



Press release:

Global Mental Health conference in Uganda of EMERALD programme

Kampala, 11 February 2014 – In order to improve mental health systems in Uganda, the European Commission funded research project EMERALD is having a conference on mental health, in Kampala, Uganda from 10 - 13 February 2014.

EMERALD is a strong global mental health research partnership in low and middle income countries, which started in November 2012. In Kampala, the researchers will be discussing the outline and aims of the project and how to improve local and national health systems and policies, in close collaboration with the Ugandan Ministry of Health policy makers.

On Tuesday, 11 February at 4:45 there will be a short press conference at the Kabira Country Club. All important stakeholders of the project will attend. Dr. Fred Kigozi, the leading expert from Butabika National Referral Mental Hospital together with Prof. Graham Thornicroft, the coordinator from King's College London is chairing the press conference, together with Dr. Sheila Ndyabangi from the National Ministry of Health of Uganda.

The EMERALD project is an important approach towards improving mental health systems and capacity building in Uganda and other low and middle income countries. The project has some of the most renowned mental health experts worldwide and in their countries, from the World Health Organization, to King's College London, and experts from Uganda, Ethiopia, Germany, India, Nepal, The Netherlands, Nigeria, South Africa and Spain.

People with mental health disorders worldwide including Uganda have limited access to treatment. In many low and middle income countries there are insufficient resources to offer adequate treatment and care for people with mental health problems. Patients with depression, alcohol use disorders, schizophrenia and other mental illnesses are often left to the care of their families, which causes economic and social problems for these families. The EMERALD researchers are working to raise awareness, fight stigma and discrimination and improve local and national health systems and policies.

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For more information on our work, please check our website www.emerald-project.eu. If you have questions, please contact the global EMERALD project manager Nicole Votruba: nicole.votruba@gabomi.com and +49 89 288 104 21.

For Uganda specific questions you may contact the national EMERALD coordinator, Dr. Fred Kigozi of Butabika National Referral Mental Hospital: fredkigozi@yahoo.com.