Capacity development, training ans research uptake

PO - (8278) - BUILDING CAPACITY IN CONDUCTING CLINICAL RESEARCH IN A VIRTUAL SETTING: EXPERIENCES FROM THE EAST AFRICAN CONSORTIUM FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH (EACCR2)

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EACCR2 is an EDCTP funded -Eastern African-led network, established in May 2009, with 23 regional partners from Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Sudan and Ethiopia and 8 northern partners from United Kingdom, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Germany. The objective is to strengthen capacity to conduct internationally acceptable health research with specific focus on clinical trials on poverty relevant diseases such as HIV, TB, Malaria and Neglected Infectious Diseases. EACCR2 optimizes the use of shared research infrastructures and other regional capacity building resources and opportunities.

The activities of the network are implemented in 5 work packages cutting across nodes in different countries. Capacity-building programs and studies funded by EDCTP are implemented by coordinators at the disease nodes. Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) hosts the secretariat of the consortium of five nodes located in the following institutions: Malaria Node in Kilifi-Kenya Medical Research Institute Wellcome Trust and Training Node in Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute - Tanzania, Tuberculosis Node at the National Institute of Medical Research- Muhimbili, the Neglected, and Re-Emerging Tropical Diseases Node at the University of Khartoum, Sudan and the HIV Node at UVRI. Coordinators form the project implementation committee which meets on skype or teleconference every quarter to assess progress, share best practice and challenges of the network. Scientific and annual meetings are arranged every year in one of the implementing institutions. During such meetings, students, the nodes and steering committee also meet to minimize travel costs while helping teams to network.

EACCR2 learns from the experiences, best practice and challenges of EACCR 1 while implementing its activities. Careful planning and consensus building from all partners has been the driving force to building and implementing activities of this virtual network. EACCR2 also works closely with other EDCTP Networks of excellence in Central Africa (CANTAM) West Africa (WANTAMN and South Africa (TESA).