshop showcases cutting-edge knowledge in the fields of HIV diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of HIV infection as well as continue fostering the building of a community of African physicians and scientists who discuss implementing local solutions for the management of patients living with HIV and for the prevention of HIV transmission.

Pediatric, Adolescent and Youth Care at Lighthouse

joined the Lighthouse through the International Training and Educational Center for Health (ITECH) in the Department of Global Health at the University of Washington School of Medicine and School of Public Health in the United States of America.

Ganesh says he is geared to upgrade the expertise of Lighthouse clinic team in pediatric HIV service provision as well as equip them as mentors of quality pediatric HIV care to clinic teams at Lighthouse supported sites in Lilongwe, Ntchisi Blantyre, Mzimba, Rumphu, Nkhatabay, and

Likoma.

"I am excited to collaborate with the talented team at Lighthouse. Through teaching, skills will be passed on to many individuals who go on to teach others, creating a rippling effect. This is especially important at this moment in time. As ART is readily available, no child should acquire HIV through vertical transmission. The only way to address this is through education and prevention." He added.

He further said that through bolstering the early-infant diagnosis (EID) program and other components of current pro-

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grams, with skilled service providers, he hopes to assist Lighthouse in being the leader in all aspects of HIV care and being a holistic HIV care Center of Excellence" he said.

Dr. Prakash Ganesh is a Family Medicine and Preventive Medicine physician with a Medical Degree and Public Health Degree focusing on Population Health. He has worked in the United States, the Middle East, and in Malawi focusing on refugee populations for the past five years.

Lighthouse Trust Awarded 5 Year Grant

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Scaling up Quality Testing, Care and Treatment in CDC supported scale-up and priority sites in Malawi.

Prof. Phiri says that Lighthouse will use the grant to accelerate the implementation of activities that attain epidemic control of HIV through the replication of data driven activities modeled at Lighthouse and other collaborating institutions.

“Through this grant, Lighthouse will establish a Centre of Excellence for Integrated HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in Blantyre, based on the Lighthouse model in Lilongwe.” Prof Phiri said.

He further said that Lighthouse will also be supporting Mzimba District Hospital and surrounding facilities in Mzimba South, Mzuzu Central Hospital and sur-

rounding facilities in Mzimba North, Rumphu, Nkhatabay, Likoma and Ntchisi districts which are currently supported by Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) and Management Sciences for Health (MSH).

In these sites, Lighthouse as a Center of Excellence will ensure the replication of HIV care model approaches through direct support of service delivery and technical support.

Asked on what the awarding of the grant means to the growth of Lighthouse, Prof Sam Phiri had this to say, “In recognition of Malawi’s plans to implement the ‘Test and Treat’ strategy, Lighthouse has been increasingly supporting decentralization of high quality services through initiatives that

replicate elements of the Lighthouse prototype in other health facilities in Lilongwe district. The grant will leverage the growth of the Lighthouse to benefit additional districts beyond Lilongwe with Health systems strengthening through Implementation of Quality Management and Quality Improvement interventions that will help improve treatment, care and support in support of the UNAIDS 90 – 90 – 90 targets that were adopted in the Malawi National Strategic Plan for Malawi HIV Response (2015-2020)”

From June 2017, Lighthouse began its transitioning process with Umodzi ART Clinic at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital and Mzuzu Central Hospital’s Rainbow Clinic.

Paul Banda: An Advocate in the Making

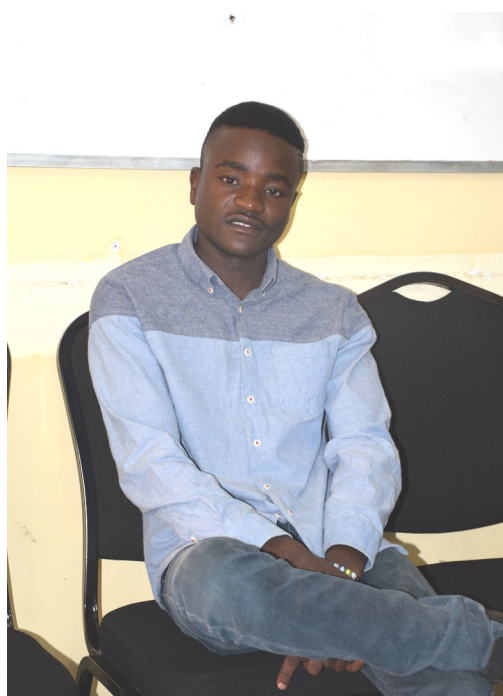
by Mirriam Chipanda

Paul Banda, a young man well known among members working with Lighthouse Tiwale Adolescent Services, addressed a large crowd at the INTEREST Conference Opening Ceremony as he recited his poem entitled Brighter Vision on Tuesday 16th May 2017.

The ceremony which was graced by then Minister of Health, Hon. Dr. Peter Kumpalume MP, and other notable members of the Malawi Civil society and health sector brought together scientists from across Africa and abroad.

Brighter Vision is said to have been inspired by his interaction with youth who are HIV positive and his reflections of HIV in Malawi and reads, in full:

Over the time I’ve lived I’ve seen peo-



ple die of it
Smiles fade in grief
Of the death of those we loved
And together once we loved

Innocent children who used to love their parents
But unfortunately they were affected
Because back then it could not have been prevented

But all this is now changing
Every day we are progressing
With New Knowledge of modern medicine
From EMTCT now Test and Treat
Bringing hope for those affected...
With ARTs making the virus actively undetected

But wait a minute
Something is missing
Yes the ARTs and health care are existing
But for some the hardship is in accessing
People travel long

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Paul Banda: An Advocate in the Making *(from page 3)*

distances	HIV and AIDs plus segregation
Just to have sight of a health center	Can only lead to destruction
While in pain at the same tie with the cost	Destruction of that humanity
Stress they encounter	We claim to have
Making the Treatment and the care not effective	Why choose to discriminate and not love
Government and non-governmental institutions...	Whether HIV positive or negative
Hold hands and together form a giant	We are all Diamonds no one is brighter
A giant that can meet all the needs of HIV infected persons	At some point Everyone's capability is unique and greater
Making everyone's life a sweet song again	Let's unite and fight
A healthy life full of joy so we can dance in the rain	Casting discrimination aside
A giant that can carry the message	Hands together in HIV prevention
To the battle field...	Understanding that it's one's position
So everyone can know that with oneness	In knowing one's HIV status or condition
HIV can yield	Adhering to ARTs hence viral suppression
My sisters and brothers	With that unity, making the triple 90 dream a reality
Young people and elders	Bringing rise to a better nation
	And hope for a brighter vision.

Individuals will achieve healthier lifestyles when prevention and wellness programs are accessible and available in their workplace, through their health provider, and in their communities.

Rob Wittman

Our Vision

To be a recognised leader in the provision of high quality HIV services and to improve the lives of people affected by HIV

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Our Mission

The Lighthouse trust contributes to Malawi's national response to HIV as a model in providing a continuum of high quality care and building capacity in the health sector

LIGHTHOUSE