

# IDI Meningitis Team Hiccup Circus

P R E S E N T

FREE CIRCUS

MUSIC

THEATRE

HEALTH EDUCATION  
ON MENINGITIS

DANCE COMPETITION

## Juggling with Health

OLUNAKU OLWOKUJUKIRA



**VENUE:** Treasure Life Youth Centre  
Football Pitch, Kamwokya

**DATE:** Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2018

**TIME:** 3:30PM



LONDON  
SCHOOL OF  
HYGIENE  
& TROPICAL  
MEDICINE





13/11/2018

The meningitis team at the Infectious Disease Institute and Hiccup Circus are proud to present the following community event: **Meningitis community engagement circus: Juggling with health (Olunaku Olwokujukira)** which will be held on **Friday 30th November at 3:30pm**, the day before World Aids Days, at the **TLC centre**, Treasure, life, youth community centre football pitch in **Kamwokya**.

The meningitis team, based at the Infectious Disease Institute, Mulago, cares for adults with HIV-associated brain infections, such as Cryptococcal meningitis and TB meningitis. The team are trying to find better diagnostics and treatment for these conditions. Meningitis is a type of brain infection, from which people with HIV who are not on antiretroviral therapy are at particular risk. Meningitis has a very high death rate, with up to 50% of patients dying. One of the reasons so many people die is that they present to hospital very late, when the disease is already very severe. Lumbar puncture (taking water) is a very important part of the diagnosis and treatment of meningitis. However, many people are afraid of lumbar punctures and refuse this life saving treatment in hospital.

The aims of this public engagement event are as follows:

1. To raise awareness in the community about early symptoms of meningitis – headache, neck pain, fevers, confusion, seizures
2. To encourage people to present to Kiruddu hospital earlier when the disease is still mild
3. To explain about lumbar puncture, why it is done and reduce anxiety about the procedure
4. To make people aware of the meningitis team and the RifT and Ambition studies, how the study can help people with meningitis and how to access the study
5. To encourage HIV testing, and promote World Aids Day

The **RifT** study is looking at new treatment and diagnosis for TB meningitis. **Ambition** is a study looking at new treatment for Cryptococcal meningitis, which involves a shorter time in hospital. Together TB and Cryptococcal meningitis are the number one cause of death in patients with HIV.

The Hiccup social circus group use interactive community performances to help educate people about public health messages. During this event they will entertain the community through music, acrobatics, juggling, and fire breathing and will perform a drama sketch to help spread the educational messages around meningitis and lumbar punctures.

During the event there will be a question and answer session with a survivor of meningitis, the HIV advocate **Dr Stephen Watiti**, who has written extensively on the subject. Members of the meningitis research team will be there to meet with the community and answer questions from the public. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Sincerely,

Dr Joanna Dobbin & Dr Fiona Cresswell  
Meningitis Team, Infectious Disease Institute

**Main locations:**