



Resolution

“Increased Cooperations with Developing Countries in Clinical Research”

1. The participants of the 3rd Workshop on “Clinical Research Cooperations with Developing Countries” (Basel, 18-19 January 2007) reviewed the current status and future evolution of clinical research partnership and related capacity building with developing and transition countries and noted that:
 - a) There is a significant increase in the number of clinical research partnerships between Switzerland, involving academic institutions as well as private partners, and developing countries over the past years.
 - b) The current activity and interest by national funding bodies and NGOs does, however, not yet match.
 - The demands expressed by developing countries and the new global health initiatives, e.g. Medicines for Malaria Venture, Stop-TB, AIDS vaccine, Drugs for Neglected Diseases as well as efforts required to tackle the increase in chronic diseases (cardio-vascular, metabolic disorders, etc.).
 - The needs for targeted capacity building for clinical research partnerships, including the managerial and ethical issues.
 - c) The mismatch between needs and available resources is mainly due to a lack of specifically trained and motivated health specialists in Switzerland and in developing countries, but also the insufficiency of funding and capacity building opportunities.

2. The workshop participants therefore propose:
 - a) An increased sensibilisation of the Swiss scientific community and the partners in the developing countries to raise the awareness for the need for clinical research partnership initiatives and to motivate respective national authorities and funding bodies. Given their mandates, it is suggested that the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS) together with the Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries (KFPE) spearhead this process.
 - b) To continue and strengthen the efforts of the SAMW to identify, catalyse and support exploratory projects through seed money opportunities. Similarly, the SAMW should maintain its actions to stimulate training opportunities for Swiss and developing country scientists.
 - c) The Swiss Teaching Hospitals should include and support training and career opportunities for Swiss and developing country scientists in clinical research and thus participate in capacity building.
 - d) The Swiss National Science Foundation should continue the North-South partnership program and extend it to clinical research, as well as contribute to the European Developing Countries Clinical Trial partnership (EDCTP) given Switzerland is now an associated member of EDCTP.

- e) The State Secretariat for Education and Research should pursue the strategy of including research partnerships with developing countries as part of the Swiss science policy.
 - f) The Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation (SDC) should continue its commitment to North-South research partnerships reflected in its support to the NCCR “North-South – mitigating syndromes for global change” and the contribution to the SNF partnership program. In addition, SDC support should extend to the clinical trials units / centres in the South and gradually increase contributions to EDCTP.
 - g) The Swiss clinical trial centres / units / institutes within universities, NGOs and/or industry are requested to consider the possibility to engage vigorously in clinical research on relevant diseases of developing countries by improving training opportunities for Swiss and developing country scientists interested in these areas.
 - h) A better coordination between public and private institutions, as well as decision makers, is requested to address the key issues surrounding clinical research partnerships with developing countries.
 - i) Setting-up of a web-based tool for mutual information and consultation including funding opportunities.
3. The 4th Workshop in 2008 will re-examine the proposals made, readjust and extend these as indicated.

For the Workshop participants:

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