Abstracts

ABSTRACTS OF THE EIGHTH EDCTP FORUM, 6–9 NOVEMBER 2016

Defeating poverty-related and neglected diseases in Africa: harnessing research for evidence-informed policies

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This Forum was officially opened by His Excellency Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, the President of the Republic of Zambia, who is a true advocate for health research capacity development in Africa. Several high-ranking government policy makers including ministers, directors from ministries of health, higher education and science & technology from Zambia and other African countries participated. This was a clear demonstration of the growing interest among African governments to strengthen their collaboration with EDCTP. The EDCTP programme has added value for all countries in sub-Saharan Africa through its funding strategies and plans.

This general theme of partnership between North and South, between Europe and Africa was taken up again by the new High Representative for the North, Professor Marcel Tanner, in his keynote address to the conference. He reflected on the nature of partnership which should go beyond cooperating on individual projects to programme portfolio level and partnering at a strategic level. ‘Mutual learning for change’ is a feature of a true partnership in which North and South can learn much from each other.

Partnership was also demonstrated by many stakeholders who enriched the programme by organising workshops, a collaborative meeting and satellite meetings. Moreover, nine symposia were organised as part of the scientific programme by BioVentures for Global Health, Cochrane Centre South Africa, Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung, European Vaccine Initiative, Medicines for Malaria Ventures with the West African Network for Clinical Trials for Antimalarial Drugs, NWO-WOTRO Science for Global Development, the Pan-African Consortium for the Evaluation of Antituberculosis Antibiotics (PanACEA) consortium, and the University of Tübingen. The Ministry of Health of Zambia organised a symposium on Clinical research in Zambia for effective control programmes and showed further support by co-hosting the Forum.

The Forum, which showcases the tangible results of collaborative research and partnership, was the appropriate setting for the award of four EDCTP 2016 Prizes. EDCTP recognised outstanding individuals and research teams from Africa and Europe who have made significant contributions in their field of research. In addition to their scientific excellence, the awardees made major contributions to the EDCTP objectives of clinical research capacity development in Africa and establishing research networks between North and South as well as within sub-Saharan Africa. The Award for Outstanding Research Team was given to the University of Zambia – University College London Medical School (UNZA-UCLMS) Research & Training Program. Professor Marleen Temmerman (Aga Khan University, Kenya) received the Award for Outstanding Female Scientist. Professor Shabir A. Mahdi (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa) was given the Award for Scientific Leadership, while Professor Fred Newton Binka (Ghana; currently coordinator of WHO’s Emergency Response to Artemisinin Resistance in Phnom Penh, Cambodia) was honoured with the Dr Pascoal Mocumbi Prize in recognition of his outstanding achievements in advancing health research and capacity development in Africa.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the EDCTP member states and all our sponsors for their generous support. In particular, we extend a special thanks to the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Zambia, an EDCTP member country, for co-hosting the Eighth EDCTP Forum. In conclusion, we would like to thank the EDCTP Organising committee, colleagues and friends for their help, support and advice in planning and implementing the Forum. The members of the Programme committee, i.e. the members of the Scientific Advisory Committee and the EDCTP Project Officers, earned our warm thanks for putting together the Eighth EDCTP Forum Programme.