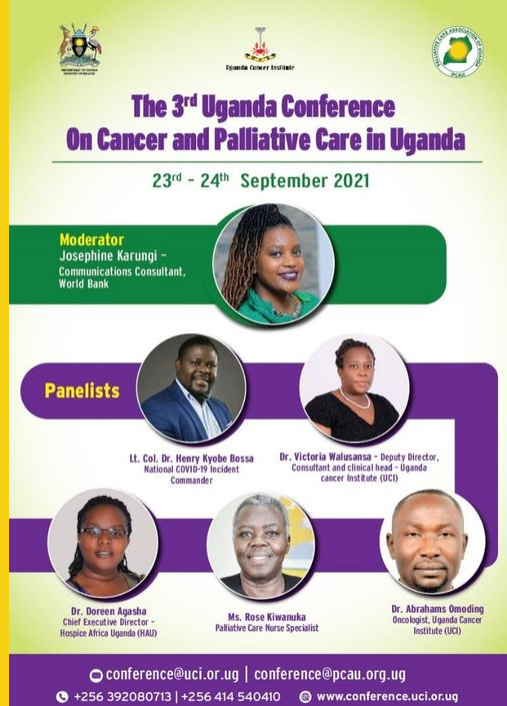


## PCAU PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

### PCAU Conference a Success!

Last week, the Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU) and the Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI) held their 3rd **Uganda Conference on Cancer and Palliative Care** with the theme **“Cancer and Palliative Care During COVID-19 and Other Challenging Situations.”**

The conference was held virtually, in collaboration with the Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC). The conference proceedings were televised throughout Uganda, and the production quality was impressive. Even more impressive was the outstanding content with presenters from Uganda and across the globe! CHC/HF staff participated as presenters and attendees. Next month’s newsletter will have a full report on the conference.



### Intern Alumni Network Launched

Since the launch of the Center for Hospice Care/Hospice Foundation (CHC/HF) and PCAU partnership in 2008, more than 30 university students have interned with PCAU, courtesy of CHC/HF’s local collaborations. The majority of interns are University of Notre Dame students, from a variety of disciplines: pre-medicine, biology, theology, global health, film and business. Most students traveled to Uganda for a first-hand experience of PCAU’s work, but virtual interns have also found value in the time spent with the partnership. The internships support PCAU projects while providing an educational, impactful experience for students who learn a lot through job shadowing and synthesizing their classroom knowledge in real-life situations.



L to R: Interns Gaby Austgen in 2013, Kat Kostolansky in 2019 and Bri Cawley in 2015

For example, Film, Television and Theatre students Marty Flavin and Collin Erker were part of a film crew for the *The Road to Hope* documentary which was created to help raise awareness of the plight of child caregivers. Marty and Collin spent three and a half weeks in East Africa collecting footage for the documentary. This project was important for the support of the Road to Hope program. Collin and Marty currently work in the film and entertainment industries.



Collin Erker (left) and Marty Flavin (right) while filming 'Road to Hope' in 2013

Global health student Katie Anderson was able to apply her classroom learning to support the rollout of the mHealth surveillance project led by PCAU. That project is now collecting palliative care data across Uganda. Katie learned the intricacies of working with multiple partners around the country and has returned to Uganda to work in emergency medicine.

Even after graduation, many of these interns have stayed in touch with CHC/HF or PCAU. This is a critical mass of people who are interested in and care about the partnership. Earlier this month, we held the first meeting of the intern alumni network.

The goal of this network is to provide a platform for interns and our organizations to engage, network and maintain the relationships they have established. It provides an opportunity to keep past interns updated on the important work of PCAU – including what new projects interns are currently working on.

Anna Heffron interned with PCAU in 2013. “I love the idea of more connection between the alumni of this group. I really valued the time that I spent with PCAU and CHC, learned a lot from it and always get excited getting email about what PCAU is doing.”



Anna Heffron, 2013

In the September meeting, the group agreed to meet on a quarterly basis, which will provide opportunities for engagement within the alumni network – both with each other and with the CHC/HF and PCAU teams. The network will offer regular updates, virtual gatherings and explore other engagement opportunities.

PCAU has been fortunate to have so many dedicated students support their work over the years. Likewise, these students have been fortunate to learn from and share the experiences of the meaningful work done by PCAU. We hope the alumni network will maintain this approach of mutual benefit for both PCAU and the former interns.

### PCAU Staff Highlights: Anita Balikobaku

Anita Balikobaku recently joined PCAU as the program manager. She is responsible for handling overall administrative roles and is deputized to the country director in leading the PCAU team to implement its strategic plan. She also oversees the Road to Hope program and will work closely with the Road to Hope children.



PCAU Program Manager Anita Balikobaku

Prior to joining PCAU, Anita worked for *Every Life Uganda*, spearheading economic strengthening strategies for the vulnerable groups as well as a university mentor with *Invisible Children* on the Legacy Scholarship Program. Anita has over nine years of work experience with post-graduate studies ranging from health advocacy, social research, institutional development, resources mobilization, community empowerment, monitoring and evaluation, transformational leadership, partnership building, and working with vulnerable populations.

Anita holds a master’s degree in project planning and management from the Uganda Management Institute and a degree in social work and social administration from Uganda Christian University. She has taken short courses in program management, advocacy, sexual and reproductive health rights, administrative law, HIV/AIDS counseling, health promotion, and gender-based violence. She has published social research work in the fields of project sustainability, gender equality, health, hygiene, and human rights promotion, reproductive health, and orphans and other vulnerable children.

Anita has been a Civic Leadership Fellow at the Young African Leadership Initiative (YALI) Regional Leadership Center East Africa. She enjoys sharing development ideas with people, networking, researching, sports, and hiking. Her career objective is to holistically uplift, with creativity and dedication, the lives of vulnerable people.

### Education Update from the Road to Hope Program

We have all been anxiously awaiting news on the re-opening of schools. The president addressed the nation on September 22nd, announcing updates on vaccinations and the re-opening of religious institutions. Schools, however, remain closed as the government seeks to ensure more teachers are vaccinated. Tertiary institutions will reopen on November 1 while primary and secondary schools will not resume in-person classroom learning until January 2022. A few RTH children will return to vocational schools and university in November, but the majority of our children will remain at home until next year.

PCAU anticipated this and had already resumed homeschooling and education support for RTH children – re-engaging the identified teachers in the children’s communities and providing learning materials.



Anita makes a home visit to Sali and his family

In addition, PCAU is holding regional retreats with all RTH children with the following two goals: 1) to introduce new staff member Anita who will be overseeing the RTH program, and 2) talk with the children about how they are doing and how PCAU can best support them. PCAU is concerned about the many psychosocial issues children may be facing during the extended lockdown, and they feel the in-person connection with the children is crucial.



Kellen receives supplies for homeschooling

**If you would like to write a note of encouragement to a child on the RTH program, please contact Denis Kidde at [kidded@cfhcare.org](mailto:kidded@cfhcare.org). They love to receive notes from their friends and supporters in the U.S.!**

### Help Support PCAU's Efforts Toward Sustainability

PCAU has the opportunity to become a partner on the Global Giving platform which will open new doors for fundraising opportunities to a wider audience. To be accepted as a partner, however, PCAU needs to be successful in an initial accelerator campaign project. The initial project PCAU focuses on the Road to Hope program – **[Restore Hope to Child-Headed Families in Uganda](#)**. Success is achieved by raising at least \$5,000 from a minimum of 40 donors **by September 30th**.



As they work toward organizational sustainability, PCAU aims to diversify funding streams. Access to a new audience of potential donors through Global Giving could make a big impact on PCAU’s work. Once accepted as a partner with Global Giving, PCAU will have access to Global Giving grants and have more opportunities to raise additional funds.

**You can help by sharing PCAU’s social media posts and inviting new donors to support this initiative and raise awareness of the Road to Hope program.** Please share this in your networks before September 30th. Thank you!



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