AFRICAN VACCINE REGULATORY FORUM

In strengthening capacity of african ethical review committees and national regulatory agencies

Samba Cor Sarr Vice Chair of AVAREF, with contribution of Akanmori Dicky from WHO/ Afro

Stakeholder meeting, Antwerp; 29 November 2013
History of AVAREF

Network approach to regulation of clinical trials proposed at workshop organized by WHO (Jan/2005)

Development of model regulatory procedures (2005/2006)

Joint reviews of CTAs and joint GCP inspections of phase II trial of Meningitis A vaccine using model procedures (2006)

Birth of AVAREF (AVAREF-1 Accra, Sept 06)

- AVAREF-2, Burkina Faso, Sept 07
- AVAREF-3, Tanzania, Oct 08
- AVAREF-4, Nigeria, Sept 09
- AVAREF-5, Kenya, Sept 10
- AVAREF-6, Mozambique, Sept 11
- AVAREF-7, Gabon, Sept 12

AVAREF-8, Entebbe, Uganda 14-18 Oct 2013

Plenary presentations by product developers/regulators/researchers, Task team meetings, Joint reviews,.
Country members of AVAREF

- Botswana,
- Burkina Faso,
- Republic Democratic of Congo (RDC)
- Republic of Congo (Congo Brazza)
- Guinea equatoriale
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mozambique
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Republic of centrafic
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Countries contacted to become AVAREF members: Ivory Coast, Benin, Guinea
Partners and countries support AVAREF

- WHO/AFRO (secretariat)
- WHO/HQ
- GSK, Belgium
- Health Canada
- Gates Fondation/USA
- PATH Malaria Vaccine Institute/USA
- AERAS/USA
- EDCTP

- EMEA
- European Union
- African Union
- The list is not completed,
- During our meetings, we use 3 languages: French, Portuguese, English, the documents published by AVAREF are also on 3 languages
- Website: [www.avaref.net](http://www.avaref.net)
African Vaccine Regulatory Forum (AVAREF)
A network approach to Capacity building and harmonization for regulation in the WHO AFR Region

Representation: 20 countries target for CT of HIV, Malaria, TB, meningitis vaccines

Scope

Regulation of medicines

Regulation of vaccines (registration, PMS etc.)

Regulation of clinical trials

Informal structure allows rapid and dynamic response as per needs identified

Support from USFDA, Health Canada, European regulators

New vaccines in clinical development presented by sponsors/Vaccine developers

Recognized and supported by donors as an efficient platform
AVAREF: an effective initiative to stimulate progress towards regulatory harmonization of clinical trials

- Channels of communication among African regulators and with regulators from developed countries have created confidence, strength and willingness to harmonize processes
- Model regulatory procedures developed and adopted by many Countries
- Joint reviews and joint inspections conducted (Conjugate meningitis A (MenAfriVac and Malaria (RTS,S) vaccines
- Enthusiasm from countries for further developments:  
  - integration of ethical review, regulation and registration of clinical trials  
  - development of African Common Clinical Trial Document and other guidelines
Roles and Responsibilities

Ethics Committees
- Review and approve human research studies
- Audit sites to ensure compliance with GCP/GLP
- Review data

National Regulatory Authorities
- Review CTAs for products for use in humans
- Approve importation of medicinal products for use in humans
- Inspect manufacturing facilities to ensure compliance with GMP
- Review CTDs and provide MA
- Review data and ensure PMS
Lifecycle Approach Model

- **Regulators**
- **Industry**
- **Professionals**
- **Public**

Product Discovery

Pre-Clinical Studies

Pre-Submission Meeting

Clinical Trial Review

Clinical Trials

Submission Review

Product Submission

Pre-Submission Meeting

Product Vigilance and Benefit-Risk Management

Re-Evaluation of Authorization and Commitments

Integration of New Information

Early Post-Market Period

Authorization

Monitoring and Intervention

Removal of Product

Evolution of Product and Knowledge
CTA Review Process

CTA Submitted

Screening Validation
  - Deficient/Rejected
  - Accepted for Review

Safety & Efficacy
Quality
  - Deficient/Rejected
  - Approved

Review Completed
Submissions & Reviews of CTAs

Sponsor

EC/IRB Review & Approval

Joint EC & NRA Review African Vaccine Regulatory Forum (AVAREF)

NRA Review & Authorization

Conjugate Meningitis A vaccine
Mali, Ghana, Gambia, Senegal

RTSS/AS01 Candidate malaria vaccine
Burkina Faso, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania
## Review and approvals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Documents used</th>
<th>Duration for reviews</th>
<th>Type of submission</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ghana, Tanzania, South Africa, Gambia, Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria</td>
<td>Adaptations of the African Common Clinical Trial Document</td>
<td>30-60 days for review and approvals</td>
<td>Online submissions Pre-registration on a WHO primary registry before submission</td>
<td>Ethics approval requirement before review by NRA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>Own SOPs integrating the african clinical trial document</td>
<td>30 -90 days</td>
<td>Physical submission, online submission (tests)</td>
<td>Ethics approval requirement before review by NRA</td>
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</tbody>
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African Common Clinical Trials Guidance (ACCTG) documents

- Guidance to sponsors on clinical trial application procedure
- Guidance for evaluators
- Harmonized Guidance on "Good Clinical Practice" inspections
- Safety monitoring during Clinical Trials
- Importation & release of clinical batches
- Storage & exportation of clinical trials samples for testing
- Pre-selection of experts/reviewers
- Model Memorandum Of Understanding
African Common Clinical Trials Guidance (ACCTG) documents

Harmonized Good Clinical Practice (GCP) Guidelines for AVAREF countries
Aug 2009
Summary of 8th Meeting

- Regulatory pathway for submission of dossiers for RTS,S discussed with sponsors
- Update on malaria vaccine standards discussed
- Case study on causality assessment
- Case study on critical issues for evaluation of HIV vaccine CTAs
- Updates on CTAs reviewed and products registered
Lessons learned and perspectives

- High level of expertise and commitment exists in countries
- Mutual recognition and acceptance of common challenges provides incentive to create the space to work together: www.avaref.net (testing)
- Capacity building activities (development of regulatory procedures for CTs, joint reviews and inspections) provided a foundation for:
  ◦ a path towards harmonization
  ◦ the design of "authentic learning" opportunities
- Capacity building activities should feed into institutional developing plans (IDPs).
- Developing SPOs about fees for submission and administration of the protocols (ethical and regulatory review): working groups are established and must share their results before the next meeting
- Developing e-learning by improving collaboration with for example TRREE, COHRED, and so on
- Increasing ownership by countries signalled by:
  - confidence to identify and propose future joint initiatives
  - between meeting implementation of activities
Thank you for your attention