About the proposed PANCePP

The proposed PANCePP is a forward-looking initiative which aligns with African Union CDC’s vision to create a “safer, healthier, integrated and prosperous Africa, in which Member States can efficiently prevent disease transmission, implement surveillance and detection, and always be prepared to respond effectively to health threats and outbreaks”.

The value proposition for PANCePP include durable visionary benefits to the African continent such as:

- Strong Pan-African scientific network to support the evaluation of medicines
- Improve the health of communities across Africa by providing a reliable single source for up-to-date information on ongoing scientific research and findings across the continent.
- Bridge and enhance existing cross-continent knowledge and accessibility to health data sources and information
- Increase transparency for conducting clinical and health-related research studies
- Standardize and improve the methodologies for conducting health-related studies
- Improve governance for conducting research studies
- Improve cross-continent monitoring of the safe use of medicines and vaccines
- Create a Pan-African register for conducting post-authorization studies to enhance transparency of observational research and to provide evidence to support regulatory decision-making in the implementation of pharmacovigilance activities across the African continent
- Job creation, skills development, and scientific rigor that is comparable to standards found anywhere in the world.

We consider the PANCePP discussion a timely topic, given our theme for this year’s conference, which is titled: “Building Research Capacity in Pharmacoepidemiology for Healthcare Systems in Africa: Data Networks and Analytics to support Patient Care and Medical Products Policy”.

Members of PANCePP would be public institutions and contract and research organizations (CROs) involved in research in pharmacoepidemiology and pharmacovigilance in Africa. Research interests would include the safety of medicines, disease epidemiology, drug utilization, as well as the benefits and risks of medicines. Participation would be voluntary.
African Regional Interest Group

PANCePP would be modelled after the European Medicines Agency’s Network of Centers for Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacovigilance, and would aim to strengthen the monitoring of the benefit-risk balance of medicinal products in Africa by:

- Facilitating the conduct of high quality, multi-center, independent post-authorization studies (PAS) with a focus on observational research;
- Bringing together expertise and resources in pharmacoepidemiology and pharmacovigilance across Africa and providing a platform for collaborations;
- Developing and maintaining methodological standards and governance principles for research in pharmacovigilance and pharmacoepidemiology.

Experts from the International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology (ISPE) were instrumental in the development of EMA’s ENCePP, as well as similar organizations in Asia, and would be pleased to support the African Union in this regard.

About ISPE
ISPE is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the health of the public by providing a global forum for the open exchange of scientific information and for the development of policy, education, and advocacy for the field of pharmacoepidemiology, including such areas as pharmacovigilance, drug utilization research, comparative effectiveness review, and therapeutic risk management.

Pharmacoepidemiology is the science that applies epidemiologic approaches to studying the use, effectiveness, value and safety of pharmaceuticals. ISPE is firmly committed to providing an unbiased scientific forum to the views of all parties with interests in drug development, drug delivery, drug use, drug costs, and drug effects.

ISPE members represent the various scientific disciplines involved in studying drugs. Members are employed by the pharmaceutical industry, academic institutions, government agencies, non-profit and for-profit private organizations. Members have degrees in several fields, including epidemiology, biostatistics, medicine, nursing, pharmacology, pharmacy, law, health economics, and journalism. With members in 53 countries and regional and national chapters in Africa, Asia, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, and the Netherlands, ISPE truly provides an international forum for sharing knowledge and scientific approaches to foster the science of pharmacoepidemiology. ISPE sponsors conferences and seminars and an official journal — Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety — published by Wiley.
African Regional Interest Group

Since the formation of the ISPE African Regional Interest Group in 2018, we have grown rapidly from less than a dozen researchers to more than 370 members from over 20 countries within and outside Africa. Our members are active researchers with over 40 scientific publications in the last year alone (please see the attached).

Appendix 1

List of selected publications in the last year by members of the African Regional Interest Group and the Medicines Utilization Research in Africa (MURIA) Group


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30. Joseph Olusesan Fadare; Kazeem Oshikoya; Olayinka Ogunleye; Olufemi O Desalu; Alessandra Ferrario; Okezie Enwere; Adekunle Adeoti; Taofiki A Sunmonu; Amos Massele; Amanj Baker; Brian Godman. Drug promotional activities in Nigeria: Impact on the prescribing patterns and practices of medical practitioners and the implications. Hospital Practice 2018; 46 (2): 77-87
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