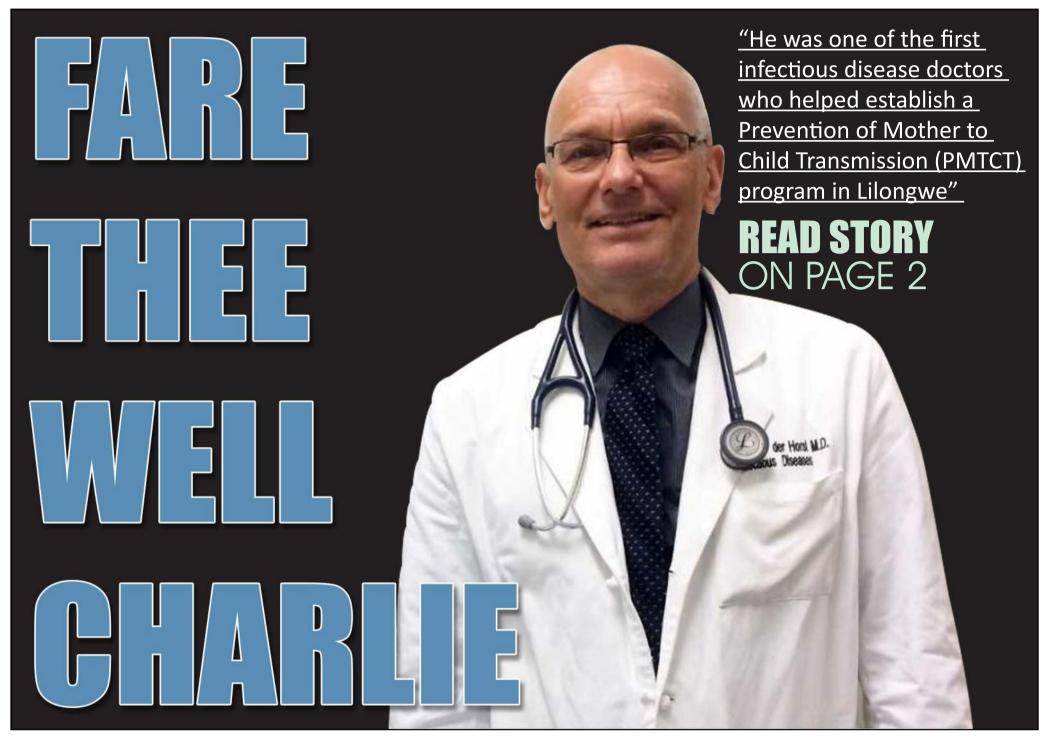
# Tidziwe POST

THIRD QUARTER **JULY - SEPTEMBER 2019** 



## UNC donates MWK7,596,900

### to flood victims, through Malawi Red Cross Society

ell wishers drawn from various departments of UNC donated MWK7, 596, 900 to assist in the plight of the 2019 flood victims, through the Malawi Red Cross Society.

The money was raised online through the 'gofundme.com' and contributions were made by staff and students of UNC in the United States and also those working locally in various health research projects.

Presenting the donation on Friday 10 May 2019 through a symbolic cheque, UNC Project Malawi Country Director Innocent Mofolo said his organization felt obliged to ease the plight of the people who had been affected by the devastating floods in the just ended rainy

The money was collected through group effort of UNC staff and students who felt the need to help those who had been affected by Cyclone Idai and we thank all who participated in raising the

funds," said Mofolo.

Receiving the money, Malawi Red Cross Society President Levison Changole said the donation would go a long way in alleviating suffering of those affected by the floods through three thematic areas of: water, sanitation and health, shelter provision and livelihood.

He said after emergency response during the actual flooding period, there was now a new challenge of resettling

We have people who are not willing to be resettled but it's our duty to help them get back to their normal lives," he said.

Changole said Malawi Red Cross Society was targeting at least 14000 households but they were still facing resource constraints to adequately help

At the same function Secretary General for Malawi Red Cross Society McBain Kanongoza committed his



Country Director Innocent Mofolo presenting the dummy cheque to Malawi Red Cross Society Secretary General McBain Kanongoza and President Levison Changole. Photo: Callisto Sekeleza

organization to transparency in the use of the money donated.

"You will know exactly how we will

be using the money day," he said, adding that many organizations failed to donate money because of accountability issues.



Biometric identification way to go for enrolment



We need more awareness on holding of health passports - Chome



**Fogarty Director** visits Malawi





Charles Michael van der Horst (centre) with staff and students at the UNC Project guest house. Photo: Courtesy of Mina Hosseinipour

### UNC Project mourns Charles Michael van der Horst

"His dream was to see an end

to the devastation from HIV in

children and when some of us

despaired because of workload

and traumatic experiences of

seeing mothers and children

wither away

harles Michael van der Horst (Charlie) who died on Friday, June 14 2019, while participating in a swimming marathon in the Hudson River, New York, USA, touched many lives in Malawi through his selfless contributions.

Country Director Innocent Mofolo described Charlie as a mentor, teacher and doctor to many Malawians. He said Charlie would be remembered in Malawi for the great role he played in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the early days of the epidemic.

Said Mofolo: "He was one of the first infectious disease doctors who helped establish a Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) program in Lilongwe targeting the urban sites when HIV prevalence among pregnant women was at 26%.

"Charlie led a large scale clinical trial on Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (the BAN Study) of HIV in Malawi. The results of this study led to a rapid change in the WHO guidelines.

Scientific Director Mina Hosseinipour remembered Charlie as a mentor, friend, political activist, human rights advocate, athlete, physician, and professor.

"He had boundless energy and enthusiasm for the people and topics most important to him. He recruited me to come to UNC and we both followed our goal of changing the HIV epidemic in Africa and worldwide. He spearheaded some of our training programs and understood the importance of fostering the next generation of scientists," she wrote on her

Facebook page.
Meanwhile
condolences
continued to pour
on website page https://www.legacy.
com/guestbooks/
newsobserver/charlesmichael-van-der-horstcondolences - from
current and former
UNC staff.

"Charlie and I worked with me on a large clinical trial on prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV (the BAN study) results which led to rapid change in the WHO guidelines. He helped me get my PHD in Epidemiology at University College Dublin, Ireland. He was my

mentor and we worked together literally in every place I moved to after UNC.

"Till his passing we have worked together on the HCV (Hepatitis C) treatment project in Ukraine and Myanmar. We have written numerous scientific papers and grants with Charlie and can't believe he is gone," wrote Dr. Charles Chasela.

Former UNC
Project Malawi
Country Director
Prof. Francis
Martinson said,
through the website,
that Charlie
exemplified three
attributes of Faith,
Hope and Love.

Said Martinson:
"He had faith
in whatever he
pursued, sometimes

almost to obsession. Even though we both were in Chapel Hill for a long time and I visited others in his office suite for many years, faith brought us together in Malawi for the BAN Study.

"His dream was to see an end to the devastation of HIV in children and when

some of us despaired because of workload and traumatic experiences of seeing mothers and children wither away, he showed a lot of Hope and spurred us on.

'Love' was his anthem...'We need to save the babies and their mothers' was his battle cry.... and in the end when it all came together in the results from the study, his love never decreased for Malawian babies and the colleagues he left behind to pursue other interests."

Outside UNC Project Malawi, Executive Director for Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative (BIPAI) Dr. Peter Kazembe described Charlie as the catalyst to the coming of Baylor in Malawi by initiating the appropriate contacts with the BIPAI leadership.

"Without this crucial step, HIV infected children in Malawi would likely still not be getting the care that they are getting now. We have indeed lost a great man and a dear friend," said Kazembe.

Charles Michael van der Horst was born in Hilversum, the Netherlands, and immigrated to the US as an infant. He retired in 2015 and continued with his passion of helping mostly the vulnerable.

Funeral service for Charlie took place on Tuesday, June 18 2019, in North Carolina.

### Tidziwe POST

This is an in-house publication. Its mission is to promote a sense of community by communicating information relevant and vital to the operations and staff of UNC Project Malawi. In a drive to increase participation and bring variety to the publication, all UNC Project staff are free and encouraged to contribute articles in this publication. Write ups are welcome in the range 400 – 600 words for event stories and a maximum of 1000 words for other more technical issues worth sharing.

Forward your contributions to: csekeleza@unclilongwe.org

Graphic layout:



COMMUNICATIONS



### CHARLES VAN DER HORST WOMAN AND CHILDREN'S CENTER:

UNC Project Staff from Bwaila Hospital in front of the BAN Building which has been as renamed the Charles van der Horst Woman and Children's Center in rembrance of the fallen hero.

### STARTING THE CHARLES VAN DER HORST CORNER:

Diana Stanley, Administrative Director for Research and Compliance for the Institute of Global Health and Infectious Diseases at UNC Chapel Hill and daughter on 5 August 2019 planted a palm in the UNC Project Annexe compound in remembrance of Charles van der Horst. The palm will be part of the Charles Van der Horst Corner and will be further developed in remembrance of Charles.

# Rotary Club of LaSalle Centennial donates school materials to Dzama

Rotary Club of LaSalle Centennial, Canada, on Thursday 11 July 2019 visited Nafutsa Junior Primary School at Dzama where they donated various school materials like notebooks and colouring pencils, among others.

The four delegates were taken on a tour of the classroom blocks of the facility and were also told how it all began.

In addition, they were also told how the school has expanded from the preschool section to a junior primary school which now has hope of even turning into a full primary school.

UNC Project Country Director Innocent Mofolo said the school largely depended on well-wishers for its operations, expansion and running. He indicated that more well-wishers were still vital in the development of the school.

"We have a vision of having this school as a full primary school but that will depend on the resources we have to achieve such developments," he said.

The delegation from the Rotary Club of LaSalle Centennial had been in the country meeting people from various sectors related to their charity lines.



Head teacher for Nafutsa School receiving various school materials from the delegates Photo: Callisto Sekeleza

**Biometric identification** 

way to go for enrolment



It is forbidden for one individual to participate in more than one clinical trial at a time; but who knows what? We still have people who would like to do this motivated by various factors. It could be free medical care when they are sick. It could even be a transport stipend.

To stop the malpractice, studies under the two networks of HPTN (HIV Prevention Trials Network) and HVTN (HIV Vaccine Trials Network) are using biometric identification through use of fingertips to prevent double enrolment into studies. HPTN 081, HPTN 084 and HVTN 705 are so far using this technology at UNC Project. In future more studies are expected to follow suit.

The results of the malpractice can turn ugly in that there could be drug interactions due to the difference in studies. Study results could also be skewed because of the false data that would be collected. On the other hand this could be quite involving for some participants to move from one study point to the other.

Chimwemwe Kachiwaya one of the research nurses using Morpho Manager, a software which facilitates the biometric identification of study



Utilising the technology: Research nurse Chimwemwe Kachiwaya. Photo: Callisto Sekeleza

participants at UNC Project, said the system has helped in catching some people who would enroll into studies more than once.

"I think awareness has also helped in discouraging participants from enrolling into studies more than once. At one or more occasions the biometric identification system has also helped in catching some people who wanted to participate in more than one study," she said.

She said during the initial finger capturing procedure, the index finger on

each hand is scanned four times.

"The biometric identification is also done each time a study participant visits the clinic and that helps us to know that we are still dealing with the same client," added Kachiwaya.

## We need more awareness

### on holding of health passports - Chome



Chome: Biometric identification crucial in stopping malpractices.

NC Project Community Activities Coordinator Nelecy Chome has advised members of the Community Advisory Board (CAB) to be vigilant with people in the communities and do more awareness on double-holding of health passports.

She was speaking recently during the CAB meeting whereby issue of double participation in studies and how biometric participant identification could help curb the malpractice, also popped up.

"We need more awareness on holding of health passports. People should not be holding more than one book because this makes following up of their health history to be a difficult task," she advised.

She said that there was need to impart values of honesty in the communities.

"This is also a health economics issue as the resources used on one individual

66

People should not be holding more than one book because this makes following up of their health history to be a difficult task,

could be used in other areas within the health system," she said.

She added that that the behavior of keeping more than one heath passport book due to whatever reasons was rampant in the communities but it was now slowly spilling into clinical research with some participants attempting to enroll into more than one study.

Biometric participant identification is one way already being implemented for some studies to catch anyone attempting double participation in research studies. The system also does away with identification through names but use of numbers only.



Jen Haley and Dr. Ashley Bryant presenting the copies to librarian Wongani Jumbo through Director of Nursing Dr. Agatha Bula. Photos: Callisto Sekeleza

# More oncology resources for library reference

On Wednesday 24 July 2019, the UNC project got a boost of 14 books on cancer and oncology nursing, a move which will facilitate referencing for patient care in the cancer wards.

The books were presented by Ashley Leak Bryant Assistant Professor at the UNC School of Nursing, chapel Hill and Jen Haley, staff nurse at the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. Last year a similar delegation also donated books to the cancer wards at KCH.

The two guests from UNC Chapel Hill were in the country for about two weeks and met nurses at KCH, tutors at KCH and also staff at UNC Project to map way forward in the improvement of cancer nursing care.

In December 2018 Dr. Ashley Bryant in the company of Dean Paragallo Montano and Dr. Lixin Song also visited UNC Project from Dec 1 - 9, 2018 whereby they also donated books to Kamuzu Central Hospital



## **Talking CFL**

Dr. Michael Herce and team on 30 July 2019 presented findings of a study titled *Promoting Mother-Infant Retention Along the HIV Care Continuum: A Comparative Effectiveness Evaluation of Three Models of Community-Facility Linkages* during the Malawi Mother-Infant Retention Study Dissemination held in the Tidziwe Lecture Hall

The function was attended by representatives from partner organisations among who were those from USAID, Ministry of Health.

The goal of the research was to 'characterize widely adopted and evidence-based Community-Facility Linkages (CFL) models, and rigorously assess their impact on Mother-Infant Pair (MIP) care retention and other priority maternal-infant health outcomes in real world programmatic settings in Malawi'

The study compared three widely adopted models for CFL and the standard of care using a 'mixed methods' approach in Lilongwe, Mzimba North, Mzimba South, Salima and Zomba.

Among others, the study noted that all CFL models studied contributed to strengthening HIV service delivery for mothers and infants by: providing additional human resources; improving service reach and function; building long-term relationships between clients, and CFL and professional health care providers and better linking services at facilities with those offered in the community.

### PICTORIAL FOCUS



Dr. Maganizo Chagomerana (further left) with colleagues soon after his presentation during the HPTN annual general meeting Photo: Courtesy of Mina Hosseinipour.



HPTN 084 delegation upon receiving a certificate for recruiting a crucial population for the study during the HPTN meeting in Washington, DC in June. Photo: Courtesy of Mina Hosseinipour.



Participants in the Low birth-weight Infant Feeding Exploration (LIFE) training which took place in July. Standing on the right is one of their trainers. Photo: Callisto Sekeleza



Delegates from ministry of health, UNC Project and partnering health facilities during the SHARP meeting at the Health Education conference room at Bwaila. Photo: Photo: Callisto Sekeleza

ere are some highlights of activities which have been happening within UNC Project recently.

> nurse Aseka Mtangwanika in the thick of daily operations in the Kamuzu **Central Hospital** cancer ward administering chemotherapy.



Participants during the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Spatial Health course held in July. Photo: Callisto Sekeleza





Dr. Roger Glass, with Fogarty fellows and staff of UNC Project. Photos: Callisto Sekeleza

## "I appreciate what you are doing"

# Fogarty International Director visits Malawi

irector for the Fogarty International Center Roger Glass who was in the country between Friday 26 and Sunday 28 July 2019 said he was pleased that the support his organisation was providing to researchers operating in Malawi was making an impact.

Glass said this after presentations of various studies which the Fogarty fellows had in a dissemination acitivity held in the Tidziwe Lecture Hall on Friday when he arrived.

"I appreciate what you are doing and that it's really making an impact," said Glass.

He also cherished the academic support that "people like Mina, Satish and Amy" were doing in these developments

"I am amazed by the impact. We only get grants for one year. However, some people have been involved in research projects for more than 7 years. This is impressive," he explained.

Apart from the dissemination, Dr. Glass who is essentially in charge of all Fogarty activities that are part of UNC Project activities, was also taken on a tour of some departments of the UNC Project so that he could appreciate the work that was being done.

### About Dr. Glass

Dr. Glass was named Director of the Fogarty International Center and Associate Director for International Research by NIH Director Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D., on March 31, 2006.

Dr. Glass graduated from Harvard College in 1967, received a Fulbright Fellowship to study at the University of Buenos Aires in 1967, and received his M.D. from Harvard Medical School and his M.P.H. from the Harvard School of Public Health in 1972. He joined the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention in 1977 as a medical officer assigned to the Environmental Hazards Branch. He was a Scientist at the International Center for Diarrheal Disease

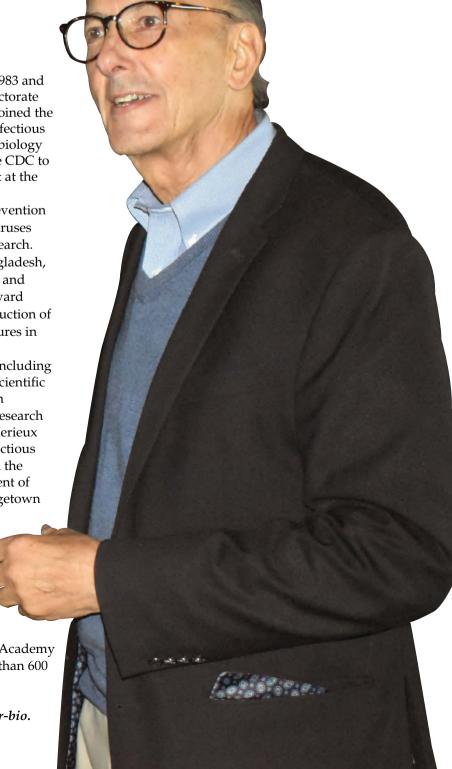
Research in Bangladesh (icddr,b) from 1979-1983 and returned to Sweden where he received his doctorate from the University of Goteborg. In 1984, he joined the National Institutes of Health Laboratory of Infectious Diseases, where he worked on the molecular biology of rotavirus. In 1986, Dr. Glass returned to the CDC to become Chief of the Viral Gastroenteritis Unit at the National Center for Infectious Diseases.

Dr. Glass's research interests are in the prevention of gastroenteritis from rotaviruses and noroviruses through the application of novel scientific research. He has maintained field studies in India, Bangladesh, Brazil, Mexico, Israel, Russia, Vietnam, China and elsewhere. His research has been targeted toward epidemiologic studies to anticipate the introduction of rotavirus vaccines. He is fluent and often lectures in five languages.

Dr. Glass has received numerous awards including the prestigious Charles C. Shepard Lifetime Scientific Achievement Award presented by the CDC in recognition of his 30-year career of scientific research application and leadership, the Dr. Charles Merieux Award from the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases for his work on rotavirus vaccines in the developing world. Dr. Glass is also the recipient of the Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal Award, Georgetown University's Cura Personalis Award,

Research, !America's Geoffrey Beene
Builders of Science Award, Rice
University's Rice 360° Institute for
Global Health Award, and the Jimmy
and Rosalynn Carter Humanitarian
Award from the National Foundation
for Infectious Diseases. He is a member of
the Institute of Medicine of the U.S. National Academy
of Medicine. Dr. Glass has co-authored more than 600
research papers and chapters.

https://www.fic.nih.gov/About/Pages/director-bio.asnx



## 7 years of service: Satish leaves Malawi

aving worked in Malawi for the past 7 years, afternoon of Tuesday 30 July 2019 was a parting moment for Dr. Satish Gopal, the oncologist who has been key to raising the profile of cancer treatment in Lilongwe and surrounding districts in the central and northern regions of the country.

"Before Satish came we didn't have anything to point at as a cancer programme. Now our cancer programme has something to point at; something that is on the map, well known even in networks that do cancer work," said Country Director Innocent Mofolo in praise of Satish during the farewell function.

During his term Satish has helped strengthen pathology services at the Kamuzu Central Hospital by writing grant proposals serving a lot of Malawians.

"We are grateful to Satish for making sure that the UNC Project cancer programme is one that is growing. You (Satish) have mentored several Malawians who are now taking up leadership positions to continue with your work. Satish has also been part of the UNC Project management, helping in the day to day operations. We are highly



Dr. Satish Gopal cutting the farewell cake assisted by Country Director Innocent Mofolo and Dr. Tamiwe Tomoka . Photo: Lawrence Chaduka

indebted to your work," said Mofolo. He added that with his generosity, Satish sourced grants to help deal with

issues of supplies like essential medicines needed to treat cancer patients. "We are grateful as a country and we hope you will continue all this from where you will be located. With the coming of the cancer centre we will need your support more in terms of advice to the staff stationed in Malawi," he said.

Speaking during the function, Satish said the cancer programme was amazing and it was good to tap from this experience.

"A lot of the success is coming from the amazing group of people who have been working for UNC Project for a long time, and strong leadership – which is both stable and generous. That is what you need when you want to initiate a new area," said Satish.

He added that leading the UNC cancer programme was smoother because of the conducive environment.

"When you have been working in HIV and infectious diseases for a long time, I can appreciate that as leadership, it is difficult to combine all the disease areas. For us (cancer programme) we benefitted a lot from this stability, the infrastructure, being able to learn from people who have seen what works and what doesn't," he said.

Satish returned to Chapel Hill but said he will be occasionally be coming to Malawi in support of the programme.

## UNC Project hosts first nursing grand round



The first grand round took place on Monday July 22, 2019 where Maria Chikasema, research nurse from UNC Project presented on Burkett's Lymphoma, a case study which attracted attention.

The function was attended by nurses from Kamuzu Central Hospital, nursing students and faculty from Kamuzu College of Nursing.

UNC Project Director of Nursing Dr. Agatha Bula said there was excellent participation during the event with more than 40 participants.

"We plan to be having these nursing grand rounds on monthly basis. Oncology nurses, researchers and lecturers from UNC Project, KCN and KCH will be alternating to present their case studies. This is done to ensure that there is good participation by all collaborating partners," said Bula.

She added that there was hope that the grand rounds would enable the nursing community to share knowledge and discuss better ways of caring patients with specific conditions and was an opportunity for nurses, researchers, student nurses and lecturers to exchange their expertise, improve their skills and understand the importance of providing effective nursing

care to patients.

### Background to the grand rounds

During the visit by the dean and faculty members of UNC School of Nursing in December 2018, nurses at the KCH oncology clinic and KCN expressed great interest in developing their career through continued education and involvement in research. Following this, faculty members and others at UNC Project have been teaching nurses who work at cancer units affiliated to KCH, UNC Project and KCN through Webinars.

With continued support from faculty members from UNC Chapel Hill, the team agreed to be having monthly nursing grand rounds with topics of interest including case studies, mentorship, professional and leadership development, writing abstracts and manuscripts, nursing ethics, and psychosocial care. The aim of these grand rounds is to highlight the challenges faced by nurses in providing oncology nursing care, to empower them and give them a platform to expand their knowledge and share experiences with their colleagues.



# UNC PROJECT PEOPLE

## **ALLAN JUMBE**

**\$4** STUDY COORDINATOR

#### Who is Allan Jumbe?

I am Allan Jumbe and I come from Kankonole Village, Traditional Authority Zulu in Mchinji. I was born at Luzi Hospital in 1972. I am 47. I actually grew up at Bunda where my father used to work with the University of Malawi. I started my primary school at Bunda LEA School. However, there was a time that I went back to the village and stayed there for almost ten years because my parents had separated. In short I stopped school and was actually busy grazing livestock; a typical goat herder for about 3 or 4 years.

Later I restarted school at Luzi. After the parents reconciled we went back to Bunda and that's where I continued with my primary school. I did classes 5 to 8 again at Bunda. I didn't do well in my

primary school leaving certificate exams and I had to repeat. I did this about

I then enrolled for evening classes

at Mitundu Secondary School. Later I left Mitundu and came to town to learn at Livimbo where I sat for Junior Certificate exams and was consequently selected to Bwaila Secondary School to start Form 3. I completed my secondary education at Bwaila and did well in Malawi School Certificate Exams but I was not selected to college.

I didn't know my career path by then, and I started working with Caritas Malawi. I was attached to Mlale Hospital at Mitundu. It's a mission hospital where I worked there for almost two

> At Mlale I worked with one lady who was coming from Canada. Upon asking me what I wanted to do in life, she identified a school for me at Malamulo College of Health Sciences. She facilitated everything and I was just told that I was ready to go to school 'next month'. I didn't know that they had made all the applications. I started school at Malamulo in 1994 where I did nursing. I qualified as nurse technician in 1998 and went back to Mlale where I worked for three years before I came to Lilongwe town. I had to get married.

My wife was working with the British Council and I thought it was wise for me to secure a job in town. I got employed at the City Centre Clinic. I worked there for about three years from 2000 to 2002. Then I got employed by UNC Project

Nursing photos: Lawrence Chaduka Other photos: Courtesy of Allan Jumbe as research nurse.

I worked for UNC up to 2006 when I became interested to work with the military - Malawi Defense Force. I thought it was greener there, from what I gathered during the

interviews. It was the first programme in the army when they were looking for professionals. We were so many professionals there; teachers, medicals, engineers etc. The arrangement was called 'special squad'

military training. It lasted five months and I came out at as staff sergeant. I was assigned to work at Kamuzu Barracks Hospital. By then, the hospital had opened an ART department. I was already conversant with the ART because of my background at UNC Project - I had already received the first cohort training which was facilitated by UNC and Lighthouse.

I only worked in the ART clinic in the Army for one year. After realising that my needs were not met, I was disappointed and resigned. I felt cheated that I was not a commissioned officer as I was told during interviews. Meanwhile, UNC Project was still interested in my services and I came back to the Project in

Barely a year, I found a scholarship to study in Germany. I was in Germany from 2007 up to 2008 where I studied Hospital Management. Others call it Healthcare Management. I was at the Neu Ulm University of Applied Sciences.

My research paper was titled Utilization of Material Resources in Health Institutions. UNC supported me a lot in the project and we laid down tools which are still being used up to now to manage resources that UNC is using in the clinics. Since 2008 I have been working with UNC in various portfolios.

I have worked as a team leader and study coordinator. I have been in ACTG and HPTN studies. However, MAVAC (malaria vaccine study) was my first study where I was team leader for five plus years. This was one of the biggest studies UNC has done and one that has got tangible impact on the ground. In 2015 I also became study coordinator for S4 (Safety, Survival, Suppression, Second line). We are trying to evaluate how women are tolerating 5A, the

Option B+ drug.

I worked for UNC up

the military...

#### What else do you cherish about UNC Project? apart from what you have already mentioned?

I have gained a lot within UNC Project. When you are in UNC you are exposed to a lot of things; apart from the study that you are in, you also know other

studies that are happening. I have been exposed a lot to research information. I have learnt research dynamics, ethics and to 2006 when I became it's so exciting.

In Malawi the interested to work with type of research that we do is still a new phenomenon. There are lots of misconceptions

about clinical research even among fellow health workers.

#### Where do you see yourself in the next five years?

I would want to attain a Master's degree in Hospital Management. I would like to go far in the field that I am already operating within at the moment. When one attains the Masters, there are always openings for PhD.

#### What do you like to do in your free time?

I like singing. I am a member of the choir in my church – Winners' Chapel. I usually sing tenor but I am also a leader; I conduct music. This is the formal choir of the church and not just a praise team.

I also like listening to music as one cannot be a singer without listening to music. I also like sporting activities like football, volleyball and basketball. Apart from that, I like visiting places I have not visited before – I like the lakeside.

### Any parting words in this interview?

I know that I am a jovial person; wherever I am, I am associated with laughter and joy. Wherever I am, people should expect that they will be laughing. I don't like handling negativity but I want a warm environment no matter the

pegative things that may be





UNC Project People will be a regular feature in each issue of the Tidziwe POST. Do you know someone with anything interesting or unique at UNC Project?