1. **Faces Uliza! Evaluation**
   How effective is Uliza (free provider consultation phone line for HIV related clinic questions) at providing clinicians with the information they need for good decision-making when providing HIV care? A dedicated person to focus on this evaluation would greatly benefit Uliza! and the program. The evaluation scope and materials are largely in place. Refinement in terms of number and location of clinics to evaluate, as well as evaluation implementation, analysis, and writing up of findings are needed. This person would work closely with Elisheba, the Data/M&E Manager to carry the evaluation out. *Mentorship: M&E and data team (Jayne Kulzer and Charles Kibaara).*
   - Contact person: Kimberly Bale  balek@globalhealth.ucsf.edu

2. **Faces GIS Mapping Project**
   This would involve plotting and working on descriptions of all the health facilities FACES supports in Nyanza and Nairobi. Descriptions would include, but not be limited to: location, rural/urban, address, staff numbers (by cadre, employer, etc.), services offered etc. A questionnaire to capture this information has been developed and some sites have been plotted and brief descriptions created. A dedicated person is needed to coordinate the collection (or updates) of facility services and a photo of the facility, as well as to update and enhance the visual display on the map. Ideally when hovering over the map it would display a photo and the pertinent site information. This person would work closely with Joseph Osoro, the Nyanza IT Manager. *Mentorship: Thomas Odeny, a physician, researcher, and PhD student in Epidemiology at the University of Washington with significant experience in health informatics.*
   - Contact person: Kimberly Bale  balek@globalhealth.ucsf.edu

3. **TextIT Study**
   This is a recently funded study. TextIT (Texting to Improve Testing) is a cluster-randomized stepped-wedge trial of a theory based text messaging intervention to improve postpartum retention in PMTCT care and early infant diagnosis of HIV. There are various opportunities associated with this study:
   
   **A.** There is a current opportunity to help with baseline data collection for the TextIT study starting January 2014. If there is any student who would be available as early as January, please contact Kimberly. This work will be conducted in Kisumu and may require travel to other FACES-supported hospitals within the Nyanza region.
   
   **B.** Another project would require someone to develop a list of frequently-asked questions (and relevant answers) based upon text messages and phone call inquiries from study participants. This work would be based in Kisumu.
   
   **C.** There is also potential opportunity to help with a text messaging content development project related to family planning. A student may be needed to help develop and conduct focus group discussions and cognitive interviews. Depending on how much training and interest the student has, there could be an opportunity to contribute to writing abstracts and manuscripts and be listed as a co-author. This work will be conducted in Kisumu. *Mentorship: Thomas Odeny, study Principal Investigator.*
   - Contact person: Kimberly Bale  balek@globalhealth.ucsf.edu
4. **Dose Adjustment Study**

FACES supports provision of HAART for both adults and pediatrics according to the National HIV guidelines. Adult dosages tend to remain constant however pediatric dosages are subject to more adjustment due to the fact that children rapidly increase in weight, height and BMI and most of the HAART dosages are related to the same. Due to health systems challenges, inconsistent treatment dosage adjustments are a possibility among pediatrics, which can lead to non-response to HAART and treatment failure. FACES is planning to evaluate HAART dose adjustments for HIV-positive children on treatment during routine follow-up to explore this issue. It will be carried out at 7 health facility hubs across Nyanza Province. A student would be responsible for study coordination and implementation. This will involve chart abstraction, data verification, and database entry prior to analysis. *Mentorship: this project will be guided by Jean Paul Otieno, FACES Pharmacy Technical Advisor.*

- Contact person: Kimberly Bale  
  balek@globalhealth.ucsf.edu

5. **Microbicides Acceptability Research**

As part of a translational research project to develop a new microbicide to prevent HIV infection, the acceptability of the microbicide product in a high HIV-prevalence community in Kenya will be tested. The product is a novel recombinant LBP containing a vaginal Lactobacillus jensenii strain that has been genetically modified to continuously secrete a potent anti-HIV protein, modified cyanovirin (mCV)-N. The summer research project would be to pilot instruments and interview stakeholders to prepare for the acceptability study that will provide data from women and their male partners on what they think of the product attributes to inform early stages of product development. *Mentorship: this project will be guided by Drs. Cynthia Harper and Anke Hemmerling at UCSF.*

- Contact person: Kimberly Bale  
  balek@globalhealth.ucsf.edu

6. **Integrated Community Case Management**

The objective of this project is to determine whether trained, supervised and well supplied community health workers in hard-to-reach areas can correctly perform Integrated Community Case Management (ICCM) and increase the proportion of children under 5 years receiving antibiotics for pneumonia, artemether-lumezantrine for malaria and zinc and oral rehydration therapy for diarrhea by 20% compared to the current standard of care thus reducing the mortality of children under the age of five. This is an implementation research project that is ongoing with numerous opportunities for students. *Mentorship: Dr. Maricianah Onono at FACES.*

- Contact person: Kimberly Bale  
  balek@globalhealth.ucsf.edu

7. **Male involvement in family planning**

Having men invested in and involved in their female partners’ family planning (FP) decision-making among HIV-affected couples may lead to better FP uptake. Couples counseling for FP is one way to involve men. However, such programs need to be developed carefully so as to involve the men but not encroach on female autonomy.
The goal of this study is to develop a clinic-based program for conducting couples counseling for FP among HIV-affected couples seeking care in rural Nyanza Province, the region in Kenya with the highest HIV prevalence. From July to August 2014, focus group discussions (FGDs) will be conducted with groups of men, women, and HIV providers. Students can be involved in organizing and running the FGDs, and if desired, in coding and analyzing the transcripts afterwards. 

Mentorship: Dr. Rena Patel, UCSF Fellow in Infectious Diseases.

- Contact person: Kimberly Bale balek@globalhealth.ucsf.edu

8. **Impact of anti-retroviral therapy’s influence on fertility desires, contraception, and pregnancy (ART-C)**

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently recommended increasing the CD4 cell count threshold from 350 to 500 cells/mm3 for antiretroviral therapy (ART) initiation in HIV positive adults. The impact of earlier ART on fertility desires, contraceptive use, and subsequent pregnancy incidence in HIV positive women in sub-Saharan Africa is unknown.

The Kenyan Ministry of Health will implement the recent WHO recommendations in March 2014. ART-C is a “pre-post” study design utilizing mixed methods with quantitative and qualitative data from a cohort to evaluate the impact of earlier ART initiation on reproductive health outcomes. During the summer of 2014, students can have the opportunity to help conduct facility-level assessments of FP services at HIV care clinics or in-depth interviews with HIV positive women. Afterwards, students can be involved in the coding and data analysis if desired. 

Mentorship: Dr. Rena Patel, UCSF Fellow in Infectious Diseases.

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