Capacity development, training and research uptake

PO - (8460) - PANDORA-ID NET (PAN-AFRICAN NETWORK FOR RAPID RESEARCH, RESPONSE, RELIEF AND PREPAREDNESS FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES EPIDEMICS)

Ntoumi, Francine (Congo); Zumla, Francine (United Kingdom); Ippolito, Giuseppe (Italy); Vairo, Francesco (Italy)

1 - Fondation Congolaise pour la Recherche Médicale; 2 - University College of London; 3 - National Institute for Infectious diseases LazzaroSpallanzani

Background

New and re-emerging infectious disease outbreaks continue to cause much human suffering and loss of life worldwide. Since Africa has experienced repeated outbreaks of zoonotic infections, an important need exists to improve local and regional capacities to identify and respond to zoonotic outbreaks. PANDORA ID-NET is an EDCTP supported ‘ONE Human and Animal HEALTH’ multidisciplinary consortium of 24 partner institutions (15 African and 9 European) derived from 9 African and 4 European countries.

Methods

Our overall aim is to strengthen, regional and pan-African capacities and systems for enabling rapid and effective response to infectious diseases with epidemic potential, arising from within Africa or those imported from overseas. We aim to build laboratory, public health capabilities for rapid detection and surveillance of pathogens from human and animal sources. This will include obtaining accelerated evidence for optimal clinical management of patients, infection control measures, public health response during outbreaks. Capacities will be built: a) for performing multi-site clinical trials (evaluating rapid diagnostics, biomarkers, a range of treatments, vaccines and operational research studies) and, b) for timely collection, analysis and communication of information.

Conclusion

Our activities will be aligned to EDCTP regional networks of excellence, Africa CDC and other relevant global and regional initiatives, thus maximizing complementarity and achieving a multiplier effect, facilitating rapid policy implementation of outputs.