Capacity development, training and research uptake

PO - (8446) - COLLABORATIVE TUBERCULOSIS RESEARCH AGENDA AT KEMRI CENTER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH, KISUMU, KENYA.

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Background:

Developing countries grapple with inadequate funding amidst high burden of diseases. Africa is home to 9 of the 22 high Tuberculosis (TB) burden and 29 of the 41 high TB/HIV burden countries. Kenya is among high TB and high TB/HIV burdened countries. Western Kenya region has the highest burden of TB and HIV. North-South partnerships are pivotal in ameliorating funding gaps in clinical research.

Methods:

By optimizing existing infrastructure and program support (i.e. sensitization and awareness creation leading into study participant recruitment); capacity strengthening, TB Prevalence survey, observational studies, operational research, vaccine and drug trials have been conducted with multiple North-South collaborators from 2005 to date.

Results:

TB prevalence survey showed 600 cases per 100,000 population, TB epidemiological studies among adolescents and infants yielded 680 and 900/100,000 population respectively while 2 TB vaccine trials among infants and adults were conducted in Siaya. Three TB drug trials and TB patient observational cum bio-bank study concluded in Kisumu. KEMRI TB laboratory was upgraded from BSL2 to BSL3, was ISO-accredited in 2013, renewed in 2015 and 2017 and supports TB program health facilities with retreatment specimens, supervision and mentorship. Over 25 operational TB studies grouped into community & case detection (increasing case detection), diagnostic & molecular (new diagnostic methods) and epidemiology studies (testing and monitoring cohorts for epidemiological questions) were implemented. Five PhDs, 9 Masters, 2 Postgraduate Diplomas, 6 Bachelor degrees and 10 Diplomas have been supported. Siaya clinical research center was built while in Kisumu an adolescent clinic was constructed. This work involved 18 northern and 26 southern partners. Over 35 publications have been published out of these collaborations.

Conclusion:

North-South collaborations provided funding mechanisms, expertise and resources to harness research capacity of KEMRI; hence the need to foster a global networking culture.