Capacity development, training and research uptake

PO - (8472) - EACCR-2 INSTITUTIONAL CLINICAL RESEARCH CAPACITY ASSESSMENT: CASE STUDY OF SIAYA COUNTY REFERRAL HOSPITAL, WESTERN KENYA

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Background

Infrastructural inadequacies and lack of research management expertise impedes optimal research participation by Ministries of Health in Africa. The East African Consortium of Clinical Research (EACCR-2) network champions research strengthening through capacity building and partnership with local institutions to improve research output in the region. Siaya County Referral Hospital was evaluated for research needs in preparation for future clinical trial.

Methodology

In April 2018, departmental in-charges or designees from administration, finance, clinical, data management, laboratory, records and Information Technology (IT) were interviewed using standardized assessment questionnaires.

Results

Five out of the seven respondents interviewed were males. Patient populations such as children, adolescents and pregnant mothers were identified as having unique characteristics and are to be considered for future in patient and outpatient clinical trials. There is little research exposure among clinical, data and laboratory staff despite some of them receiving GCP and GCLP training. A local Institutional Review Board (IRB) is in place and they review both academic research proposals as well as large multi center trials before studies are carried out. The members however lack appropriate training in bioethics. Acute staff shortage, reagent stock outs, space constraints and faulty equipment limits the laboratory’s capacity. Insufficient IT support and internet access causes delays in data entry. A dearth in monitoring, data analysis and statistical expertise, financial management systems and library services were also identified.

Conclusions

The hospital’s capacity to conduct clinical research is low. Assessment findings highlighted funding constraints faced at the referral hospital in a country burdened by disease. North-South partnership through EDCTP will contribute towards addressing part of these gaps.