Cameroon Townhall for Healthcare Professionals

Meeting Minutes, December 16, 2023

Host: Cameroon Townhall for Healthcare Professionals

Date: December 16, 2023

Time: 12:00 to 14:00 (CST)

Session: No. 90

Chair: Dr. Munoh Kenne Foma

Co-Moderators: Dr. Katte Jean-Claude, Dr. Bryan Tegomoh

Guest Speaker: Elvis Ndansi, MSN, MPH, Consultant, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Global Director of Population Health, Carna Health

Title: Promoting Clinical Trial Informativeness in Africa: The Role of DAC-Africa

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Agenda Items:

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks by the Chair, Dr. Munoh Kenne Foma
2. Participant Reflections

3. Presentation by Elvis Ndansi on "Promoting Clinical Trial Informativeness in Africa: The Role of DAC-Africa"
4. Discussion and Q&A
5. Adjournment, Closing points and Next Meeting
6. Parking Lot Discussions

Opening Remarks:

- The meeting celebrated the 90th edition of the Cameroon Town Hall.
- Reflections on the year's achievements, including discussions on various healthcare topics and guest speakers like the Cameroon Minister of Health.
- Attendees shared their experiences and learnings from the past year's town hall sessions, emphasizing the importance of these discussions in shaping healthcare policies and practices.

Presentation Points:

Presentation by Elvis Ndansi: "Promoting Clinical Trial Informativeness in Africa: The Role of DAC-Africa"

1. Clinical Trial Informativeness:

The concept of 'informativeness' in clinical trials was emphasized, highlighting the importance of trials that provide meaningful results for patients, clinicians, researchers, and policymakers.

2. Challenges of Uninformative Trials:

A significant number of clinical trials, both globally and in Africa, are uninformative, meaning they fail to provide results that can meaningfully influence patient care, clinical practices, or policymaking.

3. Statistics on Clinical Trials:

Between 2009 and 2010, only a small percentage of assessed clinical trials were considered informative. Africa, despite bearing a significant portion of the global disease burden, hosts only a small fraction of clinical trials.

4. Role of DAC-Africa:

DAC-Africa focuses on Design, Analyze, and Communicate, crucial elements in conducting clinical trials. DAC-Africa, a Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation-funded three-year program, aimed to enhance the quality and informativeness of clinical trials in Africa. It provides specialized protocol review services for Principal Investigators and funders of clinical trials in Africa, and extends trial planning grants

of up to $30,000. Discussion covered building clinical trial infrastructure and increasing investments in Africa, including efforts by Africa CDC. https://dac-trials.tghn.org/

5. Importance of Ethical and Effective Research:

The need for ethical and effective research practices in Africa was highlighted, especially in the context of increasing clinical trial infrastructure and investment.

6. Prospects, Engagement and Collaboration:

The presentation looked forward to the growth of clinical research in Africa, emphasizing the need for more informative trials to improve health outcomes. The session encouraged increased awareness and participation in initiatives like DAC-Africa.

Discussions and Q&A Session:

- **Interactive Q&A.** Participants discussed various aspects of clinical trials and research in Africa, with emphasis on the need for informative trials to improve health outcomes.

Call to Action and Closing:

- Increase awareness and understanding of clinical trial informativeness.
- Encourage participation in DAC-Africa's initiatives to improve clinical trial quality.
- Share knowledge and insights from the session with broader healthcare communities. DAC-Africa: https://dac-trials.tghn.org/
- Adjournment and closing remarks by Dr. Munoh Kenne Foma.

Next Meeting

January 13, 2024. Details to be confirmed.

Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xeMTEA0_E4Q

Submitted by: Co-Moderators, Cameroon Townhall for Healthcare Professionals