

MAKERERE

P.O. Box 7072 Kampala, Uganda
E-mail: principal@chs.mak.ac.ug
sewankam@infocom.co.ug



UNIVERSITY

Tel: 256 414 530021
Fax: 256 414 532204

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

Monday July 2nd 2012

PRESS RELEASE

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES MEDICAL STUDENTS ENGAGE COMMUNITIES IN CANCER AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Residents of Kireka in Wakiso district will this month be the proud beneficiaries on free cancer awareness services, including free screening for breast cancer, by students of the Makerere University College of Health Sciences (MakCHS). Instead of the Kireka residents suffering the stress of looking for health workers, students will move and camp in Kireka to provide the services.

It is estimated that only 5% of women in Uganda get access to screening for cervical cancer, while in 2007 it was reported that cervical cancer was the leading cause of gynaecological deaths at Mulago Hospital. Estimates also show that there are only 4 cancer specialists in Uganda

The students through their Cancer Awareness Club create exposure of the cancer burden especially at the Mulago Hospital Paediatric Cancer Unit, through lobbying for funding and support to these children given that majority are from poor background. The students also fill the gap on early screening for breast and cervical cancer in women; through their monthly Medical outreaches in collaboration with the Mulago Hospital Cancer Institute.

“Our July Breast and cervical cancer outreach will be in Kireka-Wakiso district where we intend to cover over 600 young women. We use young women (medical students) to health educate and encourage fellow young women to screen as early detection increases the chances of cure. The August Outreach will be in Makerere University where we intend to cover Fresh Women (new students) as well as some continuing

students. This will be in line with Makerere University's 90th Anniversary celebrations", said Mr. James Kitonsa the President, Makerere University Medical Students' Association.

Education, awareness and regular screening are considered as the most cost-effective preventive strategies for most cancers; especially breast and cervical cancers.

For more information, please contact:

Mr. James Peter Kitonsa, President Makerere University Medical Students Association (MUMSA)

Tel: 256-700135170, 0782-559594, **Email:** Website: <http://chs.mak.ac.ug/mumsa/>

Ms. Milly Nattimba, Communication Officer, College of Health Sciences, Tel: +256-782-549387, Email: pr@chs.mak.ac.ug, Web: <http://chs.mak.ac.ug>