

30 years later: JCRC, CWRU foster HIV/ AIDS research

Joint Clinical Research Centre (JCRC) celebrated 30 years of partnering with Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) in sponsoring research in Uganda recently.

JCRC carries out research on HIV/AIDS and supports training activities for support research, care and treatment programmes.

CWRU and the government of Uganda have had a long standing relationship and so has been the case with JCRC. HIV/AIDS Research sponsored by CWRU has been instrumental in informing national and international treatment guidelines in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Thanks to the support from such funding institutions among others, Uganda has been in the limelight worldwide for leading in this area.

The celebrations were graced by the president of CWRU Barbara Snyder and the executive director of JCRC Dr. Cissy Kityo Mutuluzza at their main facility in Lubowa.

During the celebrations, the latest technology used in treating Sickle Cell disease called the Apheresis Services (the only one in the country), was showcased.



SAVE FOR YOUR WEDDING. Jubilee Life Insurance staff pose for a photo during the launch of the Jubilee Kwanjula Plus plan last week. The product is aimed at encouraging people to save for weddings.

Jubilee Insurance rolls out weddings savings scheme

Jubilee Life Insurance Company, on Thursday launched the Jubilee Kwanjula Plus plan targeting fresh university graduates and employees who intend to marry five to ten years after starting work.

Speaking at the launch Ajit Kumar the chief executive officer, Jubilee Life Insurance, said the product which has its roots in India, is meant to relieve stress from the beneficiaries when planning to get married. Often, marriage ceremonies become stressful especially when there are limited finances. This product allows people to save for the event.

"This is a five to ten year product which enables you to start planning and saving for your wedding or

introduction so that it becomes less stressful rather than a concern for fundraising. You decide the sum you save per month and we shall set the premium," he said.

The product can be obtained from Jubilee Insurance offices or with their agents selling the product. This will allow families and parents to plan for their children.

Mr Patrick Kimathi, the Jubilee Insurance chief operating officer, said the product was developed from his eight-year experience in Uganda where people hold several wedding preparatory meetings to raise money to finance the functions, a practice that has scared others from marrying due to the high costs involved.

"Weddings are not accidental. Start planning early enough so that you know the hotel where you want to host it, the place where you want to go for honey moon," he said.

Mr Amin Mawji, Aga Khan's diplomatic representative in Uganda, said the product is an enabler to help Ugandans based on His Highness the Aga Khan's vision of helping people while preserving their dignity.

"His Highness the Aga Khan believes that development should happen in a way that preserves the dignity of the beneficiaries," he said.

Haji Ibrahim Kaddunabi, the chief executive officer of Insurance Regulatory Authority, said it will reduce the financial burden on Ugandan men.



Six merchants hope onto GTBank's online platform

Guaranty Trust Bank (Uganda) Limited's (GTBank, Uganda) has introduced six merchants onto its Online Payment and Collection Platform, dubbed GTPay. Transactions have commenced seamlessly for these 6 merchants mainly in the travel and tourism industry. These merchants include; Airways Travel Limited, Kingman Safaris Limited, Bantu African Travel etc. The bank is about completing the integration process for a host of merchants.

GTPay is the GTBank Group's Online Sales, Payments and Collections platform. Once deployed for an institution or business, customers and general public with access to internet connectivity can patronise the institution or business and pay for goods and services such as school fees, ticket booking fees to such an institution online, without visiting the institution or bank. The platform is an ideal fit for schools, hotels, travel agents and other online merchants.

Customers looking to patronise and pay for services from the above travel agencies can make their payments from the comfort of their desktop/laptop/ipad or mobile phone. The customers can make payment using their Visa or Master Cards issued anywhere in the world. Plans are ongoing for the GTPay platform in Uganda to accept mobile money.



Kiota Kona in new, bigger home

As Patient Relief Mission (Kiota Kona) got a bigger better home in Nsambya behind the American Embassy. The place near to St Francis Nsambya hospital and easy access by anyone enables the nurse and the other caretakers to get immediate help whenever there is an emergency compared to the previous home.

"As patient relief mission, our service is about the patient. We wish we can make them as comfortable as we can. That is why we opted to get to a bigger place to give them more space," said Arnold Beyaraaza deputy executive director Patient Relief Mission.



Kiota Kona staff pose with Mr Dotan Hameiri, the operations manager at the new Patient Relief Mission (Kiota Kona) offices in Nsambya recently.

The new space accommodates more patients, offers better accessibility and is closer to health facilities

than it used to be while at Kawempe. "Until you have met them, you can never realise the kind

of pain that cancer patients go through. Sometimes they just want a pain killer but don't know where to get it," said Mr

Beyaraaza.

"We want to give people hope. When the patients here get better, they go back and tell stories that inspire someone else that cancer is not a death sentence," he said Mr Beyaraaza.

Although they are still struggling with transport, feeding as well as bedding for their clients, they hope to start a cancer centre for children.

"With time, we also want to start a cancer centre for the children because there are very few centres and many children have the perception that when you have cancer, you die. We want to change this," he said.

While settling into their new home, SBI International Holdings as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility donated office furniture to Kiota Kona.

They have been part of Patient Relief Mission since 2017.

Asintado to air on StarTimes Novela E Plus

The Filipino TV series Asintado will air on StarTimes Novela E Plus channel on April 7, bringing African audiences another popular "romance and revenge" story after the success of Wildflower. From each Friday to Sunday, two episodes will be broadcasted per day on StarTimes Novela E Plus channel.

"The fiction is astonishing and I'm sure that African audiences will love Asintado," said Echo Zhao, chief editor of StarTimes Novela E Plus channel.

She added: "People will be stimulated by the complicated relations between Juliana and Katrina."

Asintado tells a story of two girls, Juliana and Katrina, who were separated by a fire that destroyed their home and took their parents' lives, and the disaster turned them from sisters to strangers.