

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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NAME: Okoboi, Stephen

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login): **SOKOBOI**

POSITION TITLE: Deputy Director Research, Infectious Diseases Institute, Makerere University.

EDUCATION/TRAINING (Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
National Institute of Health	K43 Fellowship	Ongoing	Fellowship
University of York, York UK	MSc	Ongoing	Masters Health Economics
University of Antwerp, Belgium	Ph.D.	05/21	Medical Sciences (Epidemiology)
University of California, San Francisco	Post Doc Fellowship	07/21	Epidemiology
Clarke International University	MPH	12/13	Public Health
Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU)	BSc	02/10	Health Services Management

A. Personal Statement

I am a public health specialist and epidemiologist dedicated to HIV prevention and care research that leads directly to improvements to the health of people in developing countries particularly key populations. My work findings have influenced policy in ART differentiated delivery care models that have improved retention and treatment outcomes among patients on ART. My work focuses on sexual behavior, retention and STI among experienced patients on ART, HIV and syphilis self-testing using peer networks among MSM. My doctoral research, secured grant funding through a UCSF Center for AIDS Research International Mentored Scientist Award, and evaluated peer distribution of HIV self-test kits among MSM in Uganda. My post-doctoral research, completed in 2022, was funded by a UCSF GloCal fellowship, and assessed adherence measurement methods among experienced persons on ART >25 years. In 2023, I was awarded K43 5-year Global Emerging Leader award to continue on HIV prevention research. I am dedicated to capacity development, mentorship of junior colleagues. I have supervised and mentored over 12 master of Public Health students and 2 PhD students. Three of my last author articles were first authored by four MPH students whom I supervised and mentored to completion of their theses. I have also practical experiences in research administration, research management, research governance budgeting and financial management, grant and scientific writing. For this grant I will be available as a co-investigator who will support project implementation based the Infectious Institute diseases.

Ongoing and recently completed projects that I would like to highlight include:

1. K43TW012637

Okoboi (PI)- UCSF GloCal Post Doctorial Fellowship

05/2023- 05/2028

Peer delivered HIV/syphilis self-testing with assisted partner notification services for men who have sex with men (MSM) in Uganda.

2. R01MH126691

Glenn Wagner (PI): Role Site PI

07/2021- May 2026

Controlled Trial of Game Changers: A Group Intervention to Train HIV Clients to be Change Agents for HIV Prevention in Uganda.

Citations

1. **Okoboi S**, Twimukye A, Lazarus O, Castelnuovo B, Agaba C, Immaculate M, Mastula Nanfuka 3, Andrew K, King R. Acceptability, perceived reliability and challenges associated with distributing self-test kits to young MSM in Uganda: a qualitative study. *J Int AIDS Soc* [Internet]. 2019;22(3): e25269. PMID: PMC6441924
2. **Okoboi S**, Lazarus O, Castelnuovo B, Nanfuka M, Kambugu A, Mujugira A, King R. Peer distribution of HIV self-test kits to men who have sex with men to identify undiagnosed HIV infection in Uganda: A pilot study. *PLoS ONE* 2020 15(1): e0227741. PMID: PMC6977761
3. **Okoboi S**, Castelnuovo B, Van Geertruyden JP, Lazarus O, Vu L, Kalibala S, Kamara Y, Ochanda, P, King R, Mujugira M. Cost-Effectiveness of Peer-Delivered HIV Self-Tests for MSM in Uganda. *Front Public Heal.* 2021;9(March):1–8. PMID: PMC801030
4. **Okoboi S**, Castelnuovo B, Moore DM, MUSAAZI J, Kambugu A, Birungi J, Nanfuka M, Van Rie A. Incidence rate of sexually transmitted infections among HIV infected patients on long-term ART in an urban and a rural clinic in Uganda. *BMC Public Health.* 2019 Jan 18;19(1):87. doi: 10.1186/s12889-019-6417. PMID: PMC6339266

B. Positions, Scientific Appointments, and Honors

Positions and Scientific Appointments

2019- Deputy Head Research Programme, Infectious Diseases Institute, Makerere University

2018- Adjunct Lecturer, Clarke International University

2016-2018: Research Manager and Secretary IDI scientific Review committee, Infectious Diseases

2013-2015: Program Officer in Research, TASO Headquarters, Kampala, Uganda

2010-2013: Clinical Services Supervisor, TASO Tororo, Uganda

2007-2010: TB/HIV Focal Person, TASO Tororo, Uganda

Honors

2023- 2026: Thanzi Programme Health Economics Studentships programme

2023- 2028: Emerging Global Leader Award

2020: Post-Doctoral Fellowship: GloCal Fellowship, University of California, San Francisco

2019: 3 months UCSF **Designing Clinical Research course scholarship** (EPI-202).

2019: CROI International Scholar Awards, Seattle, 2019

2018: 2 weeks **Principles of STI & AIDS Research course scholarship**, University of Washington, USA

2018: 3 months' **Epidemiologic methods course (EPI 203) scholarship**, University of California.

2017-2018: International mentor scientist award by Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) on HIV/AIDS program funded by the UCSF-Gladstone Institute for Virology and Immunology.

2017: IAS Educational fund scholarship; Paris, France

2017: VLIR-UOS Scholarship on International training program (ITP) on epidemiology, Biostatistics and Qualitative research methods (EBQ) Global Health Institute, University of Antwerp **2017 October-December**

2016: Best research proposal; The 8th UCSF East Africa Collaborative Scientific Symposium; Kampala

2016: CROI International Scholar Awards, Boston, USA

2016: 21st International AIDS conference full international scholarship, Durban, South Africa.

2016-2019: Canadian African Preventative Trial network PhD studentship award.

2016: AIDS Vaccine, Microbicide and ARV-based Prevention Science (HIVR4P) scholarship for HIV Research for Prevention. **Chicago, USA**

2015: Health technology assessment workshop Travel Grant award, Norway.

2014: CROI International Scholar Awards, Boston, USA

2014: Treatment as prevention workshop International scholarship award, Vancouver, Canada.

2010: International Conference on Aids and Sexually transmitted infection in Africa (ICASA) International scholarship award, Ethiopia

C. Contributions to Science

ART treatment, retention and adherence. Antiretroviral therapy (ART) has personal health benefits (decreased HIV morbidity and mortality) and public health benefits (prevention of HIV transmission). The World Health Organization now recommends ART initiation for all persons following an HIV diagnosis. I led secondary analyses of data from the Home-based care projects and TASO program data of HIV-infected persons who have been on ART for longer periods. We found that good retention in care among patients on long time ART and demonstrated that community-based ART delivery models can effectively facilitate long term ART retention and low rates of death and virological failure in Uganda. These studies contribute evidence of ART differentiated care models, ART adherence, Retention and HIV prevention and treatment

1. **Okoboi S**, Castelnovo B, Moore DM, Musaazi J, Kambugu A, Birungi J, Kaleebu P, Nanfuka M 7, Kanya M, Van Rie R. Risky sexual behavior among patients on long-term antiretroviral therapy: a prospective cohort study in urban and rural Uganda. *AIDS Res Ther.* 2018 Oct 19;15(1):15. doi: 10.1186/s12981-018-0203. PMID: PMC6195707
2. **Okoboi S**, Ssali L, Yansaneh AI, Bakanda C, Birungi J, Nantume S, J Okullu, Sharp A, Moore M, and Kalibala S. Factors associated with long-term antiretroviral therapy attrition among adolescents in rural Uganda: a retrospective study. *Int AIDS Soc.* **2016** Jul 20;19(5 Suppl 4):20841. doi: 10.7448/IAS.19.5.20841. PubMed PMID: 27443271;
3. **Okoboi S**, Ekwaru PJ, Campbell JD, Egessa A, King R, Bakanda C, Muramuzi F Kaharuza, S, Malamba & Moore M. No differences in clinical outcomes with the addition of viral load testing to CD4 cell count monitoring among HIV infected participants receiving ART in rural Uganda: Long-term results from the Home-Based AIDS Care Project. *BMC Public Health.* **2016** Feb 1; 16:101. doi: 10.1186/s12889-016-2781-y. PubMed PMID: 26830678.
4. **Okoboi S**, Ding E, Persuad S, Wangisi J, Birungi J, Shurgold S, Kato D, Nyonyintono M, Egessa A, Bakanda C, Munderi M, Kaleebu P, Moore M. Community-based ART distribution system can effectively facilitate long-term program retention and low-rates of death and virologic failure in rural Uganda. *AIDS Res Ther.* **2015** Nov12; 12:37. doi: 10.1186/s12981-015-0077-4. PMID: PMC4642676

HIV prevention and Social network. HIV self-testing is a way to reach more people with undiagnosed HIV and represents a step forward to empower individuals, diagnose people earlier; m health is a promising strategy of scaling up HIV prevention particularly priority populations. We conducted HIV self-testing study among men who have sex with me in Uganda and found that HIVST were acceptable. These studies contribute evidence on acceptability of M health and HIV self-testing

1. **Okoboi S**, Twimukye A, Lazarus O, Castelnovo B, Agaba C, Immaculate M, Mastula Nanfuka 3, Andrew K, King R. Acceptability, perceived reliability and challenges associated with distributing self-test kits to young MSM in Uganda: a qualitative study. *J Int AIDS Soc [Internet].* 2019;22(3): e25269. PMID: PMC6441924
2. **Okoboi S**, Lazarus O, Castelnovo B, Nanfuka M, Kambugu A, Mujugira A, King R. Peer distribution of HIV self-test kits to men who have sex with men to identify undiagnosed HIV infection in Uganda: A pilot study. *PLoS ONE* 2020 15(1): e0227741. PMID: PMC6977761
3. **Okoboi S**, Castelnovo B, Van Geertruyden JP, Lazarus O, Vu L, Kalibala S, Kamara Y, Ochanda, P, King R, Mujugira M. Cost-Effectiveness of Peer-Delivered HIV Self-Tests for MSM in Uganda. *Front Public Heal.* 2021;9(March):1–8. PMID: PMC801030
4. **Okoboi S**, Castelnovo B, Moore DM, Musaazi J, Kambugu A, Birungi J, Nanfuka M, Van Rie A. Incidence rate of sexually transmitted infections among HIV infected patients on long-term ART in an urban and a rural clinic in Uganda. *BMC Public Health.* 2019 Jan 18;19(1):87. doi: 10.1186/s12889-019-6417. PMID: PMC6339266

Economic evaluation method estimates the costs and health gains of alternative interventions and provides a method for prioritizing the allocation of resources to health interventions by identifying interventions that have the potential to yield the greatest improvement in health for the least resources. We have evaluated cost and cost effectiveness of several interventions

1. Sarah MacCarthy, Alexandra Mendoza-Graf, Uzaib Saya, Clare Samba, Josephine Birungi, **Stephen Okoboi** & Sebastian Linnemayr (2019) Lessons learned from a mobile technology-based intervention informed by behavioral economics to improve ART adherence among youth in Uganda, *AIDS Care*, DOI: 10.1080/09540121.2019.1622630. PMID: PMC6999852.
2. Mills, E, J.; Adhvaryu, Achyuta; Jakiela, P; Birungi, J; **Okoboi**, S, Chimulwa T, Wangisi J, Achilla T, Popoff E, Golchi S, Karlan . Unconditional cash transfers for clinical and economic outcomes among HIV-affected Ugandan households: a bayesian randomised trial. *AIDS*. 2018 May 28. doi: 10.1097/QAD.0000000000001899. PMID: 29847330
3. Vu L, Waliggo S, Zieman B, Jani N, Buzaalirwa L, **Okoboi S**, Okal J, Nagesh N 7, Kalibala S. Annual cost of antiretroviral therapy among three service delivery models in Uganda. *J Int AIDS Soc*. 2016 Jul 20;19(5 Suppl 4):20840. doi: 10.7448/IAS.19.5.20840. PubMed PMID: 27443270; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4956730.

Promoting ethical conduct of research: Ensuring researchers' compliance to ethical standards of conducting human based research is a responsibility of the investigators. We evaluated researchers experiences in strengthening research compliance and situational analysis of research ethics competence of different research ethics committee. I actively participated in a capacity building grant (PI: Byakika) which develop a curriculum and train Ethic Committees of Makerere University (Kampala, Uganda) in order to review of complex clinical trials, Phase 1 and 2 trials, adaptive design, studies requiring rapid review such as trials with a fast-competitive recruitment. I also lead the accreditation of the Infectious Diseases Institute Research Ethic Committee (IDI-REC) with the Uganda National Council for science and technology. And a member of two RECs in Uganda.

1. Nabukenya S, **Okoboi S**, Nakate V, Twimukye A, Opio B, Castelnuovo B. Researchers experience of using the regulatory affairs information system in strengthening research compliance in a large research program: A case study of the Infectious Diseases Institute in Uganda. 2022;5(3):1–7.
2. Ainembabazi P, Castelnuovo B, **Okoboi S**, Arinaitwe WJ, Parkes-Ratanshi R, Byakika-Kibwika P. A situation analysis of competences of research ethics committee members regarding review of research protocols with complex and emerging study designs in Uganda. *BMC Med Ethics* [Internet]. 2021;22(1):1–7. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12910-021-00692-6>

Completed list of publication

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/myncbi/10qsig3ne5QL/bibliography/public/>