

The Kigali Declaration on Evidence Based Healthcare in Africa,

Kigali, Rwanda 12.12.2012

Final version

We are representatives of universities, health colleges, hospitals, NGOs and research institutions from Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe, UK, the Netherlands, and from the WHO.

We gathered in Kigali, Rwanda on 11th and 12th of December 2012 to discuss strategies for promoting cost effective, evidence based healthcare in Africa. The meeting was organised by the University of Rwanda, Ministry of Health, Rwanda, the Royal Tropical Institute (Netherlands) and the Collaboration for Evidence Based Healthcare in Africa.

We call for action to ensure that health practice and health systems in Africa are informed by the best available evidence.

GIVEN THAT

Health is a human right

There are still huge unmet health needs across Africa

Health is a prerequisite for development and is essential for the reduction of poverty

Effective public health and healthcare interventions are able to address these health challenges

WE RECOGNISE THAT

Evidence based methodology has significantly improved health practice and influenced policy in many countries over the last two decades

In Africa this methodology has not yet widely penetrated healthcare systems

There are many new healthcare approaches that have been shown to be effective and could reduce the burden of disease in Africa

There are various preventive and public health strategies which are evidence based and which have not yet been widely implemented

There is insufficient health research infrastructure, and a lack of research projects and programmes relevant to African needs

Supportive infrastructure and training are essential for enabling healthcare decision makers to identify and use research evidence

The information technology and telecommunication revolution provides new opportunities for access to research evidence but these opportunities have not been fully utilised

A strong health system is important in securing the delivery of evidence based healthcare

There is a need to ensure equitable access to healthcare for all

There are increasing opportunities for collaboration and cooperation across Africa.

WE RECOMMEND THAT

A sustainable collaboration to foster evidence based healthcare in Africa is developed

Health workers, policy makers and researchers are trained and infrastructure is provided to support evidence based healthcare

Evidence based healthcare is integrated into health education curricula

All health workers have access to relevant electronic health information resources

Systematic reviews and guidelines relevant to African healthcare needs and disease burden are developed

Health care practitioners, policy makers and consumers of health care are supported to identify and use reliable evidence in making healthcare decisions

Effective dissemination and implementation strategies are established

Research to further strengthen the knowledge base for the implementation of evidence based healthcare in the African context is encouraged and supported

Centres and satellite offices for evidence based healthcare are established in all the partnering countries.

WE THEREFORE CALL UPON

The Health Ministries to take the lead in supporting evidence based healthcare by prioritising interventions and prevention strategies that are fair and proven effective

Healthcare providers at national and local level to implement evidence based practice at all levels of health care

WHO to provide relevant guidance and to support the implementation of evidence based healthcare in African health systems

Education institutions to integrate evidence based methodologies into their curricula and training programmes

NGOs to focus their projects and programmes on interventions that are supported by reliable and relevant research evidence

Funding agencies to support the development of a sustainable infrastructure for research and evidence based healthcare and to foster collaboration and local ownership

The international scientific community to support and collaborate on primary and secondary research relevant to African health needs and priorities.

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