Research capacity building with mycetoma as the central research challenge

Article  (Accepted Version)

Davey, Gail, Callow, Clare and Newport, Melanie J (2021) Research capacity building with mycetoma as the central research challenge. Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, 115 (4). p. 436. ISSN 0035-9203

This version is available from Sussex Research Online: http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/id/eprint/106557/

This document is made available in accordance with publisher policies and may differ from the published version or from the version of record. If you wish to cite this item you are advised to consult the publisher’s version. Please see the URL above for details on accessing the published version.

Copyright and reuse:
Sussex Research Online is a digital repository of the research output of the University.

Copyright and all moral rights to the version of the paper presented here belong to the individual author(s) and/or other copyright owners. To the extent reasonable and practicable, the material made available in SRO has been checked for eligibility before being made available.

Copies of full text items generally can be reproduced, displayed or performed and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational, or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided that the authors, title and full bibliographic details are credited, a hyperlink and/or URL is given for the original metadata page and the content is not changed in any way.

http://sro.sussex.ac.uk
Dear Sir,

Research capacity building with mycetoma as the central research challenge.

The Lancet Commission on the future of health in sub-Saharan Africa concluded that Africa’s research transformation will only happen through investment, collaboration and partnerships. Here, we describe the research capacity building partnership developed between the Mycetoma Research Centre in Khartoum, Sudan, and the Centre for Global Health Research at Brighton & Sussex Medical School (BSMS), UK. This partnership, supported by the BSMS-NIHR Global Health Research Unit (GHRU) on Neglected Tropical Diseases and the NIHR RIGHT-funded 5S Foundation, uses the multidisciplinary, translational model originally used to study podoconiosis, another highly neglected tropical condition, and applies this to the conundrum that is mycetoma.

With the Mycetoma Research Centre already strongly equipped to carry out clinical and laboratory research, our partnership has deployed approaches less frequently used in Sudan, including geospatial analysis, health economics and medical anthropology. Three GHRU PhD students are currently nearing the end of their training, and two more will be trained through the 5S Foundation, which will bring a range of social science perspectives to bear on mycetoma. UK-based trainees will benefit from exposure to an institution founded on a passion to serve patients.

Alongside capacity building of research academics, this partnership also emphasizes wider capacity building in research support, through parallel training in research management, financial processes, and impact, communications and engagement. While it is hoped that this broad-based approach will bring benefit relatively rapidly to the Mycetoma Research Centre, the longer term aims of the partnership are that enduring in-country expertise is nurtured across a range of research skills and disciplines. For this, patience combined with vision within the partnership, and a stable external funding environment will be essential.

Yours faithfully,

Gail Davey, Clare Callow and Melanie J. Newport

1. Centre for Global Health Research, Brighton & Sussex Medical School, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9PX UK.
2. School of Public Health, PO Box 9086, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
References


