Aspects of tuberculosis and HIV diagnosis, care and treatment in Rwandan health facilities: operational studies
Kayigamba, R.F.
Acknowledgments
It is about six years back when thoughts of pursuing a PhD became a reality. By then, I was just starting to acquire some district health management experience in a rural district hospital and my knowledge in public health research was just in its primordial stage and the opportunity to do a PhD came at the right time. I would like to acknowledge that this project was a result of massive efforts by many people, different institutions, as well as countries.

I would particularly like to thank the following:

The INTERACT Fraternity, Prof. Joep Lange and his colleagues, the staff and administration of the Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development (AIGHD) Foundation, Academic Medical Center, University of Amsterdam, and the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT): I would like to thank them for giving me the opportunity of an incredible training experience in my career.

I would like to thank the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research/Netherlands Foundation for the Advancement of Tropical Research (NOW/WOTRO) through the Netherlands-African Partnership for Capacity Development and Clinical Interventions against Poverty Related Diseases (NACCAP) as well as the European Union (SANTE/2006/105-316) for having funded this research.

When I started work on this research, little did I know that I was heading for a long and challenging path that required patience, hard work and determination but rather was full of excitement about getting a professional development opportunity.

Many thanks to the patients and volunteers who participated in the studies that make up this thesis; the research would not have been possible without their voluntary acceptance and collaboration.

I would like to thank my Promotor Prof. Dr. Frank G.J. Cobelens for the support and guidance over the years. Your detailed reviews, suggestions and prompt feedback were critical for the quality, achieving deadlines and the success of this work.
I would like to thank sincerely my esteemed Co-Promotors Dr. Mirjam Bakker and Dr. Maarten F. Schim van der Loeff for teaching me from start to finish throughout this project. With their supervision over the years, I learnt a lot about writing scientific work, statistical analysis as well as the discipline of deadlines and prompt feedbacks. To have been given the opportunity to work with the two of you was and remains something of which I will always be incredibly proud. You have been a great inspiration and wonderful teachers. Thank you for making time for the constant monthly conference calls over the years, they were helpful to keep at speed. I would like to acknowledge you for all those weeks and months you stayed away from your families while in Rwanda working with me on this project. And for the time I spent in the Netherlands, thanks for caring and making me feel like it was home.

Dr. Veronicah Mugisha, thank you for the enduring support and contribution to the design of the studies reported in this thesis, the insights, discussions, timely reviews and suggestions and your encouraging remarks over the years without which the success of this work would not have been possible.

Dr. Ludwig de Naeyer, Dr. Kimberly Boer, Mr. Andrew Musemakweri, the data management team and all the staff at the INTERACT office in Kigali: your support was a critical element in the success of this work, I thank them. Dr. Stella van Beers and colleagues at KIT, many thanks for particularly organizing and providing those very important clinical research courses, they were helpful in the success of this work.

I would like to thank the teams at the Center for Treatment and Research on AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis and other Epidemics (Trac Plus) in particular Dr. Michel Gasana, Dr Martine Toussaint, Dr Greet VandeBriel and Dr. Anita Asiimwe for their contribution to the initial conceptual designs of the different studies reported in this thesis and their utmost collaboration. The team from the National Reference Laboratory, thanks for the support and collaboration. I would like to acknowledge all the staff from all the different District Hospitals and the Health Centres where the studies were conducted, their facilitation and collaboration was crucial for the success of this work.

To my friends in the Netherlands: Gijs van Der Kwaak, Carianne Deelstra, former Masters students; Hadassa Fikse, Mara van Duin, Inge Krul, Carmen Franse, Daniela van
Santen, Rolina Meijering, Maxime Hoffman and Annemarie Griffioen whom I worked with in one way or the other over the years, I would like to thank them for the support, encouragement and friendship; you made my stay in the Netherlands feel like ‘home away from home’.

Thanks to all the colleagues, the PhD students both from Rwanda and Uganda for their support and collaboration. I would like to sincerely acknowledge Joshua Ruxin for his invaluable support particularly in the last years of this project. Lastly, I would also like to thank all the people whom I would never have met had I not done this PhD but helped me in numerous ways.

My children Shema, Keza and Tona have been a great source of joy, inspiration and pride, I would like to thank them. And finally, let me thank sincerely my wife Florence for her love and encouragement that kept me working hard and believing over the years.