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PLENARY ABSTRACT

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100 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Research Projects from Sub Saharan Africa

Ten years ago (2010) an article published in The Lancet, described the disparity in scientific research on Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) originating from high-income countries (HIC) and low and middle-income countries (LMIC) as the 10%-90% divide. The 10%-90% divide meaning that although 90% of the world's children lived in LMIC, only 10% of CAMH research came from there. An editorial by Omigbodun & Belfer (2016) in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry & Mental Health described further the urgent need for a CAMH research base to drive advocacy for resources and the virtual absence of CAMH publications from sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) in the international literature. This article stressed that several countries in SSA did not have a single publication on CAMH and even when there were publications, in most instances researchers & lead authors were from HIC. The editorial also described the response to the dearth of CAMH research in SSA through the Centre for Child and Adolescent Mental Health, University of Ibadan established in January 2011 through support received from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

This presentation provides an update of the 2016 article describing the process that led to 100 research projects emanating from CCAMH between 2011 and 2020 based on the work of students from 14 countries in SSA. The research projects are described in terms of country and region in which they were carried out and the type, site and populations of study. We have proceeding to merge some of the datasets that were on similar topics and populations from different countries and the results give insights from across countries in SSA into street children, pathways to CAMH care, correlates of CAMH disorders and developmental delay, and interventional studies on health professionals, adolescents & children are also featured. 15% of these articles have been published with several in the pipeline. CCAMH's responses to the COVID19 Pandemic through research are also highlighted. These are some attempts to reduce the 90%-10% divide.