

LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

The College of Medicine, University of Malawi, operating through its Department of Community Health (Hereafter: College of Medicine)

and

University of Tampere Medical School, Finland, operating through the International Child Health Unit at its Department of Paediatrics (Hereafter: University of Tampere)

Purpose:

The College of Medicine, University of Malawi, and the University of Tampere Medical School, Finland wish to work together to facilitate research and training of health professionals on maternal and child health in Malawi, especially in the Lungwena area of Mangochi District. This letter of understanding describes the contribution each institution wishes to make to further this aim, how these contributions will be made explicit and how they will be administered.

Contribution of the College of Medicine:

The College of Medicine wishes:

1. To support the University of Tampere forge academic links with the developing world
2. To identify suitable Malawian researchers for mother and child health related research projects in Malawi, jointly agreed by staff of the two institutions (Hereafter: Research Projects).
3. To employ, remunerate and reimburse approved expenses of Malawian research personnel working for the Research Projects with funds provided by the University of Tampere
4. To appoint the non-Malawian Research Project personnel as honorary teaching staff or students at the College of Medicine
5. To assist the non-Malawian Research Projects personnel with immigration, work permits and other relevant practical arrangements regarding their participation in research work or teaching

6. To assist the University of Tampere project with customs clearance for goods needed in the Research Projects
7. To participate in fundraising for the Research Projects
8. To account for jointly applied Research Project funds that are administered at COM but granted by outside funding agencies. To provide the University of Tampere with an annual summary of such accounts
9. To account for research funds transferred from University of Tampere to COM and to provide the administration at University of Tampere with six-monthly summaries of finances and copies of all original receipts entered into the accounts. From funds used at the research site (Tampere University Mother & Child Health project Account in Mangochi), however, COM accounts shall indicate only monthly summaries whereas details and copies of original receipts shall be sent directly from the trial site to Finland.
10. Against an annual fee, to provide office space and administrative assistance for Malawian and non-Malawian personnel participating in Research Projects
11. To facilitate the identification of economically feasible accommodation for researchers participating in Research Projects.

Contribution of the University of Tampere:

The University of Tampere wishes

1. To support the College of Medicine build capacity through human resource and infrastructure development.
2. To contribute to postgraduate training of Malawian researchers participating in Research Projects. The intention is that similar numbers of Malawian and non-Malawian researchers are given the opportunity of this postgraduate training. Where applicable, such Malawian individuals will be enrolled as post-graduate students at the University of Tampere
3. To assist the Malawian Research Project personnel with immigration, work permits and other relevant practical arrangements regarding their post-graduate training in Finland
4. To identify non-Malawian personnel for Research Projects where Malawian expertise is not available
5. To participate in the mother and child health related teaching of medical undergraduate and postgraduate students in Mangochi District

6. To seek funds for Research Projects and to transfer them to the Research Office at College of Medicine, Malawi. At COM, part of the funds shall be used for Research Project staff salaries and payments of other larger budget items. Another part can be forwarded from COM to Tampere University Mother & Child Health Project Account in Mangochi, to be used for local costs at the research site.
7. To cover the costs of research facilities at Lungwena Training Health Centre through contributions to the Lungwena Trust Fund, and the cost of office space and administrative assistance in Blantyre and Mangochi provided by the College of Medicine
8. To make an allowance for College of Medicine administrative and financial expenses through a 10% charge on Research Project funds administered in Malawi.
9. To ensure that Research Project personnel maintains proper records of the Tampere University Mother & Child Health Project Account in Mangochi and provides the administration at College of Medicine with monthly summaries of these expenses. The same summaries, together with copies of all original receipts shall also be sent from Lungwena personnel to Tampere University administration.
10. To account for jointly applied Research Project funds that are administered at UTA but granted by outside funding agencies. To provide the College of Medicine with an annual summary of such accounts

Blantyre 22.10.2003 and Tampere 21.08.2003

Professor Robin Broadhead
Principal
College of Medicine
University of Malawi
Malawi

Professor Pauli Ylitalo
Director
University of Tampere
Medical School
Finland