



Building Teams for Responsible Research Conduct and Publication

WORKSHOP REPORT

NATIONAL HOSPITAL ABUJA, 30th November 2019

2019
Nigeria Global Health Trials Conference

Theme:
Building Team for Responsible Research Conduct and Publication

Date: Saturday 30th November 2019
Time: 8am - 5pm

Venue: National Trauma Centre Main Auditorium
National Hospital Abuja.

FREE

Organizer: The Nigeria Faculty of the Global Health Trials' Network, Oxford University, UK

SUMMARY

The Nigeria Global Health Trials Network workshop 2019 took place on the 30th November 2019 at the National Trauma Centre, National Hospital Abuja. Participants started arriving as early as 7:30am. Two hundred and fifty (250) delegates registered for the workshop. The Lead, Nigeria Global Health Trials Network shared the metrics of the registration for the workshop, the vision for the Network and the workshop as a prelude to the plenary, syndicate and parallel sessions of the workshop. The programme included two plenary, five small group breakouts, two parallel as well as an induction of new faculty members. Both refreshment and lunch breaks were also used for networking among the participants. There were six national and one Kenyan speaker as well as nine facilitators. Topics discussed cut across issues from conceiving and conducting research to dissemination of research finding with a focus on teamwork across the full spectrum of the research process. Nurses, pharmacists, doctors, social scientists, laboratory scientists and postgraduate students had syndicate sessions on how to initiate, consolidate, scale and sustain the network in different health, tertiary, academic and research institutions in Nigeria.



REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS





VISION OF NIGERIA GLOBAL HEALTH TRIALS NETWORK AND THE OBJECTIVES OF THE 2019 WORKSHOP

The opening remarks offered insight into the vision of the Nigeria Global Health Trials Network and the objectives of the workshop. The Lead, Nigeria Global Health Trials Network, Dr. Gbenga Ogunfowokan, launched the session by presenting the metrics of registered participants illustrating the diversity and national coverage. He reiterated the vision of the network to be the leader in developing clinical research capacity in Nigeria while collaborating with individuals and organizations with similar goals.



He emphasized the objective of the workshop to initiate new research teams in health institutions with participants in attendance at the workshop as well as to strengthen existing teams while improving the clinical research and manuscript writing competencies of all participants.

DISCUSSION

Question: How can somebody attending the workshop for the first time be a member of The Global Health Network?

Good question! Membership is free. Just register at www.globalhealthtrials.org. You can use the online resources to update your clinical research knowledge. Let your colleagues and friends know about the platform too. If you are in an institution with Global Health Network members, join them for the weekly blended e-learning meetings.

Question: Apart from research capacity building, are there research outputs from members of the Network?

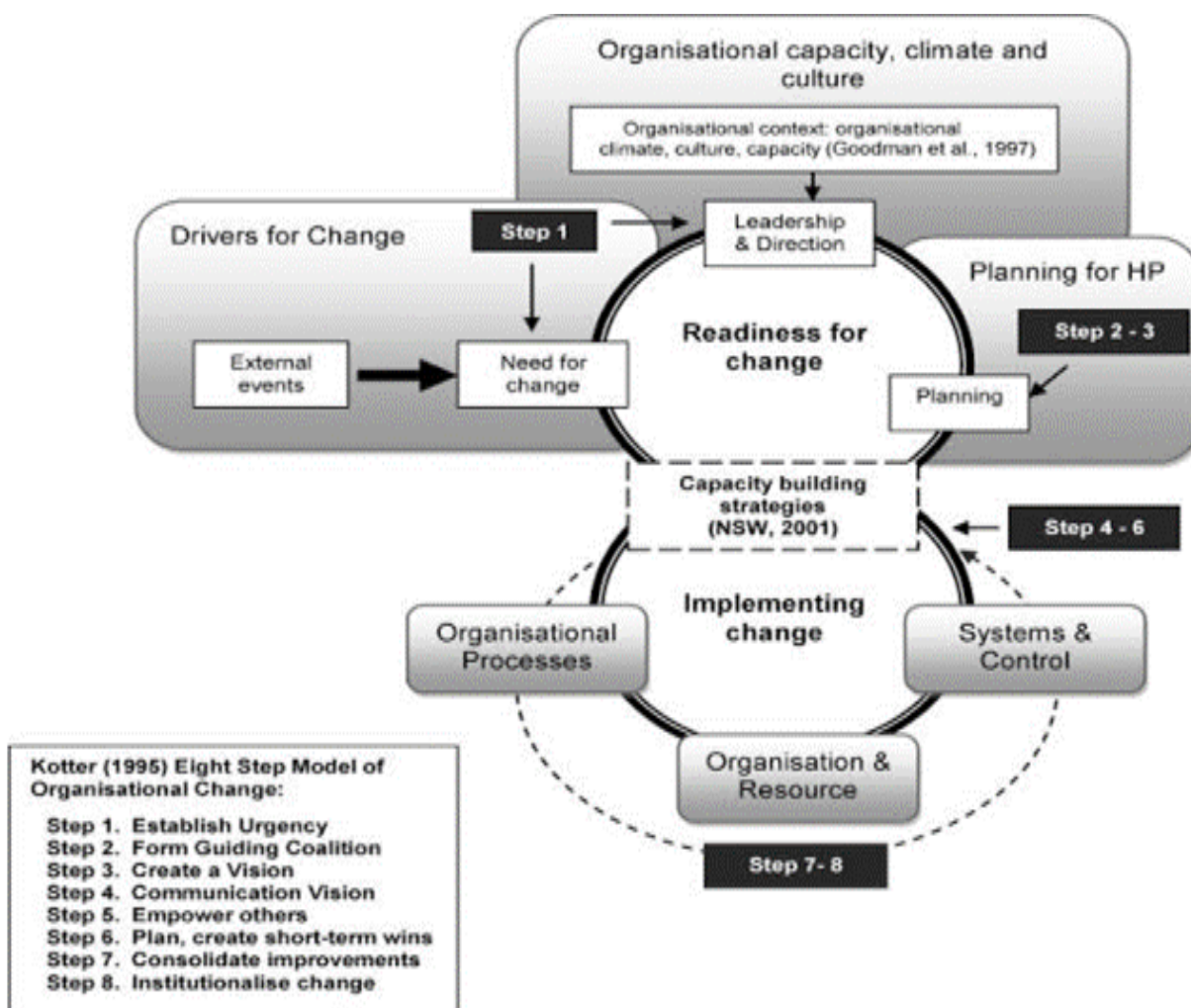
Yes! Some members have been supported in writing proposals, conducting research and writing manuscripts for publication. How many here have benefited from such? (From within the audience, 3 participants raised their hands)

REFRESHMENT BREAK AND NETWORKING



PLENARY SESSION 1

Mechanics of building and strengthening the roles in clinical research in Nigeria



The plenary speaker was Dr. Gbenga Ogunfowokan. He emphasized the place of leadership and building momentum in forming, strengthening and sustaining a clinical research network in Nigeria. He used the eight steps of 1) Establishing urgency 2) Forming a guiding coalition 3) Creating a vision 4) Communicating the vision clearly 5) Empowering others to buy into the vision 6) Creating short-term wins for team members 7) Consolidating improvement and 8) Institutionalizing the change to drive home his point. He elucidated how the principles were used in the past seven years of the Nigeria Global Health Trials Network and encouraged all members of the network to strengthen their group activities using a similar approach.



PARTICIPANTS AT THE PLENARY SESSION



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

How to strengthen and scale the Global Health Trials Network in Nigeria?

There was a breakout session where five homogenous groups of Pharmacists, Social scientists, Laboratory scientists, Nurses and Medical doctors brainstormed a strategy for expanding their groups across Nigeria. The group discussion was facilitated by Pharmacists (Chinelo Okonkwo and Stephen Chubiyoyo), Social scientist (Ifeyinwa Catherine), Laboratory scientist (Augustine Onyeaghala), Nurses (Mopelola Olusanya and Grace Timothy), and Doctors (Bunmi Olatunji and Atkinson Udo).

They deliberated on how to improve the quality of the ongoing weekly blended e-learning Journal club meetings and the *joint* monthly blended e-learning Journal club meetings. Participants who are attending the workshop for the first time were encouraged to form institutional teams who will leverage the use of the online resources on the Global Health Network platform. The need for multi-centre collaborative research was also highlighted.



PARALLEL SESSION 1

Clinical systems for research and the practice based research network & Clinical research design and determining sample size



Professor JKA Madaki gave a talk on clinical systems for research and the practice based research network. He elaborated on the need for a network of clinics where healthcare teams can do clinical research across Nigeria. He focused on primary care clinics as clinical research laboratories especially for primary care physicians.

He elaborated using an example of the Nigeria practice-based research network. The Network consists of 36 health facilities spanning the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria.

He gave an example of primary care research done by the network. The network has a structure and functional system and is supported by the society of Family Physicians of Nigeria.



Dr. Abbas Adigun (PhD Biostatistics) gave a talk covering clinical research design, and how to determine sample size. He emphasized fundamental inputs into sample size estimation as:

- Magnitude of effect of interest to be detected in comparative studies or the degree of marginal error of estimate in descriptive studies
- The variation (i.e. standard error) of study outcome
- Confidence interval
- Study power; given desired effect size to be detected with a confidence level and how much power is needed

He demonstrated how to calculate sample size for descriptive studies to estimate proportion or mean. He also discussed how to estimate sample size for hypothesis testing for single proportion and when testing the difference between two proportions. He equally gave examples of how to determine sample size for a cohort or randomized trial as well as for case control studies. He used Epi Info to demonstrate how to use statistical software to determine sample size for various studies.

PARALLEL SESSION 2

Building Infrastructure to support Clinical Research in Africa & Quality Assurance and Clinical Trials





The Global Health Network Manager for Africa, Ken Awuondo, travelled from Kenya and was one of the main speakers during the workshop. He passionately gave a presentation on the importance of building infrastructures to support clinical research in Africa. On his part, Dr. Augustine Onyeaghala, the Secretary of the Nigeria Global Health discussed the importance of quality assurance in clinical research. He clarified the meaning of clinical trials and showed the need for quality assurance in clinical trials. He discussed causes of errors in clinical trials and the benefits of quality data. He concluded by highlighting steps to improve quality in trial conduct.

RELAXATION AND BREATHING EXERCISES

The participants were led by a lifestyle expert Professor JKA Madaki in relaxation and breathing exercises, which was reinvigorating.





PLENARY SESSION 2

Collaboration among academia, research institutes and Pharmaceutical companies for clinical research development in Nigeria

Professor Kunle Olobayo, former Acting Director General of Nigeria Institute of Pharmaceutical Research and Development, spoke authoritatively on the urgent need for strong collaborations amongst academia, research institutes and pharmaceutical companies for clinical research development in Nigeria.



LUNCH AND NETWORKING

Participants were treated to a delicious lunch. They seized the opportunity to network, discuss how to implement the lessons learnt, strengthen their existing team as well as form new teams for clinical research development.



INDUCTION OF NEW NIGERIA GLOBAL HEALTH NETWORK FELLOWS

Eleven new Fellows from different academic, research and health institutions across Nigeria were inducted into the Faculty. They will initiate new Nigeria Global Health Trials Network teams and use existing guidelines to commence blended e-learning research mentorship/seminars/meetings/journal clubs in their respective institutions.



PARALLEL SESSION 3

Manuscript Writing and Dissemination of Research Findings & Responsible Conduct of Clinical Research

Dr. Samuel Olutuase spoke extensively on manuscript writing and dissemination of research findings. He explained eleven key steps to organize and structure manuscripts; and how to find appropriate journals for submission of manuscripts. He emphasized the need to communicate and disseminate research findings. Dr. Samuel illustrated the '*Communication wheel*' (Audience, Objectives, Strategy, Resources and Timeliness) and the '*Dissemination wheel*' (Engagement, Risk/Sensitivities, Courage/Frequency, Channels and messaging). He concluded by demonstrating the use of Grammar and Typeset.

Professor JKA Madaki gave a presentation on responsible conduct of clinical research. He shared the definition, reasons for and components of responsible conduct of research. He notably clarified issues regarding authorship, collaborative research, conflict of interest and commitment, data acquisition, management, sharing and ownership, mentoring, peer review, plagiarism, research misconduct, research involving human subject, reproducibility of research results, using animals in research, financial responsibility, research ethics and society, communication with public and presentation of research findings.



TAKE HOME POINTS FROM THE WORKSHOP

Drs. Sola Toye and Joseph Nuru presented the take home points from the workshop to participants by summarizing each of the plenary, parallel and syndicate sessions. The core messaging that linked all topics together was the indispensable role of teams in clinical research development. The participants were encouraged to ensure they belong to strong research teams and form one in their institutions where none currently exists.

The link for the online workshop impact questionnaire was shared and participants were encouraged to follow the link to fill the questionnaire as a condition for obtaining the certificate of attendance to the workshop.

NEXT STEPS...



The next steps as stated by the Lead, Nigeria Global Health Trials Network, Gbenga Ogunfowokan will be:

In 2020, the Faculty will:

- 1) Conduct collaborative research to evaluate the outcome and impact of the Nigeria Global Health Trials Network programme across the past seven years (2012-2019)
- 2) Plan an international workshop that will attract global delegates from countries where The Global Health Network is currently operating
- 3) Scale Nigeria Global Health Trials Network to at least *five* new health, academic and research institutions
- 4) Develop the 2021-2025 strategic plan for Nigeria Global Health Trials Network
- 5) Obtain grant funding to conduct relevant multi-centre research involving institutions within the Nigeria Global Health Trials Network

The workshop came to a close at 6:05pm.

Glory Ogunfowokan
Nigeria Regional Lead
Global Health Trials (GHT)