HPV symposium
ICRH 20 years!!!

Davy Vanden Broeck
05/12/2014
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!