ALERRT
African coaLition for Epidemic Research, Response and Training

PETER HORBY
1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON (RE-)EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES
MARCH 12-14 2018
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
EDCTP Call RIA - 2016 – Epidemics:

**Research and clinical management of patients in PRD epidemics in sub-Saharan Africa**

• Call for proposals to support the establishment of a multidisciplinary consortium able to provide accelerated evidence for the optimal clinical management of patients and for guiding the public health response to any severe infectious outbreak caused by pathogens within the scope of the EDCTP programme with pandemic potential or that may cause significant damage to health and socio-economics in Africa (including antimicrobial-resistant pathogens)
• A multi-disciplinary consortium building a patient-centred clinical research network to respond to epidemics across sub-Saharan Africa

• ALERRT aims to reduce the public health and socio-economic impact of disease outbreaks in sub-Saharan Africa by building a sustainable clinical and laboratory preparedness and response network.

• Grant agreement signed 1\textsuperscript{st} December 2017

• www.alerrt.global
• Natural history
• Clinical endpoints
• Pathogenesis
• Biological understanding & standards

Bedside science

Scope

Bench science

• Validation studies
• Clinical trials

CEPI | New vaccines for a safer world

ALERRT is part of the EDCTP2 Programme supported by the European Union under grant agreement RIA2016E-1612
The epidemic curve...of ambition
Enrolment of hospitalised or severe patients in A(H1N1)pdm09 studies registered on clinical trials database.

- **Anticipated patient enrolment**: 3253 patients, 80 of which are prospective cohort, 2575 of which are intervention studies.
- **Actual patient enrolment**: 96 of the intervention studies, 1155 in total.
- **Actual patient enrolment, results published**: 80.
- **Actual patient enrolment, results published during pandemic**: 74.
Ambition – change the curve
21 partner organizations from 13 countries (9 African and 4 European)
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ALERRT launch meeting, 10-11 March 2018, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
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<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Work-packages</th>
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<td>1 To establish a clinical research network that can design and rapidly implement ICH-compliant, high quality, large-scale, multi-site clinical studies in preparation for and response to outbreaks in SSA.</td>
<td>Clinical research platform</td>
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<td>2 To establish a laboratory network with the capabilities to provide integrated support to clinical research in preparation for and response to outbreaks in SSA.</td>
<td>Lab research platform</td>
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<td>3 To develop and implement a scalable, GCP-compliant, robust data management/ICT infrastructure suitable for resource-poor settings in SSA.</td>
<td>ICT &amp; data management</td>
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<td>4 To establish a ‘response framework’ that alleviates administrative, regulatory and ethical bottlenecks and ensures ALERRT can act swiftly to initiate research.</td>
<td>Operational readiness &amp; resilience</td>
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<td>5 To enhance and maintain the operational research capacity of the ALERRT network by developing and implementing a training and capacity development programme.</td>
<td>Training &amp; capacity building</td>
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<td>6 To ensure that the actions of the network are relevant to, accepted and supported by local communities and that the results of the networks’ efforts have a sustainable impact on health through improved clinical practice and public health policy.</td>
<td>Impact</td>
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<td>7 To establish ALERRT as a sustainable SSA network that is linked to international networks and that synergises with, and contributes to, global health-security efforts.</td>
<td>Management &amp; coordination</td>
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Tiered approach to capacity development

WP1 Clinical research platform
- Clinical research sites
WP2 Lab research platform
- Laboratory research sites
WP3 Formative developing
- Clinical research sites
WP4 Operational Readiness and Resilience
- Laboratory research sites
WP5 Training & Cap. Building
- Communities of practice

WP1 and WP2 are linked to WP3, WP4, and WP5, indicating a tiered approach to capacity development.
Overview

ALERRT (African coaLition for Epidemic Research, Response and Training) aims to reduce the public health and socio-economic impact of disease outbreaks in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) by building a sustainable clinical and laboratory research preparedness and response network.

ALERRT consists of 21 partner organisations from 13 countries (9 African and 4 European).

ALERRT has been awarded a five-year, €10,000,000 grant from EDCTP which started on 1 December 2017.

Objective 1
To establish a clinical research network that can design and rapidly implement IGH-compliant, high quality, large-scale, multi-site clinical studies in preparation for and response to outbreaks in SSA.

Lead WP1: Sige Khoza  
Co-Lead WP1: Pontiano Kaleeb

Objective 2
To establish a laboratory network with the capabilities to provide integrated support to clinical research in preparation for and response to outbreaks in SSA.

Lead WP2: Aminou Sali  
Co-Lead WP2: Souleymane Mbirou

Objective 3
To develop and implement a scalable, GCP-compliant, robust data management/ICT infrastructure suitable for resource-poor settings in SSA.

Lead WP3: Bal Lamin Bangah  
Co-Lead WP3: Henry van Loen

Objective 4
To establish a ‘response framework’ that alleviates administrative, regulatory and ethical bottlenecks and ensures ALERRT can act swiftly to initiate research.

Lead WP4: John Amidu  
Co-Lead WP4: Faben Tappe

Objective 5
To enhance and maintain the operational research capacity of the ALERRT network by developing and implementing a training and capacity development programme.

Lead WP5: Palmer Mwamba Netumbo  
Co-Lead WP5: Judith Lang

Objective 6
To ensure that the actions of the network are relevant to, accepted and supported by local communities and that the results of the networks' efforts have a sustainable impact on health through improved clinical practice and public health policy.

Lead WP6: Souleymane Mbirou  
Co-Lead WP6: Sherry Levis

Objective 7
To establish ALERRT as a sustainable SSA network that is linked to international networks and that synergises with, and contributes to, global health-security efforts.

Lead WP7: Peter Morby  
Co-Lead WP7: Aminou Sali
Adaptable & responsive

‘A’ is like a motorbike; small, fast, flexible.

‘B’ is like a cyclo, slow and bit old fashioned.

‘C’ is like a big car; too big, so easily stuck in traffic and difficult to change direction“

- Indecisive, risk averse, overly complex decision making
- Rigid, complex funding structures
Responsiveness

- Nigeria Lassa fever research response
  - Active members ALIMA, INSERM, BNI – partners NCDC, WHO
  - Activated ALERRT through vote of Executive committee
  - Secured £90,000 additional funds

- ALERRT-WHO ethics workshop 20-21 March, Dakar
  - Secured €50,000 additional funds
  - 25 representatives of national research ethics committees
  - 16 sub-Saharan Africa country representatives
THANK YOU