Risk modelling of transfusion transmissible infections
Mapako, Tonderai

IMPORTANT NOTE: You are advised to consult the publisher's version (publisher's PDF) if you wish to cite from it. Please check the document version below.

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:
2016

Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database

Citation for published version (APA):

Copyright
Other than for strictly personal use, it is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Take-down policy
If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

Downloaded from the University of Groningen/UMCG research database (Pure): http://www.rug.nl/research/portal. For technical reasons the number of authors shown on this cover page is limited to 10 maximum.
You are cordially invited to the public defense of Tonderai Mapako's doctoral dissertation: Risk modelling of transfusion transmissible infections on Friday 09 December 2016 at 2.30pm in the aula of the Academic Building of the University of Groningen, Broerstraat 5, Groningen.

In the same evening you are invited to a reception dinner that will also take place in the Academic Building.

Paranymphs
Elsbeth Helfrich
Lucia Mapako

Acknowledgements
I would like to thank Mr DA Mvere who indirectly guided my impetus to pursue a PhD in transfusion medicine way back 2001 when I joined National Blood Service Zimbabwe (NBSZ). Ten years latter, these aspirations were fulfilled when I was accepted in 2011 for the T-REC PhD Fellowship at the University of Groningen, Netherlands.

My heartfelt appreciation goes to my PhD supervisors/advisors. Prof. MJ Postma as my Promoter, I am humbled by your simplicity but focussed approach in guiding my doctoral work throughout. I vividly remember how you made my PhD internship in Groningen quite memorable in 2014. It was nice of you to organise for us to watch that soccer match, and this made me realise the importance of pursuing and balancing both the academic and social pursuits in life. As for Rene (Dr. Marinus van Hulst) my daily supervisor (co-promoter) you had become more than a supervisor in my life. I recall when we first met in Mombasa, Kenya, in 2008 for the African blood transfusion research workshop. Thereafter, you send me your thesis and I was thrilled with the QALYs / ICERs (health economics terminologies) which were alien to me by then. Little did I know that this was the start of our journey, as in September 2011 you became my PhD daily supervisor. You were there daily for all my needs and I could not have wished for more. Thank you very much for supporting all my key training journal activities (training at University of York, United Kingdom; internship at South African National Blood Service (SANBS), University Medical Centre Utrecht (Netherlands), Sanquin Blood supply (Netherlands), International Development of Transfusion Medicine (IDTM, Netherlands), University Medical Centre Groningen (Netherlands) and Martini Hospital (Netherlands). All these were critical in advancing my PhD academic career. During my internship in Groningen you open your house for our discussions and I become part of your family enjoying all the dinner and outing activities. I had a rich experience of a Dutch family life and I thank your wife (Elisbeth) and children (Thijs and Florian) for all the affection. Rene, our trip to Lauwersmeer remains memorable. At NBSZ, Mr Mvere you became my PhD advisor and I thank you for all the support. I am saddened that my initial work based PhD medical advisor, Dr ME Chitiyo sadly passed on in March 2015. May his soul rest in peace. I am grateful for the medical advise I received from him and latter from Dr JC Emmanuel who agreed to assist me on this
role when he assumed the Medical Director’s post at NBSZ. I am indebted for all
the medical advise I received for my PhD work. My local university supervisor, Prof.
S Rusakaniko (University of Zimbabwe), I want to thank you for all the support and
continual encouragement to pursue with the studies.

I want to thank Mr V (Ravi) Reddy and team from SANBS who hosted me for
my PhD internship in 2012. It was during this period that I concluded my first PhD
paper for journal submission, which was finally accepted for publication in the
journal of Transfusion. This achievement could not have been possible without
your and SANBS support. I had a great period at University Medical Centre Utrecht
all because of you Mart (Dr. Mart P Janssen) and team of Julius Center for Health
Sciences and Primary Care (Welling and others) as you were there for me. This
is where I learned the core of risk modelling and your dedication really helped
me to master the tenants of risk modelling concepts. Within a limited timeframe
I did manage to understand the EUFRAT project. Thereafter, within a remarkable
two months period we were able to extend this to travellers risk modelling as per
our publication on travellers risk. Mart, the hospitality that you extended to me
including at your family level remains a memorable aspect of my PhD experiences
and comforts. Dr Martin Smid, thank you and team at Sanquin Blood Supply for
guiding me through a world class blood services. You gave me access to all critical
staff at Sanquin from the Executive Directors to junior staff. This really helped me
to appreciate and contrast the operations of blood services in developed and a
resource-limited setting (NBSZ) as per my PhD internship report included in this
thesis. This was an enriching experience. Dr Smid, you and your team further
guided me on the IDTM and I appreciate all the learning discussion you organised.

I want to thank the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC, Zimbabwe) who
officiated at the launch of the T-REC project in Zimbabwe. My profound thanks
also goes to NBSZ Board (lead by Retired Justice L Smith, Chairman of the Board),
Executive Management (lead by Chief Executive Officer, Mr DA Mvere, and latter
from 2015 by Ms LM Marowa) and all staff for providing me with an opportunity to
pursue the studies within the organisation. The constant love and encouragement
created a suitable environment for me to be able to contribute to the international
scientific community. Following my first PhD publication in the journal of Transfu-
sion (2013), the Service facilitated my PhD Cake ceremony with all Harare based staff and the moral support was great. I thank you all for the support. I want to pay special recognition to the staff in the department that I lead, the Planning, Information and Research (PIR). I am happy to note that we mutual worked quite well and this achievement is a reflection of that. I thank you for the maturity, focus and dedication to duty that you exhibited. The loyalty and support of my secretary Wedzerai Gondobwe is highly appreciated.

The T-REC consortium gave me my PhD lifeline. The constant support of Prof. Imelda Bates (Scientific coordinator and leader) and team was extraordinary. The Zimbabwe T-REC Management team of Mr DA Mvere, Prof. E Gomo and Mr R Chikwereti provided all the necessary support. To my fellow T-REC PhD students, Nyasadzaishwe Mafirakureva (Zimbabwe), Lucy Asamoah-Akuoko (Ghana) and Francis Sarkodie (Ghana) it has been great pleasure interacting with you throughout my PhD journey. May you find this new dimension we have taken enriching in your lives.

I had to interact with a number of international experts in various aspects of blood services and I want to thanks all these. To Hazel McCullough (Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine), thank you for guiding me on the Personal Development Planning (PDP) of my PhD, which was very useful. Unfortunately, I cannot name all of you but please accept my appreciation of all the assistance you provided me. I had to interact with other PhD students and I want to thank Welling Oei (Netherlands) and Elizabeth Gonese (Zimbabwe) whom I manage to gainfully work with on some of my projects. I wish you the best in your postdoctoral journeys. To my other co-workers on my publications, it was a pleasure working with you.

To the Africa Society for Blood Transfusion (AfSBT), thank you for entrusting me with the AfSBT Research Coordination role since 2008. This certainly boosted my confidence and exposure on the research expectations in Africa and beyond. I hope to continue to influence the implementation of the research agenda in the African blood services through your support. I want to thank International Society for Blood Transfusion (ISBT), AABB and Swiss Red Cross for supporting some of my international travels where I was able to share part of my PhD work. I wish to extend my sincere gratitude for the financial support I received for the PhD defense
process from the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences; Unit Pharmaco-
Therapy, -Epidemiology & -Economics; [PTEE; Jannie thanks for all the administra-
tive facilitation) and corporate/individual sponsors (at the time of thesis printing
these are Hemasoft, Zans African Medical, SSEM Mthembu and Dr Marinus van
Hulst). To Ms L Marowa and her Executive Assistant Chipo Musarurwa thank you
very much for all the assistance during sponsorship seeking.

I have the pleasure to thank my family for all the support during my studies. They
had to bear some of my responsibilities as I concentrated on my work. To
my lovely wife, Lucia I have no words to describe your affection and comfort that
enabled me to successfully complete my studies. Without your support, I could
not have achieved this. To my children Makanaka, Tinevimbo and Tinotenda, I
love you and thank you for your patience at a time that I was not always available
due to these studies commitment. To my father (Gamuchirai Chitiyo) and mother
(Elis), I say a special thank you. To my siblings (and their families), Jane, Vandudzai,
Alex, Rambwayi, Jasiel and Rostina may the dear Lord continue to bless you for
your affection and support. To Jane and husband Peter, thank you for nurturing
my early childhood, as I had to stay with you. To all my larger family thank you for
the constant support in every way. You graced my first PhD publication braai at my
place and this remains a memorable occasion because of all your affection. To my
fellow brethren in Christ at the Reformed Church in Zimbabwe (RCZ) at Inner City
Harare and Murambinda Growth Point thank you for all the divine and spiritual
guidance. Above all, I want to thank the Almighty God for guiding and protect-
ing me throughout my doctoral studies for through Him all things are possible. In
Isaiah 30:15 God said, “in quietness and confidence shall be your strength” and
indeed I was guided throughout. I am happy that God prepared and lead my way
despite the “valleys and mountains” (Isaiah 40:4) that I had to encounter in my life
and the PhD journey.
You are cordially invited to the public defense of Tonderai Mapako’s doctoral dissertation: Risk modelling of transfusion transmissible infections on Friday 09 December 2016 at 2.30pm in the aula of the Academic Building of the University of Groningen, Broerstraat 5, Groningen.

In the same evening you are invited to a reception dinner that will also take place in the Academic Building.

Paranymphs

Elsbeth Helfrich
Lucia Mapako