



SMERT PROJECT

BACKGROUND

Sreamlining Health Research **E**thics review process and **R**egulatory framework in **T**anzania (SMERT) project is a two (2) years project which was inaugurated in December, 2017. The project will run up until November, 2019. It is funded by the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP), a funding mechanism under the EU's Horizon 2020 research program.

The SMERT project will investigate and streamline ethical review of health research and the regulatory framework within Tanzania. The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) through its Mbeya Medical Research Centre (MMRC) and the National Health Research Ethics Committee (NathREC) Secretariat at NIMR Headquarters, the Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA) and the Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute (KCRI) are the three Tanzanian Institutions that have teamed up in collaboration with the University of St. Andrews (USTAN) in Scotland, UK to achieve the objectives of the project.

OBJECTIVES

SMERT Project aims at building an efficient and effective ethics review and regulatory monitoring system in Tanzania through:

1. Improving ethical conduct both in research and clinical practice
2. Harmonising regulations and operational framework to ensure standardised ethical and regulatory observance across sectors.
3. Identifying and fixing loopholes to increase efficiency and effectiveness
4. Training to increase acumen of members of RECs and regulatory bodies.
5. Networking to increase synergistic cooperation
6. Strengthening capacity of NatHREC including the electronic submission system for faster submission and follow-up of protocols for review.
7. Strengthening TFDA monitoring and Pharmacovigilance capacity

WORK PACKAGE

The project will be implemented under 5 work packages:

Work Package 1: The Audit

Work package 2: Training

Work package 3: Networking

Work package 4: Systems capacity building

Work package 5: Dissemination

PHOTO



A group photo of SMERT members when met at TFDA on 26th July 2018 to discuss the implementation of the project.



For more information visit:

<http://www.mmrp.org/projects/interventions/smert-project>

<http://med.st-andrews.ac.uk/infection/2018/04/26/launch-of-partnership-to-strengthen-research-ethics-and-medicines-regulation-in-tanzania/>