PO 8536

BIOMEDICAL ETHICS AND REGULATORY
CAPACITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP FOR
PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING AFRICAN COUNTRIES
(BERC-LUSO)

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Background In 2013, WHO stated that unless low-income
countries become the generators, rather than the recipients, of
health research data there will never be any real improvement
in the devastating public health challenges these countries
face. The Global Health Network was cited as an important
agent for change in addressing this need.

The Global Health Network built an innovative digital plat-
form, generating and supporting communities of practice
focused on global health research. We have established a vast
online knowledge-sharing resource, so far visited by more than
1.5 million frontline healthcare workers and researchers globally.
Over 400,000 times online modules were taken by users from
our target countries using our Training Centre, which offers a
wide range of high-quality research skills courses. We also sup-
port skills development through regionally-led activities. Here
we present how our approach is applied to support prepared-
ness for epidemic outbreaks in Africa.

Methods A community of practice was set up for the
EDCTP2 ALERRT programme on The Global Health Net-
work platform (https://alerrt.tghn.org/). It provides a mecha-
nism for research staff to work together, share ideas, methods
and approaches to foster knowledge exchange and collabora-
tion. The ALERRT community of practice platform hosts
training courses, help topics, templates, guidance – everything
that is needed to run a good clinical study. The initial set of
resources is available now, others are being developed follow-
ing the knowledge gap analysis. In addition, our online plat-
form offers free participation in the Professional Development
Scheme – a unique framework to track research skills
development.

Results The ALERRT capacity development community of
practice was launched in April 2018. We will present how
this regionally-championed initiative is being taken up and
what difference it is already making to the community of
researchers.

Abstracts

INTRODUCING A UNIQUE RESEARCH CAPACITY
DEVELOPMENT PLATFORM SUPPORTING
PREPAREDNESS FOR EFFECTIVELY COMBATING
EPIDEMIC OUTBREAKS


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G6PD gene containing the polymorphisms 202G→A and
376-G was amplified by PCR followed by sequencing.

Results Malaria prevalence was 22 (10%). With regard to
G6PD analysis, it was found that 206 patients had G6PD gen-
type available including 74.8% (154/206) with G6PD normal,
12.1% (25/206) with heterozygous genotypes and 13.1% (27/
206) with G6PD deficiency [11.6% (24/206) were male hemi-
zygous and 1.4% (3/206) were female homozygous]. Data are
further analysed to investigate the association between G6PD
genotype, uncomplicated malaria, haemoglobin concentration
as well as parasite densities.

Conclusion A high prevalence of G6PD deficiency is reported
for these Congolese children. Further investigation with larger
sample size in different areas of the country is needed to
design future and adapted interventions.