

The Editorial bit

Greetings again,

I know I promised to elaborate on the airport saga when Dan & Keira with brimming suitcases arrived, but on second thoughts I feel that Dan and/or Keira should tell it to us from their perspective in the next Bulletin – so Keira, start writing!

We said goodbye to Betsy Johnson on 1 March. We tried to persuade her to postpone the wedding to April 2002 so that the Zimbabwean team would have an excuse to be away from home in Seattle at this time. We are sure Danka and Prof could put together a convincing proposal for our airfares and per diems.

Next to arrive was David Katzenstein whose ideas and passion for “treatments” almost left us breathless. He was also on hand, together with the lab staff, to meet with Rick Michels the Freezerworks whiz kid. Welcome David!

Just to balance all the arrivals, Prof is putting in some departures. He leaves for Seattle on Saturday and then for Pretoria just days after returning from the US.

We are still awaiting news and pictures for our bulletin from our US counterparts; like the rest of the consortium, you need to catch up with Zichire Zimbabwe!

So until next time,

*Ciao,
Sherla*

Lost & Found

Lost ...

- Wellington Gandhi – Security – left us at the end of February.

& Found

- Isaac Million - Security/Gardener (Strathaven Lab) joined us on 1 March.
- Jack Chiwanza – Lab Tech – Uzari Lab – joined us on 1 March.

IN THE FIELD

by Prof

In the Field, three Growth Points have been covered so far, working with 150 subjects : 69 male and 81 female.

<i>Age group</i>	<i>No of participants</i>
17-19	28
20-24	60
25-29	54
30	8

So far, there do not appear to have been any refusals to participate in either the ACASI or the Biological Sample collection. In fact, there has been a willingness to be a part of the survey. In part, this is due to the good preparation by the Ethnographic Team who have gone a week ahead of the Assessment Team to do the necessary meetings with gatekeepers and preparations for the study, as well as undertake the Ethnographic Interviews and Focus Group Discussions. The Ethnographic Team have also the responsibility of doing the mapping, and the sampling for the Assessment Team.

The Ethnographic Team experienced some disruption of their work by raging rainstorms in one area; in another area the villagers were suspicious of them, to the extent that they were unable to hold Focus Group Discussions as respondents were unwilling to meet in groups. They did manage however, to proceed with the individual interviews, though in some cases the suspicious groups even followed the team to the homes of the subjects that they were interviewing. Efforts were made to intercede at the highest official levels, to ensure protection for the team as they go about their work. Since this incident there have been no other similar episodes.

Of course, the usual field problems have been experienced, such as the vehicles getting stuck in the mud, and having very limited quantities of water for bathing and drinking experienced by the Assessment team in one area. Paradoxically this incident has taken place against a background of huge volumes of rain that continue to fall on Zimbabwe!

Still in the field

by Gertrude Terera

Mhondoro is a very swampy area. On our first day in the field, we got stuck in the mud. The guys did their thing and swam in the mud. Uncle ‘Winnie’ Winston was covered in mud, from head to toe. The locals

helped us out a great deal. Much to the teams' chagrin, we got stuck in the mud a second time the following day. This time it was worse than the previous day, because all four wheels were stuck. Faith and Chiringa had the good judgement of walking to the village. So they were not bogged down with the rest of the team and managed to go on with the work. Gertie then went to the Growth Point to fetch a tractor which was our last hope. After some work, the vehicle was on the road again. As soon as the car was safely on the road, there was such a heavy downpour of rain, that we all thanked God that it rained at the right time.

UZARI Lab News

by *Patrick Mateta*

The past month has seen the lab receiving samples from three sites that have been visited so far. This translates into numerous aliquots (small storage vials for samples) for storage and processing. With the 3 sites (approx 150 study participants) the workload has been overwhelming and this has forced us to sometimes work on Saturdays and Sundays. Thanks to the dedicated lab team that has worked day in and day out to ensure we deliver what we have promised to the study team (i.e. timeous processing and testing of study samples). Let me also thank the Welcome Project people for letting us use some of their consumables (e.g. TV inpouches) while we were waiting for our huge consignment which has since arrived. These are the kind of team players that we would like to maintain and associate with to ensure the smooth running of the study.

We welcome Jack Chiwanza, an experienced Lab Technician who joined us on the 1st of March from the City of Harare Health Department. He will be one of the technicians working with the Mobile Lab. Welcome on board Jack.

Work is still underway on the New Lab site and we hope to move in by this weekend [as Danka would say: *Yesss!!*]

Rich Michels from RTI also visited the lab to install the Freezerworks System. We are all excited about this system and we are looking forward to the arrival of the two freezers from South Africa – thank Goodness for Tazz and her newly acquired title of “*Custom & Excise, Clearing & Duty-free Executive*”!

Talking about Tazz, we were all in serious and deep discussion in an attempt to resolve some of our pressing problems, when these two huge Pentecnicon-type trucks drove into Zichire, followed by Tazz in the Mitsubishi; we knew then that she had succeeded in her efforts – the lab consignment had arrived. As you can imagine all serious and deep discussions were abandoned, all efforts to resolve all problems were cast aside and much jubilation ensued. We didn't quite toyi-toyi ... all that was missing was the champagne ... perhaps a few bottles can be slipped into the next consignment ... I wonder if Tazz will get the duty-free!

More

Pre-Baseline Training

Dr Laura Jenkins trained the nurses, before they went out into the field, on post-exposure prophylaxis (called *needle stick injury* by those of us who don't know what this is anyway).

A summary of this session by the participants and the trainer was “a good time was had by all”. (Makes you wonder what goes on in these training sessions...)

Seriously, Dr Jenkins (- ‘Lau’ to her friends and Law to Prof -) presented the group with various scenarios regarding needle stick injuries using an interactive method of training.

In conclusion and in a nutshell, what she said was:

NEEDLE STICK INJURY

1. **Don't do it! Do not have these accidents!**
2. **If you do, wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water in the first instance.**
3. **Follow the protocols accurately and immediately.**
4. **If there is a real risk of transmission treat straight away whilst awaiting the test results.**

FACES of Africa :

Although we *STILL* don't have a digital camera, all identity and other pictures have been provided courtesy of Sharon Whytehead. Here are more of them. Thank you, Sharon.

Chiringa Chiringa
Ethnographer

Faith Sagonda
Ethnographer

The Zichire Nurses Dictionary

artery the study of masterpiece paintings
barium what you do when a patient dies
benign what you be after 8
bugs Principle Investigators
caesarean section a village in Rome
colic a sheep dog
congenital amiable
dilate to live long
fester quicker
GI Series a game between soldiers
hangnail a coat hook
medical staff a doctors cane
minor operation gold digging
morbid offering more
nitrate opposite to day rate
node was aware of
outpatient a person who is unconscious
post-operative a letter carrier
organic church musician
protein in favour of young people
secretion the process of hiding something
serology study of English knighthood
tablet a small table
tumour an extra pair
urine when you're not out
varicose veins veins very close together
whiplash what you do to a misbehaving eyelash

* * * *Competition !!* * * *

You are all invited to participate in an exciting competition. All you have to do is create other definitions to be added to the Zichire Nurses Dictionary and submit your entries to Sherla not later than 26 March 01. The winner gets a waiving of labour charges for the next service of the Zichire Mitsubishi from Auto Limits (!), the company which normally services the vehicle, and which we consider to be a friend of our project.

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

ARTICLE NO 2 :

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration without distinction of any kind such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Personality of the Week

Tasmin Steenbok *a.k.a. Tazz, a.k.a. Queen of Customs*



Pre-Customs Tazz in her artistic capacity with Zichire curtains

Tazz was born in Harare and completed her senior school education at Arundel Girls High School before continuing to the University of Cape Town, where she began her LLB. She took a break in 1999 to get married and thereafter have a beautiful girl baby, Savannah Joy, a real joy to behold!

Besides a keen interest in Law, and a [sharp-minded] approach to everything she is involved with, Tazz is also known to be 'arty', and was closely involved with the decorating and furnishing of our Zichire offices (see pic). Unfortunately the curtain-painting remains incomplete as this activity has been overtaken by Customs Clearing.

In recent months Tazz has been working in a flurry of activity to clear the many and varied shipments of equipment that have been coming in from the US - doing miracles. She is now well known in Customs and Clearance circles in Harare, and even old-pro clearing agents are amazed at the speed with which she manages to sort everything out.

Tazz will be resuming her LLB studies, hopefully when Keira has finalized the training scholarships. This will certainly help us to interpret and deal with the legal issues we are finding ourselves confronted with from time to time.

Good luck Tazz, you *go* girl.

Birthdays

Patricia 'Cake' Chikuse - 2 March

BeeJay Woelk - 12 March

Happy Birthday you two - we wish you many, many more. May the Zichire Angels watch over you too.

It is said that all good things come to an end, so ...

The End