Developing Technologically Advanced Research in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

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BACKGROUND
While there has been a priority in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) on addressing urgent clinical issues, there is a strong interest to develop robust more basic and technologically advanced research programs. Achieving this goal often means partnering with High-Income Countries for support with resources and methods. These partnerships raise the old specter of colonialism and inadequate sharing both in the design and the product of research studies.

OBJECTIVE
We present a collaboration between a group of scientists in Nigeria and the USA in developing a genomic research project and the solutions adopted in tackling the ethical implications and partnership equity and ownership of such a project.

METHODS
A collaborative research project was started between 3 large tertiary pediatric hospitals in North and Central Nigeria (Jos, Kano and Zaria) and a pediatric hospital in the USA (Kansas City, MO) & 2nd University (Minneapolis, MN).

The project was constructed on the basis of three basic principles:
1. Equal partnership in development of the project.
2. Equal partnership in sharing in the outcome of the project (abstracts, publications, etc.).
3. Frequent contacts via physical & virtual meetings.

PHASE 1: Project Initiation: 1-week retreat in Kaduna, Nigeria.
- Develop the methodology
- MOU: Clear and transparent rules in data sharing and publication credits.

Project Launching: 10-day retreat one year later in Abuja Nigeria: Review and practice:
- Clinical procedures
- Lab techniques

PHASE 2:
- Resume data collection.
- Presentation of initial results at PAS (poster 356).

METHODS
The four steps of the collaboration: Based on a Plan Do Study Act (PDSA) study model

- Plan: Kaduna, February 2017 - Design the study (IRBs, Contracts, MOU…)
- Study: Kano, Zariss and Joss, December 2018 – Preliminary results, evaluate the process
- Act: Ongoing – Implement the decisions taken during the Study phase.

First meeting: Planning, Kaduna, February 2017

RESULTS

USA Site PI

Nigeria Site PI

Stephen Oguchie

JB Le Pichon

Organogram of the collaboration

USA Site PI

Lab PI

Christian Isacchi

Lab PI

Sean Riordan

SKINN leadership: Stephen Oguchie, BM BCH, Fidelia Bode-Thomas, MBBS, Chris Isacchi, MBBS, William O Ogala, MBBS

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