

ESSENCE Members Annual Meeting Minutes
17 – 18 April 2018
 International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
 Pearson Boardroom - 8th Floor
 150 Kent Street
 Ottawa, CANADA



Agenda items 1 & 2 - Welcome and greetings, introductions and overview of the programme

The meeting was chaired by Linda Kupfer, Co-Chair ESSENCE, (FIC/NIH). **Federico Burone**, Acting Vice-President Programs, International Development Research Centre (IDRC) welcomed all participants and expressed satisfaction in the level of efforts and commitment displayed in producing the good practice documents, which are helping to enhance research capacity. He thanked everyone else for their active participation in the meeting and emphasized its usefulness especially in informing others of the results and the conversations.

The chair thanked IDRC for graciously hosting the group, and members who have invested in building health research capacity in LMICs, and still willing to work together to help ESSENCE find more effective ways to help countries reach their health capacity goals. This was followed by self-introduction of participants.

Agenda item 3 - ESSENCE@10: From Stockholm to Ottawa –reflections, successes, opportunities

ESSENCE@10: From Stockholm to Ottawa

- **Hannah Akuffo**, Co-Chair ESSENCE, gave an outline of the history of ESSENCE over the past 10 years. She first touched upon the first meeting that took place in Stockholm that led to the establishment of ESSENCE in 2008, and underlined the emphasis put on getting more funders of health to work together to promote better strategic cooperation in the spirit of the Paris agenda.

- Acknowledged the experience of the country pilot collaboration between NWO/WOTRO¹, TASENE/COSTECH² and Sida³, in testing the new strategy and mechanism for joint funding; and the series of documents that have been developed. She underlined their usefulness as a tool for further discussion to improve harmonization among funders⁴
- She also touched upon the review that was done after 7 years and pointed to the recommendations made for further work to refine the group's mission. These are more specifically, the potentials for ESSENCE to increase its impact and outreach, scale up of the initiative, and questions on the governance structure, which the members have addressed. Considers it useful for the group to discuss further on what can be done in the near future to facilitate scaling up, in order to be able to advance the group's agenda to engage major players in Global Health, including the World Health Organization (WHO).

The presentation was followed by short reflections from ESSENCE founder members - Fabio Zicker, (*Fiocruz*⁵) with some highlights on the challenges from innovative developing countries like Brazil, (i.e. the regulatory framework/policy for doing research, access and benefits of biodiversity, how to expand the engagement of LMICs in global health etc.), and Val Snewin (*DHSC*⁶), emphasizing on the progress, lessons learned and challenges starting from 2005, during the time of "make poverty history and commission for Africa" and the series of meetings that built on that momentum, i.e. the April 2008 meeting in Stockholm.

In addition, Garry Aslanyan, (*WHO/TDR*), reflected on ESSENCE evolution, focusing his reflection on the strengths, successes and the perspectives for further development. He then underlined the need to highlight ESSENCE programs/publications in all relevant activities within and outside member organizations. Considers it useful to have some kind of metrics to measure the awareness (publications views, downloads), interest, engagement (the number of funders who demonstrate active interest), and exposure (ESSENCE mentions at health fora).

Action: The Steering Committee (SC) to work towards the inclusion of metrics or indicators for success in the workplan. Hannah to share the lessons learned document on TASENE when it becomes available.

Agenda item 4: Partnership Models – What can we learn?

The presenters described in details some of the different partnership models from their organizations and invited comments and questions on each model. Below are the models following the order in which they were presented:

a. *CARI and HIROs*

- **Robert Eiss** (*FIC/NIH*), gave a short presentation on CARI⁷ and HIROs⁸ to lead off the discussion on partnership models. He informed that HIROs is not actually a partnership, but a platform, with an agenda to focus on issues surrounding governing biomedical research as well as scientific development. He further informed that the best connection for ESSENCE and HIROs would be information exchange, especially to create awareness for the analysis that is being produced by the group.
- He however noted that CARI is an initiative that applies to diverse organizations to coalesce into a road-map or a blueprint around very specific and targeted names, and most recently CEPI⁹ to develop pandemic vaccine. He commented that a conversation between CARI and ESSENCE, as it relates to partnership arrangement that have generated new resources in commitment to the LMICs will be very beneficial.

b. *Think Tank Initiative*

- **Peter Taylor** (*IDRC*), informed that the Think Tank¹⁰ initiative has supported over 50 Think Tank policy research in 23 LMICs, and provides a combination of long term flexible financial support, with technical support oriented towards capacity building. He noted that many of the organizations that the initiative work with also work on health related issues, that there is an opportunity to act as a bridge from the program with other ESSENCE member organizations.

c. *Science Granting Councils Initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa (SGCI)*

- **Ann Weston** (*IDRC*) reported that DFID/IDRC initiative has been working with collaborating technical agencies like SARIMA¹¹, ACTS¹² and other organizations like Nepad¹³ (responsible for science and

¹ NWO/WOTRO – The Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research/Science for Global Development

² TASENE/COSTECH – Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology

³ Sida – Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

⁴ ESSENCE publications: <http://www.who.int/tdr/partnerships/essence/en/>

⁵ Fiocruz - Oswaldo Cruz Foundation - <https://portal.fiocruz.br>

⁶ DHSC – Department of Health and Social Care - <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/departments-of-health-and-social-care>

⁷ More updates on CARI (Coalition for African Research and Innovation) - <https://www.weforum.org/projects/building-biomedical-research-capacity-in-africa>

⁸ HIROs – Heads of International Biomedical Research Organizations

⁹ CEPI – Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations - <http://cepi.net>

¹⁰ More updates on the Think Tank initiatives - <http://www.thinktankinitiative.org>

¹¹ SARIMA – Southern African Research & Innovation Management Association - <http://www.sarima.co.za>

¹² ACTS – African Centre for Technology Studies - <http://www.acts-net.org>

¹³ NEPAD – New Partnerships for Africa's Development - <http://www.nepad.org>

technology indicators in Africa), to build the capacities of science granting councils in 15 countries to manage research.

- She highlighted the lessons for ESSENCE in terms of some of the capacity building that is being supported in the implementation of health research, i.e. open data platforms, research ethics etc., and informed that there could be something coming out of ESSENCE that could help the SGCI in that space.

d. *UK Collaborative on Development Sciences (UKCDS)*

- **Marta Tufet** (UKCDS¹⁴) commented that the initiative is a collaborative of 14 different organizations, that are interested in the research for international development. She noted that UKCDS shares best practices too, and has developed a number of products on building partnerships of equals, research uptake and impact etc., and now, in the process of convening a group of experts to discuss issues around safeguarding code of conduct in research.

e. *Ensuring Value in Research (EViR) Funders' Forum*

- **Helen Payne** (NETSCC¹⁵) informed that EViR is an informal group of funders organization with a focus on discussion and learning, and a consensus statement which involves making a commitment and guiding principle. She reported that the co-conveners are NIHR¹⁶, Pcori¹⁷ and the Netherlands. She then emphasized the need to share EViR's webpage¹⁸ with ESSENCE member organizations to further update on the work of the group.

f. *Global Alliance on Chronic Diseases (GACD)*

- **Jennifer Gunning** (CIHR) informed that CIHR¹⁹ is one of 14 research funding organizations from around the world that make up the GACD²⁰, and that the members came together to address a gap in terms of coordination and strategic planning around addressing NCDs in LMICs. She considers it useful and relevant to have ESSENCE resources linked to a location on GACD website where they offer resources for people engaging in implementation science for NCDs, but not exclusively, to help the great work that ESSENCE is doing. She encouraged some joint work through different events in view of the shared interest in the implementation science (IS) space.

Action Items:

- *Agreed that an overview of partnership models added value to ESSENCE's planning and activities and requested that such updates are done periodically at future meetings. Where appropriate, links to websites of these partnerships from the ESSENCE website should be made.*
- **HIROs** - Follow up with ESSENCE member organizations (European Commission (EC), NIH, CIHR and Wellcome) to propose including ESSENCE presentation (was also proposed last time through Simon at Wellcome). Requested Wellcome to explore an ESSENCE presentation during the autumn meeting in London at Wellcome.
- **SGCI** - ESSENCE to further pursue discussions with emerging LMICs granting councils to have them join the group. SC to initiate further discussion especially with ESSENCE members funding the initiative (DFID, IDRC and Sida).
- **GACD** – Jennifer will follow up with GACD to identify a representative of GACD who could join the IS working group (WG).

Agenda item 5: Data sharing and open access

- **Mike Huerta** (NLM/NIH) and **David Carr** (Wellcome Trust), both gave presentations on what their agencies are doing as is the way to data sharing and open data to allow the group have discussions around how this might apply as they look at capacity building in LMICs and what ESSENCE role might be.
- NLM²¹ is focused on research, data science and informatics, but it is also a library. In 2000, it launched PubMed Central (now with almost 5 million open scientific research papers) for sharing publications, and has hosted many repositories and resources for data sharing. The plan is to ensure that the data is discoverable and citable, and the use of widely used standards for data and repositories are encouraged.

¹⁴ More updates on UKCDS - <http://www.ukcds.org.uk>

¹⁵ NETSCC – NIHR Evaluation, Trials and Studies Coordinating Centre

¹⁶ NIHR - National Institute for Health Research (UK)

¹⁷ Pcori - Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (USA)

¹⁸ EViR - <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/our-purpose/principles/adding-value-in-research.htm>

¹⁹ CIHR - Canadian Institutes of Health Research

²⁰ GACD - <https://www.gacd.org>

²¹ NLM/NIH - <https://www.nlm.nih.gov>

- According to David, the goal of the open research team²² at Wellcome is to build on the works that the organization has done for many years to promote and maximize the potentials for the access and reuse of the research outputs originating from Wellcome and other organizations' research funding, in ways that will maximize the benefits of these outcomes, to improve outputs and to improve health. The organization believes that making outputs more widely available, holds the potentials to accelerate discovery and its application for health benefit.

Agenda item 6: Brainstorming for ESSENCE Working Group on Implementation Science Capacity Building

Presentation of very preliminary survey results - Garry Aslanyan, WHO/TDR

- Garry presented a very preliminary results from the IS survey of members who work in the IS space. He noted that most discussions around IS have been stalled because there is no agreed definition. He emphasized that it is still an initial report, and reminded the members, especially those who support IS (i.e. GACD) to still go ahead and send in their survey responses to the Secretariat.
- Against this background, the discussion focused on the conclusion drawn from the report as its relevance in the context of the member organizations. Most members stressed that there are capacity gaps still in LMICs, and others noted the lack of common understanding around IS, low quality or unclear applications/proposals coming from the research community, issues around definitions and working at scale as major challenges related to IS.
- Most members agreed that there are opportunities in sharing knowledge among the partners, in terms of experiences, either through pilots or cohorts. There is a real opportunity for ESSENCE to harmonize and build on the best practices and/or to use the different types of techniques/modalities that the members have used or are using to create a repository.

Action: *The Secretariat to send an email reminder to members who are yet to participate in the survey. Agreed that the WG should start working on developing a good practice document using the information from the survey and recommendations from the brainstorming session. The Secretariat to follow up with members who expressed interest in joining the WG or contributing to its activities.*

Agenda item 7: Brainstorming for ESSENCE Working Group on Research Management

Presentation on Research Management in the Southern African region

- **José Jackson Malete** (Past President SARIMA) presented on research management (RM) in the Southern African region focusing in the presentation Africa's progress in research and RM. She highlighted the core area of SARIMA which is the professionalization and capacity building of individuals and institutions to transform them to better contribute to strengthening the social economic development of the SADC (Southern African Development Community) region. She stressed on the work that the initiative has done in the first phase on the development of the nine (9) competencies that a research manager should have, and the description for each at different levels.
- Following the presentation, the members acknowledged the value of the session and the relevance of ESSENCE as a community, to come together to define some general minimum standards (which was well received by the ARUA²³ in Nairobi), that is expected from the research organizations. José expressed confidence that SARIMA would use the opportunity of the workshop at INORMS meeting in June (4&7), in Edinburgh to come up with good promising practices for RM that the research community could have globally.
- ESSENCE group to consider using on the work that Wellcome has done to help describe a proper overhead policy for funders, to help institutions better understand the principles of costing, especially around the strategies that are sustainable for funding of RM services within member organizations.

Action: *Requested that the WG continue focusing on fine tuning the focus of the activities. Agreed that the research costing good practice document of ESSENCE should be revised as a matter of priority. The Secretariat to follow up with members who have expressed interest in joining the WG. SC to continue engagement between ESSENCE and Research and Innovation Management Associations (SARIMA, BRAMA, CARIMA, WARIMA, and others) and explore options to partner in support of capacity building in RM in Africa. ACU²⁴ to share the report on benchmarking exercise on institutional capacity for research management.*

²² Wellcome Open Research <https://wellcomeopenresearch.org>

²³ ARUA - African Research Universities Alliance - <http://arua.org.za>

²⁴ ACU - The Association of Commonwealth Universities

Agenda item 8: Emerging Themes/Discussion of new areas for ESSENCE

a. Data sharing and open access

- **Annica Wayman (USAID)** presented on the latest trend in the research field around sharing of data and making data open and accessible, even as the group talks about health research, and as the agencies prepare their researchers for the latest academic research trend. She made a short presentation on USAID's public access policy (having to have research data and publications both open and accessible), and informed that a pilot has been done, and presented to the current PEER researchers on April 10. At the moment, more webinars are being planned on data sharing, and the training materials, templates and ethics use, will be uploaded directly to the PEER website²⁵. The members agreed that there is a role for ESSENCE, to either come up with a report or synthesis, or a practice document that would be useful for the researchers and ESSENCE member organizations.

Action: *Annica to discuss with the SC about what ESSENCE role may be in data sharing and open access particularly what these mean for ESSENCE partners in LMICs. This could also be part of the activities of the WG on RM.*

b. A proposed mechanism to coordinate clinical research capacity building effort in LMICs

- **Peter Kilmarx (FIC/NIH)** informed the group about a potential role for ESSENCE in the work on developing metrics for biomedical capacity building, and in applying and using the metrics in coordination.
- He further informed that the World Bank has created an international vaccine task force (CEPI, EDCTP, Wellcome, INSERM²⁶, World Bank, WHO, NIH, IAVI²⁷, LSHTM²⁸), to propose ways for national governments and development partners to effectively and sustainably establish their finances on vaccine and R&D. He commented that, there could be a role for ESSENCE in informing the process, through helping to articulate the mechanism to conduct a review of capacity in this area.

Action: *ESSENCE members agreed to engage with development of the mechanism for the international vaccine task force after their report is launched in May 2018. As soon as the report is out, the SC will further discuss on the engagement strategy with the task force in its next teleconference.*

c. Strategic engagement with WHO, building on ESSENCE experience, to promote increased use of research for public health policy

- **Garry Aslanyan (WHO/TDR)** made a short presentation on the recent changes at WHO, including the new Deputy Director General (DDG), the organization's new focus, and research activities in the areas of support to countries, working with country governments, as well as using the research for policy. He further informed that the new Deputy DG is particularly interested to connect with ESSENCE to discuss strategically, how funders of research can engage broadly with WHO overall, and where WHO can collaborate with ESSENCE to promote increase of use of research public health policy.
- Following the presentation, the members considered having the next annual meeting in Switzerland, to explain and promote the benefits of the initiative, and to possibly set up face-to-face discussion with the DG, on what might be of interest for the overall WHO and its research strategy.
- It was also noted that Wellcome (is official relationship with WHO as non-state actor with WHO), might be part of the research uptake strategy.

Action: *The SC to further discuss on broader options for a face-to-face meeting with the Deputy DG and areas of interest in its next meeting.*

Looking forward – taking discussions from day 1 and reviewing the 2018-19 workplan

a. Looking forward

- Garry shortly presented on the different issues discussed in the meeting, and particularly, on emerging themes and what the strategic focus should be going forward, the challenges with ESSENCE and opportunities with current programs, and how to take and operationalize the challenges moving forward.
- Against this background, the members proposed, (1) setting up a work group for data sharing and research for policy and practice, (2) developing a strategy to engage funders of research from Asia and India, and (3) making a list of funder partnerships that fund research capacity strengthening as a core activity for ESSENCE.

²⁵ PEER webpage : <http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/peer/index.htm>

²⁶ INSERM – French National Institute of Health and Medical Research - <https://www.inserm.fr/en>

²⁷ IAVI – International Aids Vaccine Initiative - <http://www.iavi.org>

²⁸ LSHTM – The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine - <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk>

- In addition, they agreed that the request from WHO's new DG, focusing on how to promote increase of use of research for evidence for public health policy should be included as part of IS WG. The members also planned to establish continuous contact, and information exchange with the different partnerships described at the meeting to elevate ESSENCE profile. The group is also expected to explore the possibility of having a one pager to articulate membership and engagement criteria with funder partnerships in LMICs.

Action: *The SC to work towards having at least one LMIC region/entity in 2019.*

b. ESSENCE 2018-19 Workplan

- Garry presented on the current workplan that had earlier been revised, and agreed upon by the members at the 1st annual ESSENCE members only meeting in Washington DC, in April 2017. The workplan for 2018-19, was then discussed extensively with various additions and edits from the members based on their earlier discussions at the meeting.
- It was noted that the annual meetings and systematic meetings at side events will continue next year, and that the information drawn from the Ottawa meeting will be used to revise the work plan to guide the work of the group. In addition, the members proposed using the website to share ESSENCE Standard PowerPoint for use by members at presentation panel meetings to showcase ESSENCE programs and publications.
- Everyone was encouraged to regularly communicate funding opportunities and health research-related meetings/conference information with the Secretariat for inclusion on the website or for sharing through email updates, to better engage members.
- They emphasized on the increase use of WorldReport (link provided on the website) to improve information sharing among members, and for members to begin to emphasize ESSENCE programs/publications in all relevant activities within their organization, and with key people in individual networks.

Action: *The SC is expected to further revise and finalize the workplan in its next meeting.*

c. Potential opportunities for ESSENCE side meetings in 2018 and 2019 and the dates of the next face-to-face meeting in 2019

- SC monthly teleconferences will continue. The next face-to-face meeting in 2019 will be in Lisbon, Portugal, on the sides of the EDCTP Forum, September 17, 2018 (date TBC).
- Options for 2019 to include a member that could host or Geneva

Annex 1 – Agenda

Annex 2 – The roundtables of members' current plans/developments are attached as a separate document.

Annex 3 – List of participants and bios

Appendix 1

AGENDA

17 – 18 April 2018

Pearson Boardroom – 8th Floor

International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

150 Kent Street

Ottawa, CANADA

WebEx connection instructions are attached

View direction from the airport to meeting venue here [GOOGLE MAP](#)

Tuesday, 17 April 2018

8:30	Arrival coffee, registration and networking
9:00	Agenda item 1: Welcome and greetings. Federico Burone , Acting Vice-President Programs, <i>International Development Research Centre (IDRC)</i>
9:10	Agenda item 2: Introductions and overview of the programme. Linda Kupfer , Co-Chair ESSENCE, Senior Scientist, <i>Fogarty International Center - National Institutes of Health (FIC/NIH)</i> and Montasser Kamal , Program Leader, Maternal and Child Health Program (MCH)/SME, <i>International Development Research Centre (IDRC)</i>
9:30	Agenda item 3: ESSENCE@10: From Stockholm to Ottawa – reflections, successes, opportunities. – Introductory photo essay followed by a presentation on 10 years of ESSENCE including additional reflections from members and Q&A. <u>Presenter and moderator:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Hannah Akuffo, Co-Chair ESSENCE, Senior Specialist, Methods in Research Cooperation, <i>Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)</i> <u>Reflections:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Fabio Zicker, Specialist, ST&I in Global Health Center for Technological Development in Health (CDTS), <i>Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz)</i>○ Val Snewin, Head of Global Health Research Partnerships, <i>Department of Health and Social Care, UK (DHSC)</i>○ Garry Aslanyan, ESSENCE Secretariat, Manager, Partnerships and Governance, <i>World Health Organization (WHO)/Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR)</i> <u>Reflections from the floor</u>
10:30	Coffee Break and Photo de famille

<p>11:00</p>	<p>Agenda item 4: Partnership Models – What can we learn?</p> <p>Short presentations describing partnership models in each organization, followed by a moderated panel discussion on opportunities and challenges of funders working together.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Peter Kilmarx, Deputy Director, <i>Fogarty International Center - National Institutes of Health (FIC/NIH)</i> <p><u>Presenters (5 mins each with maximum two slides):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coalition for African Research and Innovation (CARI) and Heads of International Research Organizations (HIRO) – Robert Eiss, Senior Advisor, <i>Fogarty International Center - National Institutes of Health (FIC/NIH)</i> via WebEx • Think Tank Initiative – Peter Taylor, Acting Director, Inclusive Economies, <i>International Development Research Centre (IDRC)</i> • Science Granting Councils Initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa (SGCI) – Ann Weston, Program Leader, Foundations for Innovations, <i>IDRC</i> • <i>UK Collaborative on Development Sciences (UKCDS)</i> – Marta Tufet, Executive Director, <i>UK Collaborative on Development Sciences</i> • Ensuring Value in Research (EViR) Funders' Forum – Matt Westmore, Director of Finance and Strategy, <i>National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)</i>, via WebEx • Global Alliance on Chronic Diseases (GACD) - Jennifer Gunning, Manager International Relations, <i>Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)</i> <p>Each participant will address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is your partnership model for global collaborations? • What are some of the outputs, outcomes and/or impacts of your partnerships? • What were some of the barriers to partnerships and how did you overcome them? • How best can your organization interact with ESSENCE? <p><u>Reflections from the floor</u></p>
<p>Noon</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>1:00</p>	<p>Agenda item 5: Data sharing and open access</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annica Wayman, Member ESSENCE Steering Committee, Division Chief of Research Partnerships for Development, <i>USAID's Global Development Lab, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)</i> <p><u>Presenters:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mike Huerta, Associate Director Program Development & Coordinator of Data Science and Open Science Initiatives, <i>National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health (NLM/NIH)</i>, USA via WebEx ○ Dave Carr, Programme Manager Open Research, <i>Wellcome Trust</i>, UK via WebEx

1:30

Agenda item 6: Brainstorming for ESSENCE Working Group on Implementation Science Capacity Building

This session will discuss how to take this research area forward and how we can align our understanding and efforts to work together in the field of implementation science. Some areas to consider: definition, curriculum, networks and mentoring.

Moderator:

- **Montasser Kamal**, *IDRC*

Presentation of very preliminary survey results:

- **Garry Aslanyan**, *WHO/TDR*

Panellists:

- **Linda Kupfer**, *FIC/NIH*
- **Marie-Gloriose Ingabire**, Senior Programme Specialist, Maternal and Child Health, *International Development Research Centre (IDRC)*
- **Anna Thorson**, Research Manager, *World Health Organization/Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (WHO/HRP)*
- **Annica Wayman**, *USAID*
- **Val Snewin**, *UK DHSC*
- **Anna Ruddock**, Global Policy Adviser, *Wellcome Trust*

Reflections from the floor

2:30

Coffee Break

3:00

Agenda item 7: Brainstorming for ESSENCE Working Group on Research Management

This session will discuss how to take this area forward and how we can align our understanding and efforts to work together on research management. Some areas to consider: research management capacity in LMICs, research costing and research leadership.

Moderator:

- **Hannah Akuffo**, *Sida*

Presentation on Research Management in the Southern African region:

- **José Jackson Malete**, Past President, *Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA)* & Associate Director, Alliance for African Partnership, *Michigan State University*

Panellists:

- **Thabi Maitin**, Division Manager, Research Capacity Development, *South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC)*
- **Simon Kay**, Member, Essence Steering Committee, Head of International Operations and Partnerships Science/**John Kirkland**, Consultant, *Wellcome Trust* via WebEx
- **Ole Olesen**, Member, Essence Steering Committee, Director, North-North Partnerships, European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (*EDCTP*) via WebEx
- **Patrice Ajai-Ajagbe**, Programme Officer, *The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU)* via WebEx

4:00

[Reflections from the floor](#)

Agenda item 8: Emerging Themes/Discussion of new areas for ESSENCE

[Roundtable Discussions and feedback](#): Short presentation on areas followed by roundtable discussion on the themes listed below.

[Moderator:](#)

- **Garry Aslanyan, WHO/TDR**

[Themes:](#)

- Data sharing and open access – **Annica Wayman, USAID**
- A proposed mechanism to coordinate clinical research capacity building effort in LMICs – **Peter Kilmarx, FIC/NIH**
- Strategic engagement with WHO, building on ESSENCE experience, to promote increased use of research for public health policy – **Garry Aslanyan, WHO/TDR**

[Around the table:](#)

Updates from agencies on their current and future plans

6:30

Dinner (covered by the participants)

[Madison's New York Grill & Bar](#)

189 Lyon Street, Ottawa (Corner of Lyon Street and Laurier Ave W.)

Wednesday, 18 April 2018

9:00	<p>Looking forward – taking discussions from day 1 and reviewing the 2018-19 workplan</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Garry Aslanyan, WHO/TDR <p><u>Issues:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review and discuss workplan• Addition/deletion of items• Discussion on how to approach activities
10:45	Coffee Break
11:00	<p>Parallel sessions</p> <p>Moving forward, presentation of key ideas and next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Implementation Science working group (Pearson Boardroom) <u>Moderator</u> - Linda Kupfer, FIC/NIH○ Research Management working group (Boardroom 699, 6th Floor) <u>Moderator</u> - Hannah Akuffo, Sida
12:30	Lunch served on 8th Floor
1:00	<p>Wrap-up: Steps moving forward</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Garry Aslanyan, WHO/TDR</p> <p>Potential opportunities for ESSENCE side meetings in 2018 and 2019 and the dates of the next face-to-face meeting in 2019.</p>
2:00	Adjourn

Appendix 2

ESSENCE Members Annual Meeting
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ESSENCE Members and Programs Updates

a. AAP - Alliance for Africa Partnerships & SARIMA (José Jackson Malete)

AAP is a new alliance launched by Michigan State University (MSU) in 2017, in Tanzania (<http://aap.isp.msu.edu>). The university has had different partnership arrangement with African institutions (more than 60 active research and development projects with African partners) over the last 6 years, but by extension, the relationship is rapidly shifting. We are now hoping to prelaunch the way that we have been partnering with Africa to co-create a new model of mutually beneficial collaboration that will better prepare them for tomorrow's challenges.

Against this background, the university is in the process of getting the researchers to rethink the way they engage in partnerships, and has committed funding to the new alliance. As a first step to launching the alliance, we are currently working with a group of government officials, university faculty, non-profit directors, vice chancellors in African institutions and other professionals from 9 countries on the continent to come up with strategic plans for the alliance, and the workshop opened with a simple question: "What makes a good partnership?"

MSU is envisioning an alliance of partners of African institutions, at African universities or research organizations, US universities, other agencies like the African Union, and a number of non governmental agencies, to get the research that is been done translated into policy. The whole idea of the alliance is for us to understand how to improve the way that partnership is being done so that African partners do not feel marginalize, and for the U.S. universities – and MSU in particular to continue as a leader in engagement with Africa. A progress report on the Alliance 2017 achievements and plans for 2018 is available on the webpage - [Read full article here](#)

At the moment, SARIMA is working on objective one of the STIs projects which is on strengthening the science granting councils to manage research. It is hoped that SARIMA's professionalization program would help the Alliance to become better in the way that they currently work - primarily in grants management and science and technology policy.

b. DHSC - Department of Health and Social Care, UK (Val Snewin)

DFID and Wellcome and DHSC have jointly funded the research for health in humanitarian crisis initiative for the last five years. Our responsive investigative led programme involves 3 thematic areas - epilepsy, infection related cancer and severe stigmatising related skin disease especially for conditions that directly affects populations in LMICs eligible for UK aid. Currently, the scheme is still with the model of a UK lead investigator and strong collaborations and partnerships with researches working in the endemic and areas concerned.

We are equally working on a number of strategic areas to shift focus towards directly funding LMICs researchers. We have joined a lot of partnerships particularly with MRC UK and DFID, in the areas of health systems research, maternal and child health, and public engagement - more broadly in terms of life course, patient centric research, and patients and public focus.

DHSC is very keen to support activities in joint partnerships, including:

- Research into policy and practice (impact and evaluating it)
- Research uptake and impact, building a cohort of NIHR funded trainees in LMICs and UK
- Research Management and Good Financial Grant Practice (GFGP), especially on good financial practice that is being developed through African Academy of Sciences (AAS) and in partnership, supported by MRC UK, Wellcome, EDCTP, and DHSC - <https://aasciences.ac.ke/academy/academy-pages/good-financial-grants-practice/>. The final product is expected to go live as an online tool.

We are open to partnership opportunities in our strategic areas of focus. For more contact Val.snewin@dh.gsi.gov.uk

c. Fiocruz - Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fabio Zicker)

It is a special time and year in Brazil as things are a bit on a standby because of the political turmoil, and there is also a big challenge in terms of public health with epidemics, i.e. Dengue and Zika. The country's focus through the research scientific council (<http://www.cnpq.br>), is coming up with new grants and new calls for improving surveillance and diagnostic point of care, i.e. in developing new tools in diagnostic methods. There is quite a bit of funding for improving surveillance capacity, and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) is quite interested as well in joining the initiative, and also some funding coming from the Ministry of Health (MoH), the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), the National Council for State Funding Agencies (CONFAP), and engaged State Funding Agency (FAPs), to look at how to control possible emergence of new epidemics and virus.

A call for "Global Challenges Explorations (GCE) – Brazil: Data Science Approaches to improve Maternal and Child Health in Brazil" was recently opened in March 2018 and this is due to close in May. However, we have another call that was recently opened in April 2018 called "Grand Challenges Explorations – Brazil: New Approaches to Characterize the Global Burden of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)". For more update on these calls, please visit - <https://gch.grandchallenges.org/challenge/grand-challenges-brazil-new-approaches-characterize-global-burden-antimicrobial-resistance>

d. IDRC - International Development Research Centre (Montasser Kamal)

IDRC is into its 4th year of the current 5-year strategic plan. The maternal health program is currently funded from our sisters' program, the Food Environment and Health Program and the Global Coalition for Chronic Disease. At the moment, the maternal and child health unit continues its emphasis on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH), and Health Information Systems (HIS) in West Africa, and particularly in Francophone West Africa and in the Middle East North Africa (MENA) region. Already, we have cohorts of 10 projects that have started, and we are still continuing investments in those areas.

At IDRC, we have a particular interest in supporting work in fragile settings and other sub regions that we have been supporting projects in, and also interested in the learning, and in working on implementation science (IS). We will be hosting a "Center of Excellence for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Systems" soon, to grow our emphasis on data - to know where the most efficient and reliable sources of data come from, and how to link that to health information systems (HIS), countries national plans, and policy making.

One of our biggest initiatives in Africa is the "Innovating for Maternal and Child Health initiative in Africa", that seeks to improve maternal, newborn, and child health outcomes by strengthening health systems, using primary health care as an entry point. The program is continuing and there will be lots of learning in terms of the partnerships (including African PIs, Canadian co-PIs, decision makers etc.), and the Africa context. We currently have 28 projects in 11 countries - <https://www.idrc.ca/en/initiative/innovating-maternal-and-child-health-africa>. There are other various opportunities coming up next year, including the Women Deliver 2019 Global Conference to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada <http://womendeliver.org/press/women-deliver-2019-global-conference-held-vancouver-british-colombia-canada/>. The update on the conference will be shared with ESSENCE members in advance.

We are very open to partnering on a variety of levels – co-funding, parallel funding, hosting intellectual meetings, technical consultations, roundtables, think tank groups etc. For more on collaborative partnerships, please contact mkamal@idrc.ca

e. MRC UK - Medical Research Council of the UK (Morven Roberts)

MRC UK is exploring a better and stronger way in implementation science (IS), and will continue to work in the antimicrobial research. We had an antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in a global context cross council call (<https://mrc.ukri.org/funding/browse/antimicrobial-resistance-in-a-global-context1/antimicrobial-resistance-in-a-global-context-a-cross-council-call-in-partnership-with-the-department-of-health/>), and we will be holding a workshop soon. We also hope to work with policy makers in the global context on how to achieve an impact from the evidence that we have obtained.

We have recently become one of the 9 participants within the UK research and innovation, and we are having a new Chief Executive Chair (CEC), which means that under the new umbrella organization, the organization structure within MRC has also changed since the UK funding landscape is changing. We are coming up with a strategy for maternal and neonatal health - a key area of interest, and we have been consulting internally with the strategy advisory boards and our global health boards, to have an idea of where MRC strategy research gender might focus, which may be around promotional healthy pregnancies.

We are looking again to work with funding partners, potentially not only in the UK, but more widely. We are looking to UKCDS to help broker some of the bigger partnerships around UK and internationally. We will be able to take in a

series of workshops, piggy backing on activities that might be happening around the world between June and September 2018. Additionally, we are working in other areas of interest such as AMR and prevention research, especially prevention research for infections and often that of vaccine. We are currently part of the UK vaccine research development network, and so quite interested in the preparedness agenda – i.e. in the areas of networking or clinical research capacities.

f. SAMRC - The South African Medical Research Council (Thabi Maitin)

At the research council, we are in a stage of evaluating new initiatives, and strengthening our partnership with the government of Switzerland in respect of the vaccine development. This is one area that we are really hoping to emerge strong in. We have piloted this for over two years, and although it is a good partnership, it however still needs to work, and more importantly strengthened. ESSENCE members are encouraged to visit our webpage to get better understanding of the kind of different funding that we get and the kind of work that we do at - <http://www.mrc.ac.za>

g. Sida - Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Hannah Akuffo)

At Sida, we fund research capacity strengthening bilaterally, and we have 5 to 6 countries that we currently support bilaterally. We have developed a method of getting insight as to what some of these institutions really need. Mostly the institutions that we support are invited through a process to discuss a 10 year prospective of where the universities want to be in 10-years, looking first at the first 5 years of partnership, and the last 5 years. This method has allowed us to be able to focus on areas that are of interest to the countries.

Through the concept note, calls for proposals are issued, for example there is one currently with the University of Rwanda, for a call for proposals for 5-year partnerships between Swedish universities and UR (University of Rwanda), for strengthening institutional research capacity at the university. More information on the partnership is available here: [Research Training Partnership Programme - Rwanda](#).

We are also planning to support the Science Granting Councils initiative (SGCI), and in the process of registering collaboration with Grant Challenges Africa at the African Academy of Sciences, in the next few months (<https://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/announcement/grand-challenges-africa>) to finance entrepreneurs and innovators that want to contribute to economic, environmental and social sustainability in the developing world.

h. UKCDS - UK Collaborative on Development Sciences (Marta Tufet)

UK has got a big shift in its overseas development fund (ODA), and this has changed the way that the organization works. In the UK, a £390M investment in international development research will become £1.2 billion by 2021. Against this background, UKCDS has established a new board (with a chief executive chair) that is now more influential, and with stronger direct reporting line to the government and treasury. We are in the process of developing a new strategy that will be launched in June 2018, and rebranding from UKCDS to UKCDR (UK Collaborative on Development Research - <http://www.ukcds.org.uk/news-blog/blog/celebrating-10-years-of-ukcds-a-look-at-the-past-and-the-future>), to make us more inclusive of all the research disciplines including Art and Humanities which also have some ODA funding that it didn't have in the past.

We are also helping our members ahead of the government spending review that is likely to happen at the early stages of next year, to define what their potential priorities might be, and to strengthen the rational for continued investment for research from governments into the various different funders. We are involved in a number of standing groups such as:

- Health funders forum (HFF), which brings together members and interested stakeholders to advise on developing cross-disciplinary research collaborations and to share knowledge and best practice in thematic areas.
- Capacity building forum, which brings together funders in the UK and sometimes more broadly to discuss challenges such as monitoring and evaluation of capacity strengthening interventions, and to also share information on aid alignment.
- Communications forum, which brings together twice a year members and development practitioners to share best practices on research uptake and impact.
- Disasters and resilience forum, involved in the entire framework, i.e. looking to map what the research efforts and the baseline capacity is to better understand how to fill the need and gap that have been identified.

We will continue to promote the work that we do on equitable partnerships to inform funders - <http://www.ukcds.org.uk/resources/building-partnerships-of-equals>, particularly the new players in the UK, of the need to set the tone when it comes to establishing partnerships between the UK and the LMICs.

There is a large proportion of funding that has gone into aid across different government departments, but a lot of the funding is put to use in the UK universities rather than directing normally through LMICs institutions. We are

planning to do some work around “safeguarding” to help our members and funders develop some common principles around safeguarding. And, as part of the new UKCDR strategy, we hope to be able to act more as a broker between the research academy community, the public government sector, the business private sector and the NGO sector.

We welcome the opportunity to engage with ESSENCE members on safeguarding code of conduct in research. For more information contact M.Tufet@ukcds.org.uk.

i. USAID - United States Agency for International Development, US Global Development Lab (Annica Wayman)

The Global Health Peer USAID will not be having any major or real change soon. The organization is in the process of launching three new mechanisms that will focus on short term technical assistance (to provide short key technical assistance to missions), long term technical assistance and APS (with the first addendum around accelerating local potentials), and all largely around capacity building within higher educational institutions.

The organization is currently reviewing its PEER (Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research) cycle late proposals, and the results of the cycle 7 are expected to be announced around the end of August 2018. The PEER program in its current form is winding down, since the awards usually range from one year to two years, and in some cases, projects may request and receive a no-cost extension, but not allowed to extend past a total of two years, six months. More info on USAID’s PEER program - http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/PEER/PGA_147205

For more information on the three new mechanisms that the center is launching soon, please contact Annica Wayman at awayman@usaid.gov

j. US National Institutes of Health (Peter Kilmarx)

It is a very positive environment for the medical research and support for National Institutes of Health – Fogarty Internal Center (NIH/FIC) in the US this year. Last year in the white house budget, FIC was being eliminated, and NIH funding was being cut by about 20%. However, for this fiscal year, the budget is more than half over, with NIH having about \$2-3 billion increase in funding, and FIC about \$3.8 million increase in funding. For the coming year, we now know that there is no cut for the NIH, and no elimination for FIC.

Some of our specific programs (see more updates here - <https://www.fic.nih.gov/Programs/Pages/default.aspx>) include the health professional education in Africa. These are more specifically:

- MEPI - Medical Education Partnership initiative Junior Faculty Research in Training, that NIH has been supporting since 2015, to strengthen Africa institutions’ capacities to participate in and carry out locally, research that contributes to improve human health in Africa; and NEPI - Nursing Education Partnership initiative. Both programs (MEPI and NEPI) have completed their activities with 13 universities and 12 African countries, with a particular focus on strengthening medical education.
- HEPI – Health Professional Education Partnership initiative that complements and enhances the training of a workforce to meet the biomedical behaviour and clinical research needs in 8 low resource countries in Africa, including Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Malawi and Ethiopia.
- AFREhealth: The achievements of MEPI has inspired the formation of the “African Forum for Research Education in Health”, an organization committed to developing health professionals’ education and research in Africa, sharing best practices and reducing health.

We recently had a consultation at the stone house at NIH on research and humanitarian emergencies. It was very welcoming for us to have different research organizations, government organizations, several of the institutes around NIH, MSF (Médecins Sans Frontières), and others in attendance, to come together to think about and across earthquakes, wars, infectious diseases. We also had the opportunity to look at some of the methodologies, ethics, and partnerships issues around conducting research in the context of humanitarian emergencies. A report on the consultation will be made available to ESSENCE group in due course.

k. Wellcome Trust (Anna Ruddock)

Historically in terms of the policy work at Wellcome, the organization has been mostly UK/EU focused with global work fully on increasing work in global health. Last autumn, the organization had some significant recruitment, bringing in more people to help form a new global policy team to exist alongside the UK/EU team, to influence policy developments so that researchers can be as effective as possible and health can be improved. However, we clearly still have different areas of work.

We have been working over the last few months on deciding and outlining issue areas in the policy team, although regularly changing, but broadly remaining along the following lines:

- Research uptake and improving uptake research into policy and practice
- Emerging technologies
- Increasing investments into scientific research
- The very broad global health challenges under which sits a lot of Wellcome's work including pandemic preparedness, the new statement on access to health care interventions, and some explorative work around improvements and quality
- The future of European science, which is very much the UK/EU teams working on brexit and beyond
- Improving research culture

We are also having some discussions with the Women Deliver; and an increasing number of conversations about our strategic partnership with Unicef on where to jointly fund, and how to harmonize some areas of common interest. We are also a member of GloPID-R (Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness) that was initiated by the HIROs in 2013. The network is actually a set of coordinating hub, essentially to better coordinate and operationalize, or to support the operationalization of social sciences for epidemic preparedness and response. A joint meeting was recently held in Brussels to bring together some of this group of funders around the European commission grants.

We are happy to discuss more on this international network of major research funding organizations, who work between crises to strengthen global preparedness. Please visit <https://www.glopid-r.org> for more update on the work of the collaboration or contact a.ruddock@wellcome.ac.uk

I. WHO/TDR – The Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (Garry ASLANYAN)

TDR has started working on its new 5-year strategic plan - focusing on capacity building for IS at different stages (starting with TB, and now being used for a broad variety of diseases in public health i.e. NCDs. It is also now expanding to AMR; SORT IT (The Structured Operational Research and Training Initiative - <http://www.who.int/tdr/capacity/strengthening/sort/en/>); and research for implementation (i.e. programs that support implementation public health and focus on elimination and/or eradication of certain diseases).

We have produced the second version of the implementation research toolkit and it is fully online. We also have MOOC – massive open online course focused on implementation research.(See here for more update - <http://www.who.int/tdr/capacity/strengthening/mooc/en/>). ESSENCE on Health Research initiative continues to be a part of the work that the organization supports under what it now called “Global Engagement”.

Appendix 3

List of Participants

ACU - The Association of Commonwealth Universities (UK)

- **Patrice Ajai-Ajagbe** (via WebEx)
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AAS - African Academy of Sciences

- **Allen Mukhwana** (via WebEx)
Research Systems Manager, AAS
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CIHR - Canadian Institutes of Health Research (Canada)

- **Jennifer Gunning**
Manager International Relations, CIHR
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DHSC - Department of Health and Social Care (UK)

- **Val Snewin**
Head of Global Health Research Partnerships, DHSC
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EDCTP - European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (The Netherlands and South Africa)

- **Ole Olesen**, Member, ESSENCE Steering Committee (via WebEx)
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Fiocruz - Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Brazil)

- **Fabio Zicker**
Specialist, ST&I in Global Health Center for Technological development in Health (CDTS), Fiocruz
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IDRC - International Development Research Centre (Canada)

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MRC - Medical Research Council of the UK (UK)

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NIH – US National Institutes of Health

FIC - National Institutes of Health /Fogarty International Center (USA)

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NLM - National Library of Medicine (USA)

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PCORI – Patient-Centred Outcomes Research Institute (USA)

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SAMRC - The South African Medical Research Council (South Africa)

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SARIMA - Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (South Africa)

- **José Jackson Maleté**
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Sida - Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sweden)

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USAID - United States Agency for International Development (USA)

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ESSENCE @ 10 Participants	
AAS - African Academy of Sciences (Kenya)	
Allen Mukhwana (via WebEx) Research Systems Manager, African Academy of Sciences (AAS) Email: a.mukhwana@aasciences.ac.ke	Allen Muyaama Mukhwana joined the African Academy of Sciences as Research Systems Manager in November 2017. She is working with a broad range of partners including researchers, funders, research management professionals and institutions to develop a programme for transforming research and innovation management in Africa and provide leadership for the transformation of research systems and management. Prior to joining the AAS Allen was Centre Manager for the Makerere University/UVRI Infection and Immunity Research Training Programme (MUII-PLUS). She joined MUII-PLUS from the Infectious Diseases Institute, College of Health Sciences, Makerere University (https://www.idi-makerere.com) where she was the Senior Research Administrator and Head of Capacity Building for more than six years. During this period, she established the research support functions and structures and articulated the governance framework. She is passionate about management of the research ecosystems in Africa, from governance and compliance, portfolio tracking, through to dissemination and reporting.
CIHR – Canadian Institutes of Health Research (Canada)	
Jennifer Gunning Manager International Relations, CIHR Email: Jennifer.gunning@cihr-irsc.gc.ca	Jennifer Gunning is the Manager of International Relations at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). In this role, Jennifer is responsible for managing CIHR's international health research partnerships and all matters pertaining to foreign relations. During her 16-year career at CIHR, Jennifer has also served as Associate Director of the HIV/AIDS Research Initiative, where she oversaw the development of strategic plans and the creation of a wide range of research funding programs, in collaboration with stakeholders and partners. Jennifer holds both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Kinesiology from the University of Waterloo.
DHSC - Department of Health and Social Care (UK)	
Dr Val Snewin Head of Global Health Research Partnerships, DHSC Email: val.snewin@dh.gsi.gov.uk	Dr Val Snewin is currently Head of Global Health Research Partnerships in the Department of Health & Social Care (the UK Ministry of Health) developing and delivering a new global health research programme with Official Development Research (ODA) funding from the UK aid budget, working through the UK National Institutes of Health (NIHR). Previously Val has worked with other UK development research funders, including the British Council, GSK and the Royal Society. Prior to that Val was International Activities Manager at the Wellcome Trust where Val was instrumental in establishing new types of research capacity strengthening programmes, for example the African Institutions Initiative, shifting the centre of gravity of research funding to low and middle income countries. Val has been involved with ESSENCE group as a 'founder member' since 2008 and was an elected member of the ESSENCE Board over 4 years. Val has a research background in tuberculosis and malaria.

EDCTP - European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (The Netherlands and South Africa)	
Dr Ole F. Olesen (via WebEx) Member, ESSENCE Steering Committee Director, North-North Partnerships, EDCTP Email: olesen@edctp.org	Peter Taylor is Acting Director of IDRC's Inclusive Economies program. He leads a multidisciplinary team that strengthens policy research capacity in developing countries on issues of economic policy, governance, and health systems. Peter has more than 30 years of experience in international development, including positions at the Institute of Development Studies, UK; Helvetas Vietnam; University of Reading, UK; and the Department of Secondary Education, Botswana. Peter holds a PhD and MSc in agricultural education from the University of Reading.
Fiocruz - Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Brazil)	
Fabio Zicker Specialist, ST&I in Global Health Center for Technological development in Health (CDTS), FIOCRUZ Email: fzicker@cdts.fiocruz.br	Fabio Zicker is the current Coordinator of Networks and Global Health at the Center for Technological Development in Health, Fiocruz Foundation, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He is a former senior manager of the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR), and Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), in charge of capacity strengthening programmes. He has a medical degree, training in clinical cardiology and tropical diseases, holding a PhD in Epidemiology of Chagas Heart Disease from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.
IDRC - International Development Research Centre (Canada)	
Federico Burone Acting Vice-President Programs, IDRC Email: fburone@idrc.ca	Federico Burone is the Regional Director for the Latin America and the Caribbean region based in Montevideo, Uruguay; and he is also the Acting Vice-President for Programs and Partnerships Branch at IDRC. He joined IDRC as Executive Director of the Environmental Management Secretariat. He previously worked as Senior Researcher for the European Commission's DG XII Project and Research Assistant for the Industrial Relations and the Environment Network in Europe. He holds a PhD in Economics and an MSc in environmental sciences from the University of Valencia, Spain.
Ann Weston Program Leader, Foundations for Innovations, IDRC Email: aweston@idrc.ca	Ann Weston is Program Leader, Foundations for Innovation, in the Technology and Innovation program area at Canada's International Development Research Centre, based in Ottawa. She manages a team of ten colleagues and a portfolio of individual and organizational capacity-building and advanced research activities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. She previously worked at the Overseas Development Institute and the Commonwealth Secretariat in London, UK and The North-South Institute in Ottawa. She joined IDRC in 2010.
Montasser Kamal Programme Leader, Maternal and Child Health Program / SME, IDRC Email: mkamal@idrc.ca	Montasser's 30 years of experience started in Egypt and he is a graduate from Cairo University's medical school. He has an MSc in Medical Anthropology from Brunel University, UK; and is a holder of a PhD in Medical Anthropology from McGill University. Montasser is the Program Leader for the Maternal and Child Health team at Canada's International Development Research Centre. Before joining IDRC, Montasser was the Deputy Director for Global Health Policy and Research at Global

	Affairs Canada. He also worked at CIDA as the Team Leader of the Health Specialists, and as Manager of Multilateral Health Institutions, and also worked at the Regional Office of the Ford Foundation in Cairo where he was a Senior Program Officer for Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS.
Peter Taylor <i>Acting Director, Inclusive Economies, IDRC</i> Email: ptaylor@idrc.ca	Peter Taylor is Acting Director of IDRC's Inclusive Economies program. He leads a multidisciplinary team that strengthens policy research capacity in developing countries on issues of economic policy, governance, and health systems. Peter has more than 30 years of experience in international development, including positions at the Institute of Development Studies, UK; Helvetas Vietnam; University of Reading, UK; and the Department of Secondary Education, Botswana. Peter holds a PhD and MSc in agricultural education from the University of Reading.
NIH – US National Institutes of Health (USA)	
Peter Kilmarx Deputy Director, Fogarty International Center Email: peter.kilmarx@nih.gov	RADM Peter H. Kilmarx, MD, an expert in global health and infectious disease research, policy, and programs, is the Deputy Director of the John E. Fogarty International Center of the U.S. National Institutes of Health. Dr. Kilmarx previously served as the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Country Director in Zimbabwe, providing leadership and management for implementation of the U.S. efforts to reduce HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria. An Assistant Surgeon General and Rear Admiral in the U.S. Public Health Service, Dr. Kilmarx served as the CDC Ebola response team leader in Sierra Leone in 2014, and as principal deputy team leader in Guinea in 2015. Previously, he had leadership roles in the CDC response to Ebola outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1995 and 2007. Dr. Kilmarx held a variety of leadership positions at the CDC since 1996, including senior advisor to the Director for Health Reform and chief of the Epidemiology Branch — both in the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention. He also served as director of the CDC partnership with Botswana to combat HIV/AIDS, TB, and related conditions, as well as the chief of the CDC's Sexual Transmission Research Section in Thailand. An experienced research scientist, he has served as principal or senior investigator on clinical trials and other research in the United States, Thailand, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and other countries
Linda Kupfer Co-Chair, ESSENCE Steering Committee Senior Scientist, Fogarty International Center Email: Kupferl@mail.nih.gov	Dr. Kupfer is currently a Senior Scientist at the Center for Global Health Studies, Division of International Policy Planning and Evaluation, Fogarty International Center (FIC), U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Kupfer's global health research interests include implementation science, integration of global health service delivery, and she is particularly interested in the role of capacity building in global health research. Dr. Kupfer recently chaired an interagency international project to develop the research agenda necessary to support integration of non-communicable diseases into HIV programs in low and middle-income countries (LMICs). She currently serves as the Co-Chair for ESSENCE and is a Senior Advisor for the African Journal Partnership Program. Dr. Kupfer developed and teaches a course at the NIH, "Chronic Care in LMICs" and is developing a

	<p>new course which will preview in the Fall, "An Introduction to Implementation Science." Dr. Kupfer has served as a Senior Policy Advisor in the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator, PEPFAR; as the Interim Director of the NIH Office of Evaluation; and as the Interim Director of the Division of International Policy Planning and Evaluation, FIC. Dr. Kupfer is grateful for a job which allows her to contribute in so many different, important and impactful ways. Dr. Kupfer received her bachelor's degree in Psychology from Cornell University and her MSc and PhD in Pharmacology from Columbia University before commencing a Science and Diplomacy Fellowship at the U.S. Department of State, sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Since receiving her doctorate and fellowship, Dr. Kupfer has held posts focused on Science, Science Policy and Global Health, including as a Program Officer for Bilateral Science Programs at the U.S. State Department and Program Director for Marine Biotechnology at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)</p>
<p>Mike Huerta (via WebEx) <u>Associate Director Program Development & Coordinator of Data Science and Open Science Initiatives, National Library of Medicine</u> Email: mike.huerta@nih.gov</p>	<p>Dr. Huerta has led trans-NIH programs advancing scientific technology research, interdisciplinary research, and team science, as well as informatics, data science and open science initiatives. The latter include the NIH Human Connectome Project, which produced the first open, standardized, comprehensive, multimodal image datasets of human brain connectivity, the NIH National Database for Autism Research, a platform for collaboration with complex, diverse, research data from over 100,000 subjects, and the US Human Brain Project, which was instrumental in creating and establishing the field of Neuroinformatics. Today he is helping develop and harmonize aspects of data science and open science across NIH as the chair of trans-NIH task forces and coordinating committees, and he is providing leadership to realizing the future of NLM as a platform for biomedical discovery and data-powered health and the hub of data science and open science at NIH. Dr. Huerta's research background is in systems neuroscience; his undergraduate and doctoral work was completed at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, he was an NIH postdoctoral fellow at Vanderbilt University, and on the faculty of the University of Connecticut Health Center before joining NIH's National Institute of Mental Health in 1991 and moving to the National Library of Medicine in 2011.</p>
<p>SAMRC - The South African Medical Research Council (South Africa)</p>	
<p>Thabi Maitin Division Manager, Division of Research Capacity Development (RCD), SAMRC Email: Thabi.Maitin@mrc.ac.za</p>	<p>Thabi Maitin is responsible for the funding portfolio of the SAMRC that awards grants and scholarships towards training for Masters, PhD, Post doc, Early and Mid-career Scientists (health/clinical researchers. Largely, though not exclusively, RCD's mandate is the development of the next generation of Health and Clinical researchers in South Africa. I have worked in South Africa and abroad in the field of medical and health Sciences.</p>
<p>SARIMA - Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (South Africa)</p>	
<p>José Jackson Malete</p>	<p>José Jackson-Malete is the Associate Director within the</p>

<p>Past President, Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA) & Associate Director Alliance for African Partnership, Michigan State University Email: jacks184@msu.edu</p>	<p>Alliance for African Partnership (AAP) at Michigan State University, a new initiative to develop innovative ways of partnering with African institutions. She has responsibilities for co-creating an African led agenda in the AAPs program development and implementation as well as identifying, coordinating and strategic management of international partnerships, especially those related to science, technology and innovation. José was previously the Director of Research and Partnerships at the Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation (BITRI), the Deputy Director of Research at the University of Botswana, a faculty member of the University of the West Indies, and Product Development Scientist at Kraft Foods. She has a Masters and PhD in Food Science from Cornell University and Michigan State University, respectively, and has over 20 years' experience in academia, industry and the management of research in Africa, the Caribbean and the USA. She is the Past President of the Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA). José was born in St. Vincent in the Caribbean but spent the last 14 years living and working in Botswana with wide networks throughout the Caribbean and Africa. In addition to her work in partnerships and the management of research, she maintains an active research program that focuses on processing and adding value to indigenous foods, contributing to food and nutrition security, while improving livelihoods for communities</p>
<p>Sida - Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sweden)</p>	
<p>Professor Hannah Akuffo Co-Chair, ESSENCE Steering Committee Senior Specialist, Methods in Research Cooperation, Sida Email: Hannah.Akuffo@sida.se</p>	<p>Hannah Akuffo, ESSENCE Co-Chair, has worked with research capacity strengthening at Sida since 1999, first on Uganda, then heading the University Research Support unit. She is currently Senior Specialist, responsible for methods in research cooperation. She is an adjunct Professor of Parasitology at the Karolinska Institutet. For Prof Akuffo its passion and conviction that research capacity is key for continued possibilities for countries to define and address their own questions. She is a member of the Joint Coordinating Board (JCB) of TDR which she chaired from 2014 to 2016 and represents Sweden in the EDCTP General Assembly since its initiation and was its Chairperson 2010 to 2013. She is an Honorary Fellow of Royal College of Physicians and Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.</p>
<p><u>UKCDS - UK Collaborative on Development Sciences (UK)</u></p>	
<p>Marta Tufet <i>Executive Director, UKCDS</i> Email: M.Tufet@ukcds.org.uk</p>	<p>Marta Tufet is the Executive Director of The UK Collaborative on Development Sciences (UKCDS), a high-level mechanism to build strategic coherence across UK government departments and research funders to maximise the impact of research investments for international development. Before joining UKCDS, she led the development of the UK Department of Health's £450 million Global Health Research Programme, while on secondment from Wellcome where since 2009 she had been developing and implementing strategic research funding partnerships and capacity strengthening initiatives in</p>

	<p>developing countries. She has previously worked at Nature, the Charles Darwin Research Station in the Galapagos Islands, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the African Academy of Sciences in Kenya to establish the Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa. She is a Trustee of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene and of the Galapagos Conservation Trust. Marta has and B.Sc. in biology and a PhD in parasitology from Imperial College London</p>
UK NIHR - National Institute for Health Research (UK)	
<p>Helen Payne (via WebEx) Senior Research Manager, National Institute for Health Research Evaluation, Trials and Studies Coordinating Centre (NETSCC) Email: helen.payne@nihr.ac.uk</p>	<p>Helen Payne is a Senior Research Manager for the National Institute for Research (NIHR) Evaluation, Trials and Studies Coordinating Centre, based at the University of Southampton in the UK (NETSCC – www.nets.nihr.ac.uk). The NIHR funds and manages independent research for health, public health and social care decision-makers (www.nihr.ac.uk). Helen leads a portfolio of projects and initiatives including: enhancing the proportionality of peer review, developing stakeholder feedback, and international oversight. The NIHR's approach is underpinned by the Adding Value in Research (AViR) Framework, and Helen is a member of the cross-NIHR AViR working group leading a programme of work aimed at reducing waste and adding value in research, and of the coconvenors group for the Ensuring Value in Research (EViR) Funders' Collaboration and Development Forum.</p>
WELLCOME TRUST (UK)	
<p>Anna Ruddock Global Policy Adviser, Wellcome Trust Email: A.Ruddock@wellcome.ac.uk</p>	<p>Anna is a policy adviser in the Global Policy team at the Wellcome Trust. She co-leads strategy development for research uptake, with the goal of amplifying and accelerating the impact of Wellcome-funded research on health. Anna has a PhD in medical anthropology, with a regional specialism in South Asia, and has worked as senior research analyst at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office among other previous incarnations. When wearing her academic hat, she writes about health systems and medical education in India</p>
<p>Simon Kay (via WebEx) Member, ESSENCE Steering Committee <i>Head of international operations and partnerships, Science, Wellcome Trust</i> Email: s.kay@wellcome.ac.uk</p>	<p>Simon Kay is the Head of International Operations and Partnerships at Wellcome. He joined Wellcome in September 2012. He leads Wellcome's research capacity building initiatives in Africa and India and coordinates support to the five Africa and Asia Programmes. He has oversight of the DELTAS programme in sub-Saharan Africa and the Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa (AESAs) platform which was established in partnership with the African Academy of Sciences, NEPAD, the Gates Foundation and DFID. He studied for a degree in Zoology and a PhD in Tumour Immunology at the University of Nottingham. He then joined the British Council and worked in Singapore, Bangladesh, India, Nigeria, Russia, Sudan, Israel and the UK. During his career, he has built relations between the UK and other countries through education, science and the arts. He retains an interest in education as Governor at Ardingly College in West Sussex. He is</p>

	Director and Trustee of the Malaria Consortium; a Director of the Africa Health Research Institute in South Africa and a Director of the African Health Research Collaboration (ARCH) in Kenya. He serves on the Steering Committee of ESSENCE.
David Carr (via WebEx) Programme Manager Open Research, Wellcome Trust Email: d.carr@wellcome.ac.uk	
John Kirkland Consultant, Wellcome Trust Email: john_kirkland@yahoo.com	John Kirkland has worked as a Special Advisor for the Wellcome Trust since September 2017, assisting with the development of a new programme to support research management in Africa and India. Prior to that he worked at the Association of Commonwealth Universities from 1999-2017, for the last ten years as Deputy Secretary-General. In that capacity he was closely involved in measures to develop research management structures in African and Asian universities. John has hands on research management experience as Head of Research Services at Brunel University (1988-94) and Secretary of the UK National Institute of Economic and Social Research (1994-99). He also obtained his doctorate from Brunel in 1989.
WHO – World Health Organization (Switzerland)	
Dr Garry ASLANYAN, ESSENCE Secretariat Manager, Partnerships and Governance, WHO/TDR Email: aslanyang@who.int	Dr. Garry Aslanyan is currently the Manager of Partnerships and Governance at the World Health Organization (WHO) Special Programme on Research and Training on Tropical Diseases in Geneva, Switzerland. He is responsible for managing TDR's donor relations, governance and partnerships, including ESSENCE on Health Research initiative. Dr Aslanyan joined TDR in June 2009 and has had several roles. He currently oversees governance and partnership activities, and has developed and manages the ESSENCE on Health Research initiative, a framework for harmonization and alignment for capacity strengthening activities of research funding agencies. Trained in dentistry, public health, and health policy and systems, Dr Aslanyan previously worked at the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD). He is an Adjunct Professor in international health and public health at the University of Ottawa and the University of Toronto
Kemi Oladapo, ESSENCE Secretariat Associate Project Consultant, WHO/TDR Email: kemioladapo@gmail.com	Kemi Oladapo is the Associate Project Consultant at WHO/TDR, ESSENCE Secretariat. In this role, Kemi is responsible for providing management support and analysis in the areas of good governance and management, and member organizations' communications. She supports the Secretariat Coordinator with programme activities including monitoring the implementation of the biennial workplan and preparing follow ups of regular steering committee and members annual meetings. Kemi has more than 15 years of experience in business and financial management, including leadership positions at leading financial institutions in Africa, where she oversaw the daily operations of the marketing unit with primary focus on driving revenue growth and managing risk. Kemi holds a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, MBA with speciality in management and a Masters degree in Project Management

	from the University of Salford, Manchester, UK.
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