



JUSTIN MASUMU

Researcher

*Southern African Centre
for Infectious Disease
Surveillance (SACIDS)
Democratic Republic of
the Congo*

I graduated at the faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Lubumbashi/DRC. I hold an MSc degree from the Institute of Tropical Medicine of Antwerp/Belgium and a PhD degree from the University of Ghent/Belgium. After my PhD program, I got a first postdoc position at the University of Pretoria in South Africa, at the faculty of Veterinary Science (Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases). During this postdoc I conducted several projects involving a number of MSc et PhD students on the epidemiology of animal trypanosomiasis. Current I'm on my second postdoc position at SACIDS (Southern African Center for Infectious Disease Surveillance) where I'm involved in several research projects particularly emerging infectious diseases with focus on Ebola and Marburg diseases. I'm involved in the supervision/co-supervision of several PhD and Msc students in various projects under these themes. My current research interest is the understanding of the epidemiology and ecology of emerging (e.i. Ebola and Marburg) and re-emerging (Trypanosomiasis, Malaria and Tuberculosis) infectious diseases, and the design of adequate prevention and disease response strategies. I have a sound expertise on the use of molecular approaches to control complex diseases. I have been awarded a price as a winner of the Competition 2007, Section of Natural and Medical Sciences, Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences (RAOS), Bruxelles/Belgium for my studies on "Molecular epidemiology and integrated control of bovine trypanosomiasis in sub-Saharan Africa". I also won several grants among which the recent one from AUF (Alliance Universitaire francophone) for a new approach developed to analyze complex infectious diseases and where several students (PhD and MSc) are involved. The project is named "AIAPIC" (Approche intégrée d'analyse des pathologies infectieuses complexes = Intergrated approach for the analysis of complex infectious pathologies: IAACIP). Research remains my passion and my main activity although I also lecture undergraduate and postgraduate students particularly at the "Université Pédagogique Nationale" in DRC. Most of my research activities are conducted in collaboration with local and overseas academic and research institutions (UNIKIN, UPN, INRB, LABOVET, NICD/NHLS). My research field (DRC) engorges quite a lot of research opportunities as located in the Congo basin. Collaborating with other researchers across the world keeps my main research door widely open.

SURVEILLANCE OF THE VIRAL HEMORRHAGIC FEVERS

in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Justin MASUMU ET AL.

Background

Filovirus hemorrhagic fevers (FHF) comprise two related diseases, Ebola (EHF) and Marburg (MHF) hemorrhagic fevers. The first occurrence of MHF was in 1967 simultaneously in Marburg and Serbia. Ebola appeared for the first time in Sudan and DRC (former Zaire) in 1976. Natural occurrence of these diseases is restricted to Africa mainly the Congo and Nile basins. The Democratic Republic of Congo is one of the countries with a high number of FHF occurrences. In 2012, the DRC experienced its sixth known filovirus outbreak in Oriental province, in Isiro. This was the fifth time Ebola virus appeared in DRC after Yambuku (1976), Tandala (1979), Kikwit (1995) and Mweka (2007-2009). These four outbreaks were caused by the Zaire Ebola strain while the Isiro outbreak was caused by Ebola Bundibudyo strain. The single MHF outbreak so far observed occurred between 1998 and 2000 in the same province. Although EHF and MHF are two different diseases, they share the same prevention and control strategies. In DRC, FHF are controlled by the Ministry of Health through the 4th direction. Within this direction a program has been established to control Monkey Pox and viral hemorrhagic fevers including FHF. This program is well established at different levels of the health system across the country and is highly experienced in the control of FHF. An evaluation of strategies developed to prevent and control these disease revealed that appreciate progress have been achieved. However the system needs more improvements in order to achieve a good level of disease prevention and early outbreak detection.