

HPV symposium

ICRH 20 years!!!

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ICRH

- International Centre for Reproductive Health
- Prof. Dr. Marleen Temmerman
- 1994 (Cairo-conference)



ICRH

- Multidisciplinary research centre within the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Ghent University.
 - HIV/AIDS, STIs/STDs
 - **HPV/cervical cancer**
 - Family planning
 - Mother-child health
 - Harmful traditional practices
 - Sexual and gender-based violence
 - Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)
- WHO collaborating centre

ICRH

- ICRH started at Ghent University, but...
 - ICRH Mombasa (Kenya)
 - ICRH Mozambique
- And collaborations/partnerships virtually worldwide
 - China
 - Nicaragua
 - Ecuador
 -



HPV research @ ICRH

- ICRH has a long tradition in HPV/cervical cancer research and interventions
 - Multiple research projects in Nicaragua...
 - ... in Belgium ...
 - ... and in Kenya.

Special attention for screening/treatment options in resource-limited settings, and in specific populations, e.g. HIV co-infected patients.



Patricia Claeys
(1958 – 2008)

Some realized projects:

- Setup of drop-in centers for cervical cancer screen-and treat (Mombasa, Kenya)
- Introduction of HPV (genotyping!) test in Kenya at the ICRH-CPGH laboratory (Mombasa, Kenya)
- Setup of a Kenyan HPV think-tank



Some realized projects:

- Natural history and clearance of HPV infections after treatment (Nicaragua)
 - Prof. Dr. Patricia Claeys
- Epidemiology of HPV/cervical lesions in HIV positive women (Nairobi/Mombasa, Kenya)
 - Prof. Dr. Peter Gichangi
 - Dr. Hugo De Vuyst
- Epidemiology of HPV/cervical cancer in rural populations (Tigoni, Kenya)
 - Prof. Dr. Lucy Muchiri

Ongoing studies:

- SIL-study: Management of LSIL in HIV positive women (Mombasa, Kenya).
 - PhD: Sonia Menon
- Kesho Bora study, partim HPV: HPV infections (genotypes and viral load) in HIV-positive pregnant women (Mombasa, Kenya).
 - PhD: Joseph Vyankandondera



- Surveillance of Effects of Vaccination in Belgium: SEHIB
 - PI: Steven Weyers, co-PI: Marc Arbyn
- 7 PhD studenten:
 - Acceptability of HPV vaccination (Heleen Vermandere)
 - Epigenetic Biomarkers: prediction of disease progression/regression (Marusya Lieveld)
 - Epidemiological studies in DR Congo and Ecuador (Cathy Ali-Risasi and Hector Zambrano)
 - Potential routes for MTCT of HPV (Kristi Valentine)
 - Most recent PhD: HPV in children (dr. Mireille Merckx)
 - Factors causing delayed presentation of cervical lesions (Emily Mwaliko)
 - Prevention of cervical cancer in the vaccine era (Hillary Mabeya)

The U(Z) Ghent Research Platform

- Multidisciplinary research team, comprising members of different departments within Ghent University and Ghent University Hospital:
 - Platform for gynaecologists, virologists, molecular biologists, pathologists, sociologists and epidemiologists.
- Bridge between fundamental and clinical research
- Core team:
 - Prof. Dr. Marleen Praet
 - Prof. Dr. Liza Padalko
 - Prof. Dr. Steven Weyers
 - Prof. Dr. Davy Vanden Broeck
- Enriched with:
 - Prof. Dr. John-Paul Bogers (AML, UAntwerp, UGhent)
 - Dr. Marc Arbyn (IPH, UGhent)

Towards a National Reference Framework....???

- Currently missing reference framework in Belgium, however:
 - Essential to streamline the introduction of (primary HPV testing)
 - Essential to guarantee high quality prevention and surveillance
- Call for candidates now open
 - UZ Ghent has the ambition to take the lead in this process, including the national key players (and their teams) :
 - John-Paul Bogers (for laboratory)
 - Marc Arbyn (for epidemiology)

Thank you!

And have a fruitful conference!