Mycobacterium tuberculosis and human immunodeficiency virus type 1 interaction: Pathogenesis and disease modulation in dual infection
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About the author

Harriet Mayanja-Kizza was born in Kampala Uganda on the 04th February 1955 to a sports facility manager father and a nurse. She had an early start to education with nursery school at the age of three, and upgrading to primary school at the age of five years in Aga Khan nursery and primary school in Kampala, Uganda. She went to Gayaza High School for secondary education, a prestigious girls boarding school in Uganda then linked to the English education system. On completing form six, she joined Makerere University, graduating with a Bachelors degree in Medicine and Surgery, and emerging not only as the best student in her year, but with the best grades in the history of the Ugandan University medical school. She later attained a Masters of Internal Medicine degree of Makerere University in 1984, after which she worked as a physician in the Uganda Cancer institute. She went on to practice as a physician in South Africa before returning to Uganda in 1992. She joined Makerere University as a lecturer and continued with clinical care, teaching and research activities – starting with research interests in diabetes, malaria, then endomyocardial fibrosis (a common heart disease in the tropics) and finally in the area HIV and tuberculosis.

In 1996, she was awarded a Fogarty scholarship to study immunology at the Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland Ohio, USA, graduating in 1999 with a Masters degree in Pathology, with a focus on Immunology. On her return to Uganda, she was appointed Chair of the Department of Medicine where in addition to teaching and patient care continued with research in tuberculosis and HIV interaction. She continued with research in the area of tuberculosis-HIV immunology and is an author and co-author on many papers in the field.

She is currently the Dean School of Medicine at Makerere’s College of Health Sciences, as well as a co principal investigator on a number of research projects at the Uganda CWRU Research Collaboration. She has been a research and training collaborator with colleagues in Africa, Europe and the USA, involved in various training and research activities.

The training linkages have lead to student exchanges between Uganda, and universities in Africa, Europe, North America and recently Australia.

The research linkages have included collaborative research with colleagues in Universities and research institutes in Africa (Rwanda, Ethiopia, Malawi, South Africa, Kenya and Tanzania),
Europe (Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, European-Developing Country Trials Partnership) as well as North America (USA, Canada).

She continues her research activities specifically in the areas of tuberculosis immune-pathogenesis, vaccine trials preparation, tuberculosis biomarkers and clinical trials as well as malaria immunology, with rapid tuberculosis immune-diagnosis as a major area of focus. She continues to supervise and mentor junior and mid level researchers, as well as steer the Makerere University School of Medicine to further growth and development.

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