

## **Quality of Care Issues for Mental Health and Neurological Disorders in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Workshop**

On August 4th and 5th, 2009, the IOM Forum on Neuroscience and Nervous System Disorders in collaboration with the Forum on Health and Nutrition of the Uganda National Academy of Sciences will convene an international workshop on quality of care issues for mental health and neurological disorders in sub-Saharan Africa. The workshop will be held in Kampala, Uganda.

The workshop will bring together key stakeholders to assess the current state of the quality of care for neurological, mental, and substance use disorders in sub-Saharan Africa. Recognizing both the importance of high quality care for brain disorders and the economic limitation of most sub-Saharan African countries in diagnosing and treating these disorders, the workshop will explore areas where policies might improve care for neurological, mental, and substance use disorders for countries in this region. Other aims of the workshop are to discuss opportunities that can be used to better ensure continuity of care and sustainability within a country's health care system; and to identify resources that are presently available or could be made available to aid in implementation of treatments and prevention projects.

The workshop will identify and discuss potential programs of action that could be implemented in cost-effective and efficient manners to improve care of neurological, mental, and substance use disorders. Dialogue at the workshop is intended to emphasize the need for national, evidence-based policies addressing quality of care for these disorders. Key areas of emphasis are to:

- § Discuss opportunities that can be used to better ensure continuity of care and sustainability within a country's health care system;
- § Identify resources that are presently available or could be made available, in cost-effective and efficient manners, to aid in implementation of treatments and prevention projects;
- § Emphasize the need for national, evidence-based policies addressing quality of care and health care systems for neurological, mental, and substance use disorders. Discuss how to facilitate collaborations among a variety of stakeholders, including policy makers and health care professionals.

Attendance at the workshop is free but registration is required. For more information and to register, please visit [www.iom.edu/neuroforum](http://www.iom.edu/neuroforum). For additional information or questions, please contact Sarah Hanson at [shanson@nas.edu](mailto:shanson@nas.edu).