

EBOLA LABORATORY BIOSAFETY TRAINING WORKSHOP AT UNITID

Training workshop started in earnest on 3rd November 2014 at UNITID .The objectives of the training is to enhance competency of the laboratory scientists in Biosafety. The trainers are from UNITID lead by Mr Ernest Lutomia and Mr Fred Mose and department of veterinary medicine led by Prof Nyaga. The coordinator is Director UNITID Prof Mwanda Walter. The participants are from University of Nairobi Laboratories that include University Health services, Chiromo funeral Parlour (Human anatomy), Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, pediatrics department, immunology thematic unit among others

This training workshop targets trained laboratory technologist/technicians, microbiologists, clinicians, scientists trained in other disciplines and other individuals involved, either directly or indirectly, with laboratory work.

Persons working in clinical diagnostic laboratories are exposed to many risks. Whether the patients are humans or animals and whether laboratorians work in microbiology or elsewhere in the laboratory, the human and animal diagnostic laboratory is a challenging environment. The more that laboratorians become aware of and adhere to recommended, science-based safety precautions, the lower the risk. The goal of a safety program is to lower the risk to as close as possible to zero, although zero risk is as yet unattainable as long as patient specimens and live organisms are manipulated. Protection of laboratorians, coworkers, patients, families, and the environment is the greatest safety concern.

This training seeks to increase awareness of biological hazards encountered in laboratory and emerging disease research laboratories, to provide a scientific basis for assessing risks associated with research and diagnostic labs, to provide guidance on recommended practices and to promote the development of required skills to work safely with human pathogens. The object of safety awareness and practice is to assure laboratory and support personnel that with proper precautions, equipment and facilities biohazardous materials can be handled without undue risk to themselves, their associates, their families, and the environment.

According to the WHO a total of 9216 confirmed ,probable and suspected cases of Ebola Virus disease have been reported in seven affected countries (Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal ,sierra leone ,Spain and the United States of America) up to the end of 14th October 2014.Tere have been 4555 deaths .A second EVD negative sample was obtained from the single confirmed case in Senegal on 5th sept 2014.Following the WHO Ebola Response Roadmap structure ,countries fall into two categories 1)those with widespread and intense transmission (guinea ,Liberia and sierra Leone)2)those with initial case or cases or with localized transmission(Nigeria ,Senegal and the USA. EVD is characterized by sudden onset of fever and malaise, accompanied by other nonspecific signs and symptoms, such as myalgia, headache, vomiting, and diarrhea. Patients with severe forms of the disease may develop hemorrhagic symptoms and multi-organ dysfunction, including hepatic damage, renal failure, and central nervous system involvement, leading to shock and death. Person-to-person transmission occurs through direct contact with bodily fluids such as, but not limited to, blood, urine, sweat, semen, and breast milk, as well as exposure to contaminated objects. The incubation period is usually 8–10 days (ranges from 2–21 days). Patients can transmit the virus while febrile through later stages of disease, as well as postmortem, when persons touch the body during funeral preparations.



Second Row from Left: Prof Nyaga and one of the Trainers Mr Fred Mose, 3rd from Right Mr Ernest Lutomia .One of the lead trainers. Third row from Left Mr Juma Meshack ,Chief technologist Obs/Gyn



Fro back left: 2nd Prof Nyaga with participants from Human Anatomy (Funeral Parlour)



From Left: Prof Walter Mwanda, Director UNITID and Coordinator Biosafety workshop and Prof Nyaga Philip During the training.