



EDCTP Workshop: Durban, South Africa 5th, 6th and 7th March, 2007
Feed back from participants of EDCTP Workshop



Geraint Davies

"The meeting was a valuable forum for establishing communications between potential clinical trialists throughout Southern Africa and local and European partners who could offer technical assistance. There was a useful exchange of views on some important issues relating to TB trials, particularly laboratory capacity and inclusion of HIV + patients. Discussions relating to concrete proposals for trial designs to go forward for funding were particularly useful and enabled participants to make use of the material they had been exposed to in lecture sessions."

For myself " I learned much about the strengths, weaknesses and needs of different African sites and the importance of accounting for these realities in trial designs."

Michele Tameris Clinical Manager, SATVI Project Office, Brewelskloof Hospital, Worcester

"I arrived in Durban thinking it was only an investigator's meeting for Rifaquin so I felt a bit lost on the first day when we discussed GCP and protocol /proposal writing issues. However by the final day when I had witnessed the ' miracle' of so many sites and individuals producing a proposal for a multicentric study in such a short time period and in doing so establish a network of colleagues in Africa and Europe I was a convert! "

"What the meeting achieved was to ensure that all sites were up to speed on GCP issues and that no procedures or investigations were planned which could not be executed at every site."

"So, to use your words, "it was good and we need more" . I look forward to hearing of the proposal's progress at EDCTP"

Ferdinand Kassa

"Je profite de l'occasion pour vous remercier de l'invitation qui m'a fait plaisir

"Le consortium sur les essais cliniques à Durban était honnêtement utile. J'ai bien apprécié les présentations surtout la tienne sur l'intérêt de penser à utiliser la rifampicine à forte dose (900-1200mg) ou la moxifloxacin en vue de réduire toujours la durée du traitement de la tuberculose. C'est vraiment motivant car les pauvres malades trouveraient toujours du réconfort si la durée du traitement est plus courte."

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“Je souhaite que l'ébauche du protocole soit assez documentée et que la revue de la littérature soit plus dense. Si cela est possible nous pouvons élaborer les deux protocoles forte dose de rifampicine d'une part et la moxifloxacinine de l'autre.”

“C'est un peu fastidieux pour nous francophone qui n'avons pas la langue déliée en anglais lors de ces réunions même si nous avons des choses intéressantes à dire”

“Si vous avez versé l'argent du billet et de l'hôtellerie dans le compte du programme tuberculose/Bénin veuillez bien m'en informer”

Kabisa Mwala, MD, Macha Mission Hospital, Choma, Zambia.

“I would like to share my gratitude for inviting me for Networking Meeting and capacity building that was held in Durban early this month. I have not previously been involved in any clinical trials and attending such meeting opened my understanding on some important issues which are key in conducting such trials. “

“I found the meeting very educational. In our region of the world GCP has just started being emphasised and it leaves us with much work to build our individual capacity to participate in such trials”.

*“It also highlighted issues of good networking” in order to have high quality clinical trials in a local environment where resources “human and equipment might not be adequate”.
Notwithstanding the above, I found the meeting to be compacted to comprehend the the vital issues of conducting clinical trials.*

T Boubacar

“Amina le workshop était très bien organisé surtout son contenu est indispensable pour la bonne conduite des essais cliniques.”

“Cependant , le perdiem donné était vraiment insignifiant concernant le mangé. Je pense qu'il y aura beaucoup d'autres cours comme ça pour la consolidation de notre network.”

Dr. Godwin Jombo Department of Medical Microbiology/Parasitology, University of Calabar, Calaba Nigeria

“I wish to thank you specially for organising this very important meeting of clinical trial on Tuberculosis in Durban, South Africa. Tuberculosis presently is a major medical problem in Nigeria as it is in several other African countries. One of the major problems in its control here is the rate of fall out by patients in the course of treatment. This gives rise to poor control of the infection, emergence of resistance, and spread of resistance strains in the communities. This makes subsequent treatments even more difficult.”

“Shortening the course of treatment for Tuberculosis would impact positively on the control of the disease in Nigeria. Over 75% of our people live in rural communities and very often lack adequate means of transport to look for appropriate means of medical attention far away for a long period of time as it is the case in the present TB regime. With the possible shortening of the course of TB treatment, this would no doubt enhance their treatment convenience and consequently their cure rate. The over all result will be a gradual reduction in the burden of the disease in Nigeria. “

“Presently, the population of Nigeria is over 140 million people, more than half the population of West Africa, and about a quarter of the population of entire Sub-Saharan Africa; hence, control of TB in Nigeria would be a victory for Africa as well.”

“I wish to suggest that, follow up meetings should be organised at regular intervals among members of the network. This would amount to a quality assurance mechanism on its own throughout the period of the trial; it would also be self-motivational among members of the study group; also peculiar needs and challenges of individual participating centres could be addressed at such forum. The over all result would be a successful collaborative outcome of this all important life saving venture.”

Janneke Vandijk

"As a participant from one of the sub-Saharan research sites this meeting enabled us to establish more intense contact with other research sites and partners involved. To be able to discuss matters arising with other African partners who are in a comparable situations assisted in identifying own strengths and weaknesses and this will help in improving the capacity in different sites. A positive development would be if this could be taken further, with a possibility of areas that need capacity building being put forward and solutions being suggested (and worked out). For example within the established network, sites with a certain strength to assist another site which identifies it's weakness at that point (and vica versa)."

"Participation of another Zambian member of our local research team, besides the local PI, was found very valuable. To be exposed to the broader aspects that are involved in clinical trials, and to be part in discussion is of great benefit for African partners. "

"This workshop is a beginning of an exercise which when completed can result in a strong network of partners and research sites with good capacity to work together in future projects."

Gibson Kibiki

"I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your initiative to bring the INTERTB working group together. The meeting was well organised. We had time to know each other and share experience. Given the magnitude of the problem (i.e. Tb) I hope we will be able to meet more often and design more study protocols."

Alma Tostmann

*"The TB Drug Trial Networking Meeting in Durban was a very interesting one. I am a PhD-student from the Netherlands, working in Tanzania. **As a young researcher in the field of TB, it was an experience for me to meet many well established researchers from both European as well as African countries.***

"During the brainstorm meeting we developed a new study protocol, which was a fruitful part of the meeting.

*"Whilst establishing a network, one has to physically meet on a regular base, sit together and brainstorm together. That is exactly what we did and **I think this really motivates the researchers to work out the draft proposal and eventually really conduct the trial which was designed during this meeting.**"*

Eliana Coelho

I would like to thank you" It was "a pleasure" and "this meeting are very useful for me. "