

## ALEX OPIO - CURRICULUM VITAE - ABRIDGED

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CURRENT POSITION TITLE</b>		
	Assistant Commissioner Health Services (National Disease Control)		
<b>ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS</b>			
<b>INSTITUTION</b>	<b>DEGREE/ CERTIFICATE</b>	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>FIELD</b>
Makerere University, Kampala	M.B.Ch.B.	1980	Human Medicine
University of London, United Kingdom	M.Sc.	1986	Maternal & Child Health
Case Western Reserve University, USA	M.S.	1991	Epidemiology & Biostatistics
Case Western Reserve University, USA	Ph.D.	1994	Epidemiology & Biostatistics
Case Western Reserve University, USA	Certificate	1989	International Health
Uganda Management Institute	Certificate	1998	Project Planning and Management

### **Summary autobiography**

Alex Opio has a long national level experience in the provision of health services. He received his medical training from Makerere University, Uganda qualifying as a medical doctor in 1980. From 1981 to 1985, he worked at Entebbe Grade "A" Hospital as a medical officer. In 1985, he proceeded for postgraduate training at the University of London where he obtained a Master of Science degree in maternal and child health (MCH). In 1987, he became the Assistant Manager of the Uganda National Expanded Programme on Immunization. Later, in 1989, he proceeded again for further studies enrolling for a Ph.D. course at Case Western Reserve University to study Epidemiology and Biostatistics. After obtaining his Ph.D. in 1994, he returned to continue with work at the Ministry of Health. In 1995, he was promoted to the rank of Assistant Commissioner of Health Services (Surveillance of Communicable Diseases). Currently, he is working as an Assistant Commissioner of Health Services in the Department of National Disease Control (NDC), Ministry of Health (Uganda), a post he has held since 1999.

Alex has been actively involved in policy formulation, development of standards and guidelines, provision of technical support to districts, as well as monitoring and evaluation of health intervention; especially those related to the prevention and control of communicable diseases. In relation to above, he has a number of special assignments and

responsibilities. He has also been active in monitoring and evaluation activities; and the conduct of research on a number of infectious disease related topics, especially population level surveys to monitor and evaluate the impact of HIV/AIDS interventions. Topics of interest to him include research to determine trends of HIV related knowledge, attitudes, practice and behaviours (KABP), second generation HIV sentinel surveillance to determine the magnitude and trends of HIV infection, research to determine the magnitude and trends of HIV infection through projections, research on the impact of policies on HIV interventions and operational research on the implementation of HIV/AIDS prevention and control strategies. In addition to HIV/AIDS research, Alex is interested in research to study the determinants of other infectious diseases; especially the determinants of epidemic-prone diseases, including the viral hemorrhagic fevers such as Ebola.

At international level through short term consultancies, Alex supported a number of countries in capacity building and development of systems for monitoring and evaluation, including surveillance.

#### **A. Positions held and Employment**

##### **Formal employment**

1999-To date Assistant Commissioner Health Services (National Disease Control); with the primary responsibility of prevention and control of infectious diseases. Directly supervises the STD/AIDS Control Programme, the Malaria Control Programme, and the National TB and Leprosy Control Programme; and with the following responsibilities:

- Overall coordination and oversight of work of the Division of AIDS, TB and Malaria.
- Developing of policies, guidelines and standards for the prevention and control of communicable diseases; including HIV/ AIDS, TB and Malaria.
- Provision of technical support for disease control to district personnel.
- Monitoring and evaluation of disease control activities.

October 2002-June 2008 Project Director of a Grant entitled "Expansion of HIV/AIDS/STI Surveillance, Care and Support Activities". The project was funded by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

1995-1999 Assistant Commissioner Health Services (Surveillance of Communicable Diseases); with the primary responsibility of conducting surveillance of communicable diseases; and the following specific responsibilities:

- Overall coordination and oversight of the epidemiological surveillance of communicable diseases in Uganda.
- Planning and development of strategies for surveillance of communicable diseases in Uganda.

- Development of policy and technical surveillance guidelines.
  - Maintenance of routine surveillance system for communicable diseases.
  - Maintenance of surveillance information system for early detection of occurrence of epidemics.
  - Maintenance of system for investigation of disease outbreaks.
  - Periodic review of data on communicable diseases to determine frequency of and trends in occurrence of communicable diseases.
  - Provision of technical support for surveillance of communicable diseases to districts.
  - Ensuring training on disease surveillance in order to build the required capacity.
- 1994-1995      Epidemiologist, STD/AIDS Control Programme with the primary responsibility of conducting HIV/AIDS/STI surveillance.
- Participation in general planning and management of the National AIDS Control Programme.
  - Designing and execution of HIV/AIDS surveillance activities in order to provide data and information needed to plan and follow UP progress of the HIV/AIDS prevention and control activities.
  - Producing HIV surveillance report.
  - Planning and execute operational research on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases.
  - Monitoring and evaluation of Sexually Transmitted Infections Project activities.
- 1989-1994      Study leave while at Case Western Reserve University.
- 1987-1989      Assistant Programme Manager, Uganda National Expanded Programme on Immunization.
- Major responsibilities are:-
- General management of the programme.
  - Planning of immunization services.
  - Monitoring and evaluation of immunization services.
  - Provision of technical support for immunization to districts.
  - Supporting districts to manage epidemics due to immunizable diseases; for instance, measles outbreak.
- 1985-1986      Study leave to pursue a course leading to M.Sc.; in Maternal and Child Health.
- 1981-1985      Medical Officer, Entebbe Grade A Hospital. Main responsibilities:
- Provision of clinical services.
  - Participation in the general management of the hospital.

- Participation in the planning of hospital services.

1980-1981 Medical Intern, Mulago Hospital, Kampala.

### **Consultancies and exposure to international level work**

- 2007: Consultancy with the Uganda AIDS Commission on the “Analysis of the drivers of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Uganda”.
- December 2003: Action Aid Consultant to develop monitoring and evaluation system for the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Organization, Ethiopia.
- March 2001-May 2001: WHO Epidemiology Consultant for Infectious Disease Control at the WHO Country Office, Botswana.
- August 2000-November 2000: WHO Epidemiology Consultant to develop HIV/AIDS/STI surveillance system of the Botswana National AIDS Control Agency.
- 2000: WHO Clinical Monitor Consultant to monitor a clinical trial to determine the efficacy of Pyronaridine in the treatment of malaria
- 2000: WHO Clinical Monitor Consultant to monitor a clinical trial to determine the efficacy of Lap Dap in the treatment of malaria.

### **B. Membership to Professional and Scientific Bodies**

1. A member of the Uganda Medical and Dental Association.
2. A member of the Health Sciences Committee of the Uganda National Council of Science and Technology. The functions of a Specialized Committee are: Report to and Advise the Council on all Policy matters within its sector of scientific and technological activities in the country and in particular,
  - the financing of scientific and technological activities;
  - the training programme for personnel involved in scientific and technological activities;
  - projects to be carried out by researchers;
  - monitoring and reporting on the progress on scientific and technological activities from time to time, as need arises and the requirement for all scientists to submit regular reports on their scientific and technological activities;
  - the documentation of information on results of scientific and technological activities;
  - the application of results of scientific and technological activities including proposals for suitable extension programmes of projects in line with findings from scientific and technological activities;
  - the assignment of scientific and technological responsibilities to different institutions or persons;
  - the measures to be taken to effect routine co-operation between persons engaged in related scientific and technological projects; and any other scientific or technological responsibilities which may be assigned to the Committee by the Council.
3. A member of the Institutional Review Committee Accreditation Committee of the Uganda National Council of Science and Technology.
4. Director of Infectious Diseases at the Tropical Diseases Research Network.

### **C. Special assignments and responsibilities**

Formal – related to official work

- Member - National Task Force for Epidemic Preparedness and Response. Was the Deputy Chair during the 1999 Cholera epidemic in Kampala and the 2000/2001 Ebola epidemic.
- Chair – National Laboratory Policy and Technical Committee.
- Chair - National Task Force for Medical Male Circumcision.
- Chair – National Coordination Committee for HIV/AIDS/TB Collaboration.
- Chair - Lango Sub-region Area Team for Supervision.
- Member - National Antiretroviral Therapy Coordination Committee and Chair of the Policy Sub-committee.
- Chair – National Technical Working Group for the 2009 Uganda HIV/AIDS and Malaria Indicator Survey (UAMIS).
- Secretary – Basic Care Package Working Group.
- Secretary – Communicable Diseases Control Technical Working Group.
- Member – Soroti Regional Referral Hospital Management Committee.
- Member – Contracts Committee of the Ministry of Health from July 2005 to June 2008.

**Informal – unrelated to official work**

- Member – International Health Sciences University Council.
- Member – Appointment Committee of the International Health Sciences University Council.
- Patron of a Youth Health Organization.

**C. Research interest:**

HIV/AIDS research to monitor and evaluate the impact of HIV/AIDS interventions at population level, including:

1. Research to determine trends of HIV related knowledge, attitudes, practice and behaviours (KABP) through surveys.
2. Research to determine the magnitude and trends of HIV infection through conduct of the second generation HIV sentinel surveillance.
3. Research to determine the magnitude and trends of HIV infection through projections.
4. Research on the impact of policies on HIV interventions.
5. Operational research on the implementation of HIV/AIDS prevention and control strategies.

In relation to above, in 2004-05, coordinated work of a multidisciplinary team to design and conduct of a nationwide survey in Uganda entitled “The Uganda HIV/AIDS Sero-behavioural Survey”. The report of this survey can be accessed at [www.health.go.ug](http://www.health.go.ug) and [www.measuredhs.com](http://www.measuredhs.com). Additionally, has been involved in and is still coordinating work on further analysis of the UHSBS data on 16 topics. To date, 6 of these papers have been published in peer-reviewed Journals; one more has been accepted for publication and is in the press due for publication in JAIDS.

**D. Publications/Abstracts authored**

### Publications/Abstracts authored/co-authored

1. Biraro S, Shafer LA, Kleinschmidt I, Wolff B, Karabalinde A, Nalwoga A, Musinguzi J, Kirungi W, **Opio A**, Whitworth J, and Grosskurth H.: Is sexual risk taking behaviour changing in rural Southwest Uganda? Behaviour trends in a rural population cohort 1993-2006. Supplement: Sexual behaviour STI/2008/033928. (In Press).
2. Musinguzi J, Kirungi W, **Opio A**, Montana L, et al.: Challenges in the interpretation of sentinel surveillance data in a maturing epidemic: Comparative analysis of HIV prevalence estimates from sentinel surveillance and a national population based data. JAIDS 2009 May;51(1):78-84..
3. **Opio A**, Mishra VK, Hong V, Musinguzi J, et al: Trends in HIV-related behaviours and knowledge in Uganda, 1989 to 2005: Evidence of a shift towards more risk-taking behaviours. JAIDS 2008;49(3)320-326.
4. Shafer LA, Biraro S, Nakiyingi J, Kamali A, Ssematimba D, Ouma J, Ojwiya A, Hughes P, Van der Paal L, Whitworth J, **Opio A**, Grosskurth H. HIV Prevalence and Incidence are no longer falling in Uganda: Evidence from a Rural Population Cohort 1990-2005. AIDS 2008;22:1641-1649
5. Baryarama F, Bunnell R, Montana I, Hladik W, **Opio A**, et al.: HIV prevalence in voluntary counseling and testing centers compared with national HIV sero-survey data in Uganda. JAIDS 2008;49(2)183-189.
6. Mermin J, Musinguzi J, **Opio A**, Kirungi W, et al.: Risk factors for recent HIV infection in Uganda. JAMA 2008. 300:5.
7. Bunnell R, **Opio A**, Musinguzi J, Kirungi W, et al.: HIV transmission risk behavior among HIV-infected adults in Uganda: results of a nationally representative survey. AIDS 2008, 22:617-624.
8. Hladik W, Musinguzi J, Kirungi W, **Opio A**, et al.: The estimated burden of HIV/AIDS in Uganda, 2005-2010. AIDS 2008, 22:503-513.
9. M. Fabiani, Z. Yoti, B. Nattabi, E. O. Ayella, A.A. **Opio**, J. Musinguzi, J.G. Calleja, S. Declich. Adjusting HIV prevalence data from a program for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission for surveillance purposes in Uganda. JAIDS 2007, 46(3):328-331.
10. M. Fabiani, B. Nattabi, C. Pierotti, F. Ciantia, A.A. **Opio**, J. Musinguzi, et al.: HIV-1 prevalence and factors associated with infection in the conflict-affected region of North Uganda. Conflict and Health 2007:Vol.1 No.3:2-8.

11. Hladik W, Musinguzi J, Kirungi W, **Opio A**, et al.: The estimated burden of HIV disease in Uganda, 2005-2010. CROI 2007 Oral Abstract #85 Session 25, 14<sup>th</sup> Conference on retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections. <http://www.retroconference.org/2007/Abstracts/29450.htm>.
12. W.L. Kirungi, J. Musinguzi, **A. Opio**, J. Kafuko, F. Kaharuzza, et al.: Prevalence and risk factors for HIV infection in Uganda: results of a national population based HIV serological survey. MOPE0331: International conference on Sexually Transmitted Diseases and AIDS, Toronto, Canada August 2006.
13. L.A. Shafer, S. Biraro, A. Kamali, H. Grosskurth, W. Kirungi, E. Madraa, **A. Opio**. HIV prevalence and incidence are no longer falling in Uganda – a case for renewed prevention efforts: evidence from a rural population cohort 1989-2005, and from ANC surveillance. THLB0108: conference on Sexually Transmitted Diseases and AIDS, Toronto, Canada August 2006.
14. M. Fabiani, B. Nattabi, C. Pierotti, F. Clantia, T. Ojok, V. Oyet, **A.A. Opio**, et al.: HIV-1 prevalence in the conflict-affected region of northern Uganda. International conference on Sexually Transmitted Diseases and AIDS, Toronto, Canada MOPE0537: August 2006.
15. M. Fabiani M, B. Nattabi, **A. A. Opio**, J. Musinguzi, B. Biryahwaho, et al.: A high prevalence of HIV-1 infection among pregnant women living in rural district of north Uganda severely affected by civil strife. Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene 2006. Vol. 100, 586-593.
16. Mermin J, Bunnell R, Lule J, **Opio A**, et al: Developing an evidence-based, preventive care package for persons with HIV in Africa. Tropical Medicine & International Health, 2005. Vol.10 No.10, 961-970.
17. Okware S, Kinsman S, Onyango S, **Opio A**, et al.: Revisiting the ABC strategy: HIV prevention in Uganda in the era of antiretroviral therapy, 2005. Postgraduate Medical Journal, 2005.
18. Lamunu M, Lutwama J.J, Kamugisha J, **Opio A**, et al.: Containing a haemorrhagic fever epidemic: the Ebola experience in Uganda (October 2000-January 2001). 2004. Vol. 8, 27-37.
19. Okware S.I, Omaswa F.G, Zaramba S, **Opio A**, et al.: An outbreak of Ebola in Uganda. Tropical Medicine & International Health. December 2002, Vol.7 (Issue 12):1068-1075.
20. Okware S, **Opio A**, Musinguzi J and Waibale P.: Fighting HIV/AIDS: is success possible? Bulletin of the World Health Organization, 2001, 79(12).

21. Oyok T, Odonga C, Mulwani E, Abur J, ..... **Opio A**, et al.: Outbreak of Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever – Uganda, August 2000-January 2001. *MMWR* 2001, Vol. 50/No. 5, 73-74.
22. **Opio A**, Kamugisha J, Wanyana J, Mugaga M, et al.: Assessment of Infectious Disease Surveillance – Uganda. *MMWR* 2000, Vol. 49/No. 30, 687-691.
23. **Opio AA**, Mulumba N, Asiimwe-Okiror G, Musinguzi J, et al.: Changes in HIV/AIDS prevention indicators in a rural district of Lira in Uganda. *AIDS* 2000, 14(10), 1461-1463.
24. Asiimwe-Okiror G, **Opio AA**, Musinguzi J, Madraa E, Tembo G and Crael M. Changes in Sexual Behaviour and Decline in HIV Infection Among Young Pregnant Women in Urban Uganda. *AIDS*, 1997; 11:1757-1764.
25. **Opio AA**, Asiimwe-Okiror G, Musinguzi J, Kaweesa-Kisitu D, et al.: Condom Use in Two Rural Districts of Lira and Soroti in Uganda. *AIDS* 1997;11(4):546-548.
26. **Opio AA**, Asiimwe-Okiror G, Musinguzi J, Byabamazima C, et. al.: Sexual Behaviour Change Due to HIV/AIDS: results from population based surveys conducted in five districts of Uganda. XIth International Conference on AIDS. Vancouver, July 1996 [abstract LB.D.6069].
27. Asiimwe-Okiror G, Musinguzi J, **Opio AA**, Biryahwaho B, et. al.: Declines in HIV Prevalence in Ugandan Pregnant Women and its Relationship to HIV Incidence and Risk Reduction. XIth International Conference on AIDS. Vancouver, July 1996 [abstract Mo.C.905].
28. Asiimwe-Okiror G, Musinguzi J, Tembo G, **Opio AA**, et al.: Declining Trends in HIV Infection in Urban Areas in Uganda. IX International Conference on AIDS and STD in Africa. Kampala, December 1995 [abstract WeC206].
29. **Opio AA**. What is the impact of HIV-1 infection on hepatitis B chronic carriage and the sero-prevalence of delta virus in Uganda? 1994. [http://www.ohiolink.edu/etd/view.cgi?acc\\_num=case1057847652](http://www.ohiolink.edu/etd/view.cgi?acc_num=case1057847652).

In addition to the above publications and abstracts, Alex has co-authored a number of working papers and policy briefs.



## ALEX OPIO - SUMMARY AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Alex Opio is medical doctor with specialization in Epidemiology. He has a long national level experience in the provision of health services. He received his medical training from Makerere University, Uganda qualifying as a medical doctor in 1980. From 1981 to 1985, he worked at Entebbe Grade "A" Hospital as a medical officer. In 1985, he proceeded for postgraduate training at the University of London where he obtained a Master of Science degree in maternal and child health (MCH). In 1987, he became the Assistant Manager of the Uganda National Expanded Programme on Immunization. Later, in 1989, he proceeded again for further studies enrolling for a Ph.D. course at Case Western Reserve University to study Epidemiology and Biostatistics. After obtaining his Ph.D. in 1994, he returned to continue with work at the Ministry of Health. In 1995, he was promoted to the rank of Assistant Commissioner of Health Services (Surveillance of Communicable Diseases). Currently, he is working as an Assistant Commissioner of Health Services in the Department of National Disease Control (NDC), Ministry of Health (Uganda), a post he has held since 1999.

Alex has been actively involved in policy formulation, development of standards and guidelines, provision of technical support to districts, as well as monitoring and evaluation of health intervention; especially those related to the prevention and control of communicable diseases. In relation to above, he has a number of special assignments and responsibilities. He has also been active in monitoring and evaluation activities; and the conduct of research on a number of infectious disease related topics, especially population level surveys to monitor and evaluate the impact of HIV/AIDS interventions. Topics of interest to him include research to determine trends of HIV related knowledge, attitudes, practice and behaviours (KABP), second generation HIV sentinel surveillance to determine the magnitude and trends of HIV infection, research to determine the magnitude and trends of HIV infection through projections, research on the impact of policies on HIV interventions and operational research on the implementation of HIV/AIDS prevention and control strategies. In addition to HIV/AIDS research, Alex is interested in research to study the determinants of other infectious diseases; especially the determinants of epidemic-prone diseases, including the viral hemorrhagic fevers such as Ebola. From his research, Alex has been able to publish a number of papers in peer reviewed journals.

Alex is a member to a number of health related organizations, notably;

1. Board Member of the Uganda National Health Research Organization (UNHRO).
2. Member of the Institutional Review Board Accreditation Committee of the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST).

At international level through short term consultancies, Alex supported a number of countries in capacity building and development of systems for monitoring and evaluation, including surveillance.

