

2021 Wings for Ideas Fund Winner

Name: Dr Catherine Kibirige

Department: Infectious Disease

Project: Sensitive, low cost, ambient temperature, HIV-1 DNA quantification kit development

What are the main aims of the project?

To test a soon-to-be-released lyophilizable form of the PCR Biosystems PCR Probe® master mix and produce a prototype ambient-temperature HIV-1 DNA quantification kit with a prolonged shelf-life. Funding applications will be submitted to pilot the kit as a low-cost alternative to viral load testing in resource-limited settings.

What will this fund allow you to achieve?

There is a worrying increase in the emergence and spread of drug-resistant HIV-1 strains in resource-limited settings due to widespread use of affordable first-line generic drugs juxtaposed against the lack of affordable, accessible HIV treatment-monitoring. The funds will allow us to test and provide a viable, affordable alternative.

