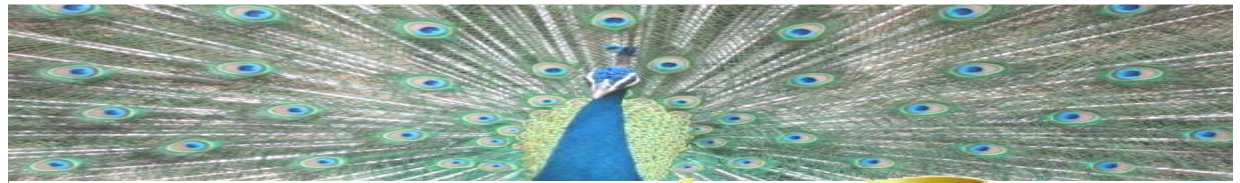


CLEAR VIEW



Jan—Mar 2011

Volume 1, Issue 2

CLEAR Celebrates One Year Anniversary

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- Growing Burden of Cancer in Africa
- New Member in Staff Corner

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 4

World Cancer Day

February 7- 10

3rd International conference on Drug Discovery and Therapy
Dubai, United Emirates

March 15- 17

13th Annual Scientific Conference
Dhaka, Bangladesh

March 17-18

WHO International Conference on environmental and occupational determinants of cancer: Interventions for Primary Prevention.
Asturias, Spain

March 24

World TB Day

April 4-6

Communicable Disease Control Conference
Canberra, Australia

April 6-7

Fifth African Regional Conference on Sustainable Development
Edo State, Nigeria

CLEAR OPENS NEW OFFICE IN CAMEROON

In Western Africa, the prospects for small businesses have recently increased since the region has been experiencing significant economic growth over the past decade. According to the World Bank's 2007 Doing Business report, Africa had the third fastest rate of economic reform in the world. Under this fertile economic and social environment, CLEAR opted to export its business location to Cameroon.

The Process

CLEAR started the process of establishing a business in Cameroon in August 2010. The process of registering a business entity was quite easy to navigate. It seems that the Cameroonian government has significantly reformed this process in order to facilitate exporting businesses into the country. A dedicated government agency is now available for such matters. In the past, this process could easily take 6 to 9 months. The registration process took less than a week once all the required paperwork was in place.

The Location

CLEAR-CAMEROON's office is located in Yaoundé in the neighborhood of Etoudi (a few kilometers from the Cameroonian president's palace) in an emerging business district. The new building housing our office is also home to other small businesses such as a wellness center, an insurance company, a web design company, a microfinance agency and others.

The Opportunities

CLEAR-CAMEROON plans on maintaining and sustaining a business presence in Cameroon as the country is home to a number of organizations and institutions with healthcare programs and health research. Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroon, is also home to the Ministry of Health whose mission is the improvement of the health situation of the population in the country. In general, the health sector in Cameroon has shown a renewed interest in partnerships by encouraging multiple multilateral structures for technical and financial support to health and by the launching of numerous ambitious initiatives to speed up the achievement of health-related Millennium Development Goals. For example, in early 2010, the Secretariat for the Multilateral Initiative on Malaria (MIM) was moved to Cameroon after being based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (2006- 2010), and Stockholm, Sweden (2003-2005). MIM's mission is to strengthen and sustain through collaborative research and training, the capacity of malaria-endemic countries in Africa to carry out research that is required to develop and improve tools for malaria control and to strengthen the research-control interphase.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The survey results are in and will be available in early February at www.clear-inc.com. Congratulations to our winner of the iPod Nano, Nicodemus Kisengese! We would like to thank everyone for your participation which provided valuable feedback to help us grow and improve.
- Check out a feature online article on our president Sylvie Kwedi in Africalog—<http://www.africalog.com/upclose/decouvrez-sylvie-kwedi>.

STAFF CORNER:



Sylvie Kwedi, MPH, MSc
Founder & President

Recently the Deputy Director for Site Development and Epidemiology at Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation. She headed capacity building activities for the conduct of TB vaccine research in several African countries and Asia. Ms. Kwedi has also worked with the American Red Cross as a Project Manager for the development of blood derived therapeutics.



Cherise Scott, Ph.D., MPH
Founder & Director

Dr Scott has worked in vaccine development preparing clinical research sites to conduct clinical trials with Sabin Vaccine Institute and the Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation. Dr Scott has extensive experience in GXP and vaccine development, as well as the implementation of quality management systems in organizations in various African countries, South America, Australia and Asia.

GLOBAL HEALTH NEWS UPDATE



The Future of Vaccines: Immunizations are at an all time high due to the high roll-out by international organizations to populations that need them most. At the same time, vaccines have come under harsh scrutiny from parents and critics doubting their safety in certain countries. Anti-vaccine movements are prevalent in countries such as the United States and the United Kingdom, but they have recently emerged in countries like India and Ukraine. People have become wary of the vaccines more than the diseases themselves. Outbreaks of polio have ignited in countries certified as polio-free, such as Tajikistan, and the United States has seen the rise of measles and pertussis. There needs to be an aggressive dissemination of information about the safety of vaccines for the public. [<http://www.globalhealthmagazine.com>]

- **Asia: Revamping the Fight against TB in Nepal!** Nepal is intensifying its battle against TB strains resistant to drugs, which threatens to eradicate its people. [<http://www.globalhealthmagazine.com>]
- **Africa: Eliminating Meningitis in Africa!** MenAfriVac is the first meningococcal A vaccine designed specifically for Africa. It is expected to help eliminate meningococcal A epidemics in the 25 countries that make the meningitis belt, starting from Senegal in the west across to Ethiopia in the east. [<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/>]
- **Americas: Roll out of Pneumococcal Vaccine in Nicaragua!** The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI) rolls out new pneumococcal vaccine in Nicaragua, as part of the regular childhood immunization package provided by the country's Ministry of Health. [http://www.gavi.org/media_center/]
- **Europe: Smoking is the culprit behind the gender health gap in Europe!** Research across 30 European countries finds that smoking causes 40-60% of the gender health gap, with women living four years longer than men. [<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/>]
- **Pacific Island: Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) are "Fiji's Silent Killers"!** NCDs cause 82% of the deaths in Fiji. The Ministry of Health is waging a fearless war to educate its populace about lifestyle modifications, that can save lives and the future of the island; through campaigns on smoking cessation, healthy eating, moderate alcohol consumption and increasing physical activity! [<http://www.pina.com.fj>]

HIGHLIGHT A PARTNER — CIRCIB

Chantal Biya International Reference Centre For Research on HIV and AIDS Prevention and Management (CIRCIB) is a cutting-edge research center in Yaoundé, CAMEROON. CIRCIB's success is based on maximizing the extensive experience of staff and collaborators in the field of HIV/AIDS research and capacity building for clinical research in Cameroon. CIRCIB was created in 2006 as a result of an advocacy effort led by African Synergies, an NGO initiated by African first ladies. A number of local and international institutions also participated in the creation of CIRCIB such as the Cameroonian and Italian governments, the World Foundation for AIDS Research and Prevention, UNESCO and the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland.



CIRCIB's main goal is to contribute to the global health community by increasing knowledge and the quality of care and services to persons living with, as well as those affected by HIV/AIDS. The Center's core competencies are in Microbial Immunology, Molecular Microbiology, Bioinformatics, Clinical Pathology, clinical cohort studies, community based clinical research for HIV/AIDS, programs for HIV prevention (primary and secondary) and care and services for people living with, as well as persons affected by HIV/AIDS.

Over its lifetime, CIRCIB's projects have been funded by various local and international institutions such as the Ministry of Health of Cameroon, UNESCO, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Elsevier Foundation, Higher Institute of Health (Italy), University of Tor Vergata (Italy) and the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trial Partnership (EDCTP).

CLEAR is working with CIRCIB to come up with strategies for setting a clinical trial core facility. For more information, please visit CIRCIB's website—<http://www.circib.com/>



**Amadu Kamara, MAF
Founder & Director**

Mr Kamara has worked for the Tax Accounting and bookkeeping fields. Mr Kamara has extensive experience with not-for-profit businesses and individual tax return preparation. He is a member of the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants (MACPAs).



**Atlang Mompe, BA
Intern**

Ms Mompe recently graduated Magna Cum Laude from Gettysburg College. Ms Mompe has a deep interest in public health issues, especially the HIV/AIDS epidemic. She is currently working for the Social and Scientific System as a Research Associate I.



**Rodrigue Ntone
Business Administrator**

Mr Ntone is a Business Law Major at the University of Douala, Cameroon. He has skills in business management and has ambition to pursue Project Management Training. He has worked on establishing the official structure of CLEAR in Cameroon by taking care of all the administrative tasks. He aspires to pursue a Master's in Business Law.

CLEAR OPENS NEW OFFICE IN CAMEROON —CONTINUED

The Strategy

CLEAR aims to keep up with the competition by providing personalized, face-to-face services to our clients. CLEAR will work hand in hand with the health research in-country for the duration of project activities. This physical presence allows for real time exchange, troubleshooting and devising of strategies to address problems on a day to day basis. CLEAR's staff is an integral part of each project team, as is any in-house staff member involved in the project. In our experience, the competing large organizations involved in capacity building are housed in the developed countries and lend their expertise to the African institutions for a few days or a few weeks at a time and, still, the African partners are left to sustain the efforts and work on their own. CLEAR stays in-country with projects through all phases of the work.

Acknowledgements

We are honored and delighted to have a business entity housed in Africa. We are grateful to our partners, the Cameroonian government and our mentors for their assistance in realizing our mission. We look forward to a long business life in Cameroon and everywhere we conduct business.

GROWING BURDEN OF CANCER IN AFRICA

In a keynote address at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Scientific Forum in September 2010, Dr. Margaret Chan, the Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO), said the increase in incidence of cancer in the developing world is "an impending disaster." The statistics alone are daunting with approx. 70% of cancer deaths (approx. 5.5 million deaths) occurring in the developing countries, but the lack of healthcare infrastructure and resources specific to combating cancer is what could allow cancer deaths to reach 9 million by 2030 in these countries. [1]

Over the next ten years, the continent of Africa will see the largest increase in morbidity and mortality rates of non-communicable diseases including cancers according to the projections of the World Health Organization (WHO).[2] A call by the World Health Assembly urged WHO member states to strengthen national efforts to address the burden of non-communicable diseases such as cancer through legislation, plans, programs, policies, and leadership. [3]

With communicable diseases accounting for 69% of deaths in Africa, significant challenges in addressing and controlling non-communicable diseases exist for countries facing scarce resources and increasing burdens from both infectious and chronic diseases. [4] Health systems are poor within these countries with many hospitals and clinics lacking basic equipment for effective diagnosis and treatment and with few health professionals with specialized knowledge, training and experience in chronic diseases. [5]

Experts agree that a multi-faceted and multi-institutional approach that targets 1) the individual, 2) the community, and 3) the social and structural aspects of interventions for chronic disease is needed in order to improve outcomes in the face of scarce resources. [6] Unwin and colleagues recommend a three-pronged approach for dealing with the dual burden of infectious and chronic diseases in Sub-Saharan Africa:

- Epidemiological surveillance
- Primary prevention (preventing disease in healthy populations) and
- Secondary prevention (preventing complications & improving quality of life in affected communities) [6, 7]



LITTLE KNOW FACTS



DRUGS

When drugs are ingested, they enter the person's bloodstream and leave trace amounts in the hair follicles. As the hair grows, the drugs remain stored in the core of the hair shaft. They cannot be removed by washing, bleaching or any other means.



BANDAGES

The use of bandages dates back many centuries. It is believed that the first bandages were strips of animal hide and dressings were plant materials. The first Band-Aid was invented by Earl Dickinson who worked for Johnson and Johnson. He created it by using a strip of Johnson and Johnson's surgical tape and attaching a pad of gauze on the sticky side. On the reverse side, he attached crinoline to protect the bandage. The trade name, Band-Aid was adopted in 1920.

GROWING BURDEN OF CANCER IN AFRICA —CONTINUED

Capacity building for cancer research and care is a priority that needs to be pushed closer to the top of the public health agenda for the governments of African countries to slow the rising burden of cancer. If the issues surrounding diagnosis, treatment, and control of cancer and other noncommunicable diseases are not addressed, the health systems and infrastructure already pushed to the max by infectious diseases could be fully overwhelmed and crippled by the costs involved in clinical management of cancer.

There are a small number of organizations that are focusing on the problem of cancer in the developing world and more organizations and partnerships are needed. Among those that do exist, the list includes:

- [IAEA's PACT \(Program of Action for Cancer Therapy\)](#)
- [UICC \(International Union Against Cancer\)](#)
- [CANSAs \(Cancer Association of South Africa\)](#)
- [Cancer Research Initiative of South Africa](#)

Citations

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— Talent Has No Boundaries —



The Acronym CLEAR is "Capacity Leadership Excellence and Research" that embodies our mission and character of our company.

Mission: CLEAR seeks to promote global health through the development of independent, sustainable clinical programs and research systems in resource limited settings with stringent compliance to international standards for the conduct of ethical human research and impactful health programs.



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