

RIIO@KIBAGABAGA COMMUNITY CLINIC LAUNCHED ON WORLD SIGHT DAY 2020

THE RIIO SCHOOL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY HAS SIGNED A SERVICE PROVISION AGREEMENT WITH KIBAGABAGA DISTRICT HOSPITAL AND GASABO DISTRICT, TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE SPECIALIZED EYE CARE SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY. THIS IS A MODEL OF PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR IMPROVING ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY EYE CARE SERVICES IN THE SPIRIT OF UHC, LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND. RIIO PROVIDES THE EYE CARE SPECIALISTS AS WELL AS EQUIPMENT TO RUN A SPECIALIST LEVEL EYE CLINIC. THE CLINIC HAS NOW BEEN UPGRADED FROM A DISTRICT LEVEL FACILITY TO A REFERRAL CLINIC. PATIENTS USING COMMUNITY HEALTH INSURANCE AS WELL AS OTHER INSURANCES CAN ACCESS HIGH QUALITY SERVICES EASILY NOW. FOR EXAMPLE THE FIRST EVER DALK CORNEAL TRANSPLANTS WERE PERFORMED AT DECEMBER 2020.

DIRECTORS NOTE JANUARY 2021

IT IS QUITE A TASK TO SEND A PRINTED NEWSLETTER, AT THIS TIME WHEN THE WORLD WORKS SO DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WE KNEW, SO LET US START BY ENCOURAGING YOU TO CONTACT US AND ENGAGE WITH US VIA OUR WEBSITE WWW.RIIO.ORG AND SOCIAL MEDIA [FACEBOOK](#), [INSTAGRAM](#), [TWITTER](#) PLATFORMS .

IN THIS BI-ANNUAL WE PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF OUR PROJECTS AND HIGHLIGHT WHAT RIIO HAS ACCOMPLISHED IN RECENT MONTHS. WE HAVE KEPT GOING DESPITE COVID- FROM OUR HOMES, ONLINE, THROUGH LOCKDOWNS AND CURFEWS.WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUPPORT OF PREVIOUS AND CURRENT PARTNERS WHOSE SUPPORT HELPED US MOVE FURTHER AND ACHIEVE MORE TOWARDS OUR MISSION OF SUSTAINING GOOD EYE HEALTH FOR ALL. WE LOOK FORWARD TO NEW PARTNERSHIPS TOO, AS WE CONTINUE OUR MISSION OF DELIVERING PROJECTS THAT ARE ABLE TO INTEGRATE EDUCATION, INNOVATION, RESEARCH, AND ENTERPRISE FOR THE LONG-TERM BENEFIT OF EYE PATIENTS AND STAKEHOLDERS IN RWANDA AND THE REGION.

SINCERELY,



Senior Ministry of health and Gasabo District Officials Open the RIIO@KIBAGABAGA COMMUNITY EYE CLINIC



PROF. GEOFF TABIN, WILLS EYE FELLOW, DR OMAIR BADSHAH ALI, RIIO DIRECTORS AND RESIDENTS AT THE RIIO@KIBAGABAGA COMMUNITY EYE CLINIC



PATIENTS AT THE RIIO@KIBAGABAGA COMMUNITY EYE CLINIC RECEIVING TREATMENT.

FEBRUARY 2021

RIIO SCHOOL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

Q and A with Janvier Murenzi, RIIO Head of Operations

Q1. RIIO RUNS THE FIRST AND ONLY OPHTHALMOLOGY RESIDENCY PROGRAM IN RWANDA. HOW IS IT GOING?

ANSWER: THE PROGRAM IS NOW IN ITS THIRD YEAR AND WE HAVE 10 RESIDENTS ENROLLED FROM RWANDA, BURUNDI AND DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO. OUR THIRD YEAR ARE SLOWLY BUT SURELY BECOMING COMPETENT CLINICIANS AND ARE CURRENTLY IN GUINEA DOING AN INTENSIVE CATARACT SURGERY COURSE AT CADESSO*. THIS MODEL OF SOUTH TO SOUTH COOPERATION IS SOMETHING WE CHERISH

Q2. HOW EASY OR DIFFICULT HAS IT BEEN TO START A PROGRAM FROM SCRATCH?

ANSWER: OUR INTERACTIONS WITH EXISTING PROGRAM DIRECTORS THROUGH THE COECSA HAS HELPED US GREATLY IN THIS JOURNEY. THE RIIO DIRECTORS BRING THE BEST FROM THEIR OWN EXPERIENCES AS TRAINEES AT UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI AND WITS. THE NETWORKS THEY HAVE MADE OVER THE YEARS HAS HELPED US FILL IN OUR GAPS IN OUR RESOURCES AND NUMBER OF FACULTY. NOTABLE IS OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH FONDAZIONE LEONARDO DEL VECCHIO, FRED HOLLOWES FOUNDATION, HIMALAYAN CATARACT PROJECT, CBM AND WILLSEYE CENTRE FOR ACADEMIC GLOBAL OPHTHALMOLOGY. THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH RWANDA REMAINS OUR MOST ENDURING SUPPORTER AND WE WANT TO FULFIL OUR PROMISE OF PRODUCING EXCELLENT OPHTHALMOLOGISTS TO FILL IN THE GAPS IN THE COUNTRY.



Prof. Geoff Tabin, leads a lecture at the RIIO School.

WILLS EYE FELLOW Dr Omair Badshah Ali supervises a wet lab session with RIIO Residents.

AWARDS AND GLOBAL ROLES

COECSA

WE ARE PRIVILEGED TO NOT ONLY HAVE OUR SCHOOL ACCREDITED BY COECSA BUT TO ALSO HAVE OUR DIRECTOR DR JOHN NKURIKIYE AS THE PRESIDENT OF COECSA.

ICO

OUR DIRECTOR PROF CIKU MATHENGE IS CURRENTLY THE ONLY AFRICAN MEMBER ON THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY (ICO BOARD)

IAPB

IN 2016 THE INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS NOMINATED CIKU AS AN EYE HEALTH HERO. AT THE END OF 2020, IAPB HONoured CIKU WITH THE VISION EXCELLENCE AWARD 2020

Vision Excellence Awards: Ciku Mathenge



RIIO RESEARCH

WITH SUPPORT FROM ORBIS INTERNATIONAL, WE ARE GEARING UP TO PERFORM THE FIRST RANDOMIZED TRIAL USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR DIABETIC RETINOPATHY SCREENING IN THE REGION. THE STUDY HAS ALREADY ATTAINED ETHICS APPROVAL AND ALSO BEEN REGISTERED WITH THE PAN AFRICAN CLINICAL TRIALS REGISTRY (PACTR). THIS STUDY IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO GRADE RETINA IMAGES AT THE POINT OF DIABETES CARE WOULD ALLOW THE ROLE OUT OF A NATIONAL SCREENING PROGRAM IN A COUNTRY WITH VERY FEW EYE SPECIALISTS TO EXAMINE ALL THE PATIENTS WITH DIABETES AND WITH NO READING CENTRE TO INTERPRET RETINA IMAGES. THE STUDY WILL LOOK NOT ONLY AT THE PERFORMANCE OF THIS MODEL BUT ALSO HOW RECEIVING IMMEDIATE GRADING IMPACTS PATIENT SATISFACTION AND UPTAKE OF REFERRAL TO EYE CLINICS.

Rwanda Artificial Intelligence for Diabetic Retinopathy Screening (RAIDERS) - A Randomized Control Trial



THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED BY THE ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN VISION AND OPHTHALMOLOGY (ARVO) WHICH HAS AWARDED PROFESSOR CIKU MATHENGE THE ROCHE COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP TO FURTHER SUPPORT THIS STUDY.

Congratulations



Wanjiku Mathenge,
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University of Rwanda
Kigali, Rwanda



Sudhir H Ranganath, PhD
Siddaganga
Institute of Technology
Tumkur, India



Pablo Federico Barcelona, PhD
National University of Córdoba
Córdoba, Argentina

Recipients of the Roche Collaborative Research Fellowship





RIIO doctors provide services at hospitals without ophthalmologists in support of the Ministry of Health program



Despite the challenges raised by COVID-19, RIIO was able to host and train young ophthalmologists during it's annual Medical Retina Course in partnership with COECSA and ORBIS International.



RIIO residents successfully sat their ICO examinations in July 2020.



RIIO residents during a grand rounds session led by RIIO Director, Dr. John Nkurikiye

