

Medical Research Council of South Africa: Current collaborations with the Rest of Africa (June 2007)

MRC Unit	Feedback on collaborations with the Rest of Africa (RoA) in 2007
National Programme: Environment & Development	
Alcohol & Drug Abuse Research Unit	No current collaborations with RoA
Exercise Science and Sports Medicine Research Unit	This unit is working with the University of Kenyatta in Nairobi. The work relates to studies of elite Kenyan runners. The principle investigator in South Africa is Prof Tim Noakes and the principle investigator in Kenya is Professor Mike Boit. No funding yet, but planning to form an inter-university memorandum of agreement which would allow the collaboration to raise funds from international donors.
Environment & Health Research Unit	-
Health Promotion Research & Development Group	-
Occupational & Environmental Health Research Group	-
National Programme: Health Systems & Policy	
Biostatistics Unit	-
Burden of Disease Research Unit	-
Cochrane Centre	<p>The South African Cochrane Centre (SACC) is part of the international Cochrane Collaboration (http://www.cochrane.org) that is a non-profit organization operating worldwide, which disseminates up-to-date reviews on the effects of healthcare interventions in order to help people make well-informed decisions. The SACC is the only Cochrane Centre in Africa and serves as the reference Centre for individuals in the following African countries who would like to contribute to The Cochrane Collaboration: Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, Comoros, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.</p> <p>Projects:</p> <p>1) SUPPORT Collaboration (SUPporting POLicy relevant Reviews and Trials) to improve evidence-based policy relating to maternal and child health in low and middle income countries. Collaborating countries: Norway, Argentina, South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Chile, Columbia, Scotland, Poland. Principal Investigators in South Africa and other African countries: Julie Cliff, University of Eduardo Mondlane, Mozambique; Godfrey Woelk, University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe; Jimmy Volmink, SACC, South Africa. Funded by European Union.</p> <p>2) Effective Health Care Research Programme Consortium, aiming to increase evidence-based</p>

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	decision-making in middle and low income countries. Collaborating countries: India, Nigeria, Philippines, Russia, Thailand, South Africa and UK. Principal Investigators in South Africa and other African countries: Martin Meremikwu, University of Calabar, Calabar, Nigeria; Jimmy Volmink, SACC, South Africa. Department for International Development, UK.
Health Policy Research Group	-
Health Systems Research Unit	-
Telemedicine PPPs & Enterprise Creation	-
Rural Public Health & Health Transition Research Unit	-
National Programme: Non-Communicable Diseases	
Anxiety and Stress Disorders Research Unit	-
Cancer Epidemiology Research Group	-
Chronic Diseases of Lifestyle Research Unit	<p>Funder: Unilever, RSA Name of project: Kenyan Adult Women's Study The main purpose of this study was to assess the food and nutrient intake of adult women in Kenya. Principal Investigator: Dr Nelia Steyn Amount: R167,033.00 Timeline: October 2005 – year 2006, fieldwork completed in 2006, data have been analysed in 2006 The following report is available at CDL: Steyn NP, Nel JH. Dietary intake of adult women in South Africa, Kenya and Nigeria with a focus on the use of spreads. Cape Town: South African Medical Research Council, 2006 Currently waiting on reply from Unilever, RSA, RE application for funding for the writing up of the data for scientific publication.</p>
Crime, Violence and Injury Lead Programme	-
Diabetes Research Group	-
Interuniversity Cape Heart Research Group	This unit does not currently have collaborative projects, however it does train Nigerian students
Medical Imaging Research Unit	This unit does not have direct project collaborations, but hosts PhD students from countries such as the Sudan and Zimbabwe
PROMEK Unit	1) Project: Natural occurrence of fumonisins and the Fusarium species associated with maize, sorghum

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	<p>and millet grain intended for human consumption in Africa. Outline of the project: The natural occurrence of fumonisins and moniliformin and the fungi producing mycotoxins in maize, sorghum and millet samples collected from several locations in Nigeria are being analysed. Country with which collaborating: Nigeria Principal investigators and affiliations: South Africa: Drs HF Vismer and GS Shephard, PROMEC Unit, Medical Research Council, Tygerberg, South Africa Collaborating country: Dr R Bandyopadhyay of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan, Nigeria Funding agency: INTSORMIL, University of Nebraska, Nebraska.</p> <p>2) Project: Comparative analysis of aflatoxin exposure of breastfeeding mothers and infants in rural Southern Africa and Kenya Outline of the project: The study is to explore aflatoxin exposure in infants and breastfeeding mothers in rural Southern Africa (Lesotho and South Africa) and in Kenya. The study is centred on weaning infants who are most vulnerable to growth stunting and under-weight if exposed to aflatoxins. There is little recent data on the extent and impact of aflatoxin exposure in South Africa and Lesotho. Countries involved: South Africa, Lesotho, Kenya Principle Investigators and affiliations: South Africa: Dr David Katerere, PROMEC Unit, Dr Mieke Faber, Nutrition Intervention, Medical Research Council, Tygerberg, South Africa. Collaborating country: Ms Moikabi Matsoai (National University of Lesotho), Dr Elizabeth Mbutia (Egerton University, Kenya) Funding agency: National Research Foundation (NRF), South Africa (Pending)</p>
National Programme: Infection & Immunity	
Clinical and Biomedical Tuberculosis Research Unit	Possible submission awaited
Diarrhoeal Pathogens Research Unit	-
Genital Ulcer Disease Research Unit	-
HIV Prevention Research Unit	-
Immunology of Infectious Disease Research Unit	-
Inflammation and Immunity Research Unit	-
Malaria Research Lead Programme	1. Project: Spatial Analysis of Antimalarial Drug Resistance in Africa

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	<p>Aim: To generate low resolution maps illustrating the distribution of genes resistant to Sulphadoxine Pyrimethamine. List of countries collaborating with Malaria Research Programme: Liberia, Namibia, Zambia Foreign Principal Investigator: Dr Cally Roper, Department of Infectious and Tropical Diseases, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine South African Investigator: Inbarani Naidoo (MRC) Funding agency: Gates Malaria Partnership</p> <p>2. Project: Collating antimalarial Drug Resistance data in Africa Aim: To collate efficacy data on antimalarial drug resistance in Africa and to analyse their spatial and temporal distribution, as part of the Mapping Malaria Risk in Africa (MARA) Project List of countries collaborating with the Malaria Research Programme: Cameroon, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia Principal Investigator: Inbarani Naidoo(MRC) Funding Agency: CDC (USA)</p> <p>3. Project: Lubombo Spatial Development Initiative Aim: A tri-country initiative between Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland to reduce the transmission of malaria in the area bounded by the Lubombo Mountains to less than 50% compared to the baseline of 2000 List of countries collaborating with Malaria Research Programme: Mozambique, Swaziland Principal investigators: Dr Rajendra Maharaj (MRC) Collaborators: Mr Simon Kunene, National Malaria Control Programme, Ministry of Health & Social Welfare, Manzini, Swaziland Dr Ivone Rungo, National Malaria Control Programme, Ministry of Health, Maputo, Mozambique Funding agency: Global Fund Against AIDS, TB and Malaria</p> <p>4. Project: Extension of the Lubombo Spatial Development Initiative into Gaza Province, Mozambique Aim: A tri-country initiative between Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland to reduce the transmission of malaria in Gaza province, Mozambique to less than 50% compared to the baseline of 2006 List of countries collaborating with Malaria Research Programme: Mozambique, Swaziland Principal Investigators and Funding Agency: as above in Project 3</p> <p>5. Project: Bioko Island Malaria Control Programme Aim: Eliminate malaria on the Island of Bioko, Equitorial Guinea List of countries collaborating with Malaria Research Programme: Equitorial Guinea, United States Principal investigator in South Africa: Dr Rajendra Maharaj Collaborators: Dr Christopher Schwabe, Medical Care Development International, Silver Spring, Maryland, USA</p>

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	<p>Jaime Kuklinski, One World Development Group, Gainesville, Florida, USA Funding agency: Marathon Oil (USA)</p> <p>6. Project: Equitorial Guinea Malaria Control Programme Aim: Reduce the transmission of malaria on mainland Equitorial Guinea by 50% in five years commencing in 2007 List of countries collaborating with Malaria Research Programme: Equitorial Guinea, United States Principal investigator in South Africa: Dr Rajendra Maharaj Collaborators: As above in Project 5 Funding agency: Global Funds against AIDS, TB and Malaria</p>
TB Epidemiology and Intervention Research Unit	-
Respiratory & Meningeal Pathogens Research Unit	-
South African AIDS Vaccine Initiative	-
South African Traditional Medicines Research Unit	-
National Programme: Molecules to Disease	
Bioinformatics Capacity Development Research Unit	<p>Has collaborations with a large number of African countries through their WHO-funded Tropical Disease Research workshops for bioinformatics training in Africa. An overview of the course for 2006: The Regional Training Course on Bioinformatics and Functional Genomics Applied to Tsetse Fly Research is an initiative designed as part of the activities of WHO/TDR in collaboration with the South African National Bioinformatics Institute (SANBI). The aim of this initiative is to promote capability of scientists from endemic countries to exploit genome resources that are rapidly being developed for Glossina, the vector of Human African Trypanosomiasis. The objective is to introduce the participants to basic information on the application of genome information and the potential for development of functional genomics tools that can be applied in vector control. The regional course will focus on bioinformatics (computational biology) concepts and implementations relevant to functional genomics of the Tsetse fly. The countries represented at the training in 2006 include: Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Cameroon, South Africa. Lecturers from Kenya and Uganda also participated. The workshops are given annually and are sponsored by UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases as well as the South African Medical Research Council.</p> <p>Also has collaborating partners from Tunisia, Prof Dr Koussay Dellagi and Dr Alia Benkhala, on a project titled "SYSCO" - Systematic analysis and functional genomics of intracellular parasitism as a model of genomes conflict. The project is funded by the EU 6th Framework Programme.</p>

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Bone Research Unit	-
Centre for Molecular and Cellular Biology	-
Human Genetics Research Unit	-
Human Genomic Diversity and Disease Research Unit	-
Indigenous Knowledge Systems Lead Programme	<p>Project: Development of Novel Compounds with Antiplasmodial Activity Isolated from an Indigenous Southern African Traditional Medicinal Plant Principal Investigator in collaborating country: Prof B Abegaz, Department of Chemistry, University of Botswana, Botswana</p> <p>Project: Development of Novel Compounds with Antiplasmodial Activity Isolated from an Indigenous Southern African Traditional Medicinal Plant Principal Investigator in collaborating country: Prof N Lami, Department of Pharmacy, Kinshasa University, DRC</p> <p>Project: The Biological and Pharmacological Evaluation of African Medicinal Plants for some Chronic Diseases Prevalent in Africa Principal Investigator in collaborating country: Professor Ange Antoine Abena, Faculté de Services de la Santé, Université Marien Ngouabi, Congo Republic</p> <p>Project: The Biological and Pharmacological Evaluation of African Medicinal Plants for some Chronic Diseases Prevalent in Africa Principal Investigator in collaborating country: Professor Jean Baptiste Nikiema, Unite de Formation et de Recherche en Sciences de la Sante Medicines Traditionnelle, Ministère de la Sante, Université de Ouagadougou, and Professor Jean-Bosco Ouedraogo, Direction Regionale de l'Oues, IRSSt, Burkina Faso</p> <p>Project: The Biological and Pharmacological Evaluation of African Medicinal Plants for some Chronic Diseases Prevalent in Africa Principal Investigator in collaborating country: Prof GO Adegoke, Faculty of Technology, University of Ibadan, Nigeria</p> <p>Projects: 1) Scientific research and institutional collaboration in the areas of Traditional Medicine and 2) Biotechnology and Transfer of technology and poverty alleviation projects based on IKS Principal Investigator in collaborating country: 1) Dr A Ait Habbouche, Département de Biotechnologie, and 2) Mr Mohammed Kouidri, Faculté des Sciences, Université d'Oran Es Sénia, Algeria</p> <p>Project: Traditional Medicines Research</p>

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	<p>Principal Investigator in collaborating country: Dr Geoffrey Rukunga, Traditional Medicines Department, Kenya Medical Research Institute, Kenya Project: The Regional Initiative on Traditional Medicine and Malaria, TB and HIV and AIDS in Africa (RITMA) Principal Investigator in collaborating country: Dr D Balaba and Dr Jaco Homsoy (Consortium of Uganda, South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi and Ghana), African Consortium, Traditional Healers and Modern Doctors together against HIV and AIDS and other diseases (THETA), Uganda</p>
Liver Research Centre	This unit does not currently have collaborations with the Rest of Africa
Molecular Hepatology Research Unit	<p>The Molecular Hepatology Research Unit has a collaborative project with Dr M Chirara of the College of Health Sciences, University of Zimbabwe. The title of the project is: Genotypes and sub-genotypes of Hepatitis B virus in isolates of the virus in Zimbabwe in comparison with those found in South Africa. They have good data on the prevalence of Hepatitis B virus genotypes and subgenotypes in South Africa but not in other southern African countries, including Zimbabwe. The aim of the study is to ascertain the pattern of Hepatitis B virus genotypes in Zimbabwe.</p>
Molecular Mycobacteriology Research Unit	This unit does not currently have collaborations in Africa.
Receptor Biology Research Group	-
Oesophageal Cancer Research Group	<p>This unit is collaborating with Professor O Ebrahim at University of Khartoum, Sudan. Project: Oesophageal cancer in Sudan. They are looking at the role of genetic polymorphisms in the detoxification genes. Principal Investigator in South Africa: Prof MI Parker Funding agency: small amount of funds from UNESCO</p>
National Programme: Women & Child Health	
Gender and Health Research Unit	This unit currently has capacity development links, but no collaborative projects at present. At the time of reporting, the unit is co-running a violence research methods course in Kenya.
Maternal and Infant Health Care Strategies Research Unit	<p>Ghana - Implementing Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC). They are using our training package and we are providing technical support. Funders are UNICEF.</p> <p>Malawi - Evaluation of Kangaroo Mother Care. The KMC programme is being evaluated by using the evaluation tool developed by the unit. Funding by Saving Newborn Lives (part of the Save the Children Fund).</p> <p>SADC - Modification and implementation of the Basic Antenatal Care Programme developed by the unit for these countries. Funding application has been submitted to UNICEF on their and the National</p>

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	Department of Health's NEPAD office's request.
Mineral Metabolism Research Unit	-
Nutritional Intervention Research Unit	This unit has no current collaborations in Africa
MRC Innovation Centre	<p>Title: Africa Programme for Health Innovation Project Leaders: MRC Innovation Centre (Michelle Mulder) and Centre for the Management of IP in Health R&D (MIHR) (Rachelle Harris) Collaborators in East Africa: Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Makerere University, University of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH), National Council for Science and Technology (NCST) Kenya, and Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) Purpose: To work together to build IP management and technology transfer capacity in institutions in East Africa Funding: Needs assessment funded by DFID and the Rockefeller Foundation and training workshops funded by Wellcome Trust</p>