

STATEMENTS FROM ANTICOV CONSORTIUM MEMBERS DÉCLARATIONS DES MEMBRES DU CONSORTIUM ANTICOV

“ University of Gondar has been working on different clinical studies that alleviate the suffering of human beings and now we look forward to a collaborative research to give a solution to the world we are facing currently.”

Dr Ashenafi Tazebew Amare, Chief Executive Director/ Vice President University of Gondar, Ethiopia

“ COVID-19 has not impacted African countries as had been earlier projected. Most cases have been mild, but have no definitive treatment as yet. We need a treatment that is well-tailored to our situation. We are pleased to be one of the institutions that are leading research to find a treatment customized to mild COVID-19 infections.”

Dr John Amuasi, Leader, Global Health and Infectious Diseases Research Group, Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research into Tropical Medicine, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology, Ghana

“ The effects of COVID-19 are being magnified in low- and middle-income countries, and country-led research is critical to ensuring the right tools are developed and made available where they are most needed. The ANTICOV trial is a welcome addition to the ACT-Accelerator effort, designed to keep patients with mild and moderate infections out of hospital so that hospitals do not become overwhelmed. This strategy depends on the availability of rapid, affordable tests that can be used in outpatient settings to reliably confirm infection status: we must ensure patient care with the most appropriate treatment can be paired with isolation of confirmed cases to stop the spread of the disease.”

Dr Catharina Boehme, Chief Executive Officer, Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), Switzerland

“ Il est réconfortant et en même temps source d'espoir que de voir les pays africains travailler en synergie pour apporter des solutions aux défis liés à la COVID-19. L'objectif est de trouver des réponses qui orienteront les stratégies et politiques nationales de dépistage et de traitement nous permettant d'offrir les meilleures options thérapeutiques possibles à nos patients.”

Dr Mama Coumaré, Secrétaire Général du Ministère de Santé et des Affaires Sociales du Mali

“ La COVID-19 est le terme employé pour désigner la « maladie à coronavirus 2019 ». La COVID-19 est une nouvelle maladie apparue en Chine en décembre 2019 ; elle est apparue au Burkina Faso en mars 2020. Le projet Coverage Africa, qui s'intègre dans l'initiative ANTICOV conduite par DNDi, est une étude qui vise à évaluer différents traitements contre la COVID-19. Le Centre MURAZ a un réel intérêt à participer au Projet Coverage Africa parce que c'est un essai qui va contribuer à apporter des réponses dans un contexte où la riposte n'a pas suffisamment de réponses thérapeutiques à l'échelle nationale et mondiale. Le projet de recherche Coverage Africa sonne comme un espoir dans un contexte où certaines populations se sont réfugiées dans le déni du COVID-19.

Fort de son expérience et de sa renommée dans la conduite des essais cliniques vaccinaux au Burkina Faso, la participation du Centre MURAZ dans le projet Coverage sonne comme un espoir pour la communauté scientifique et pour les populations qui vivent difficilement dans les contraintes sociales et économiques liées aux mesures barrières. Coverage Africa ouvre une bonne perspective de disponibiliser un traitement efficace et accessible contre la COVID-19. ►

Dans cette convergence des compétences de chercheurs de haut niveau avec les autres partenaires internationaux, le Centre MURAZ apportera bien évidemment son savoir-faire et son expérience à travers cette fructueuse collaboration pour contrôler la maladie.

La phase opérationnelle du projet Coverage sera exécutée au Burkina Faso conformément aux bonnes pratiques de la recherche clinique en prenant en compte tous les aspects : clinique, biologique, sociale, et communicationnelle.”

M’winmalo Inès Evelyne DA, Cheffe de projet du Centre Muraz au Burkina Faso

“ Bahir Dar University is always looking forward to collaborative studies and patient-centric clinical research to address the problem of human beings including coronavirus. And as a public higher education institution in developing countries we would like to show our commitment for innovative solutions the world is currently facing.”

Wendemagegn Enbiale, Head of Dermatovenereology Department Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia

“ The Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM) in Antwerp, Belgium has been working closely with its partners in Ethiopia for many years. Together with more than ten other African countries, we are able to investigate whether COVID-19 patients with mild symptoms who receive early treatment experience less serious complications. This strategy is necessary in order not to overburden the fragile health system, as hospitals with sufficient staff and intensive care units are sparse in African countries.”

Professor Johan van Griensven, The Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium

“ Collaboration and co-ordination are crucial to address the pandemic at this critical time. Mild-to-moderate COVID-19 cases have had little focus to date and this multi-site, multi-country initiative will accelerate the generation of much-needed research evidence. Having pioneered collaborative, global data sharing in resource-limited settings over the last decade, we know that working together is a proven way to fast-track better outcomes for patients.”

Professor Philippe Guérin, Director of the Infectious Diseases Data Observatory (IDDO), United Kingdom

“ En juillet 2020, ALIMA participe à un nouveau projet de recherche, intitulé Coverage Africa, en partenariat avec l’Inserm1219/Université de Bordeaux et les Instituts de recherche scientifique en Guinée et au Burkina Faso. Ce projet s’intègre naturellement dans l’initiative ANTICOV conduite par DNDi. En partenariat avec les autorités guinéennes et burkinabés, ainsi que l’Inserm et le Centre Muraz, les équipes ALIMA ont adapté une étude européenne préexistante (appelée Coverage) au continent africain. En commun, un seul et même objectif : traiter précocement les cas légers et modérés de COVID-19 dans des zones à ressources limitées où les cas graves risquent de ne pas pouvoir être pris en charge du fait d’une insuffisance d’accès à l’oxygène ou de services de réanimation. Grâce à l’expertise de DNDi dans la réutilisation de médicaments existants pour traiter de nouvelles maladies et les exigences du protocole ANTICOV, ce partenariat nous permettra d’agréger un maximum de données, d’avoir ainsi des résultats plus robustes et par conséquent, plus reproductible pour la recherche contre la COVID-19 en Afrique.”

Marie Jaspard, Coordinatrice du projet Coverage Africa/ANTICOV pour ALIMA, Guinée

“ Grâce au projet de recherche Coverage nous voulons fournir aux décideurs des preuves scientifiques de bonne qualité pour qu'ils conçoivent au mieux les politiques de réponses au COVID-19. Identifier un traitement efficace dans la population visée permettrait d'aider à diminuer la charge pesant sur le système de soin des pays en période épidémique. En plus, la participation à un projet pouvant conduire à changer les recommandations mondiales de prise en charge de la COVID-19 apporterait à la Guinée et aux Guinéens une reconnaissance internationale de leurs compétences et de leurs capacités en recherches.”

Sylvain Juchet, Chef de projet recherche pour ALIMA, Guinée

“ Nous sommes capables en tant qu'Africains de faire preuve de solidarité et de leadership face aux problèmes majeurs de l'humanité. Face à la pandémie de COVID-19, il nous faut changer nos modes de pensées et impulser une dynamique pour, non pas consommer les solutions mais aussi être générateurs de solutions.”

Professeur Inza Koné, Directeur Général du Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques en Côte d'Ivoire

“ The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has now reached Africa, however we do not yet know what is coming to the continent. It is important to create the basis for clinical studies on medication and vaccines in order to control the epidemic in Africa as well. DNDi and other institutions including DZIF are now implementing an ANTICOV Research Platform which will be available to African physicians for clinical studies on drugs against COVID-19. Our colleagues at KCCR in Ghana as well as other African partner organisations will carry out the planned studies.”

Professor Jürgen May, Head of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at BNITM and Member of the German Center for Infection Research / Deutsches Zentrum für Infektionsforschung (DZIF), Germany

“ In response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, research for possible therapies is progressing around the world apace. ANTICOV is a critical piece in the research puzzle since it focuses on the treatment of mild-to-moderate disease thereby reducing the need for patients to be hospitalized. Furthermore, the trial design is key given the pace of research, since it will allow us to drop and add treatments as data comes available.”

Dr Jörg Möhrle, Head of Translational Medicine at Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), Switzerland

“ While cases are going down in Sudan and other parts of Africa, we are still faced with the challenge of treating mild disease. We are delighted to be among the institutions participating in the ANTICOV Clinical trial to find a solution for now and the future.”

Professor Ahmed Mudawi Musa, Head, Dept of Clinical Pathology & Immunology, Institute of Endemic Diseases, University of Khartoum, Sudan

“ COVID-19 overwhelmed well-structured health systems in many countries around the world. Mozambique, with a non-robust health system and which is already under pressure from other infectious diseases, will be unable to withstand the overload that can result from the spread of COVID-19 and particularly from its severe forms and unfavourable outcomes resulting from this disease. This is why we are directing our efforts to seek the scientific evidence that can prevent or minimize deaths from COVID-19, and at the same time reduce the burden of this disease in the economy both in our country across Africa.”

Dr Evangelina Namburete, Infectious Disease Specialist, Researcher with CISPOC – INS and Principal Investigator of the ANTICOV trial in Mozambique

“ We have seen COVID-19 sweep through countries, challenging societies and health systems. Hundreds of drug trials against COVID-19 have been conducted across North America, Europe and Asia, yet very few in Africa, and even fewer to prevent severe disease. The ANTICOV consortium trial will take place in fourteen African countries, most of which have limited critical hospital care capacity, and aims to identify drugs that can help keep people out of intensive care.”

Denise Naniche, Scientific Director, ISGlobal, Spain

“ It is heartening to see so many African countries collaborate to get much-needed answers about our unique COVID-19 patient needs. Africa has for the most part avoided the large-scale mortality seen in other countries, but with lockdowns ending and borders opening, we need to be prepared. We need research here in Africa that will inform policies and test-and-treat strategies, so that as clinicians we can give the best options to people with COVID-19.”

Dr Borna Nyaoke-Anoke, Senior Clinical Project Manager, DNDi, Kenya

“ The Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH) feels privileged to be part of this significant consortium and collaboration. We welcome the leadership and courage of our African partners in finding solutions to the current pandemic. By providing countries and all sites training as well as co-monitoring support, we aim to support our partners in upholding high quality standards, which are much needed in today's climate and research context.”

Elisabeth Reus, Head of Clinical Operations Unit, Swiss TPH, Switzerland

“ Il y a une véritable appropriation de cette étude par les acteurs nationaux notamment l'investigateur principal et le co-investigateur, tous les deux professeurs enseignants à la faculté de médecine. Nous mettons tout en oeuvre pour que les connaissances acquises lors de la mise en place de l'essai clinique soient capitalisées. Nous espérons que ce projet permettra de proposer un choix de traitement accessible facilement et à moindre coût, critères essentiels pour la Guinée et nombre de pays.”

Dr Sani Sayadi, Coordinateur médical pour ALIMA, Guinée

“ Le projet Coverage s'intègre dans notre riposte COVID-19, tout en tenant compte des politiques déjà mises en place par le gouvernement guinéen. Alors que des projets de recherche se développent un peu partout, il nous paraît important que la Guinée participe à cet effort collectif. Le projet Coverage, et ANTICOV dont il fait partie, sera complémentaire aux autres études en cours sur le site du Centre de Traitement de Donka, où ALIMA s'occupe actuellement des cas de COVID-19 les plus sévères. En nous

impliquant dans ce projet de recherche, nous espérons améliorer non seulement notre prise en charge des patients mais également l'offre de traitement disponible pour cette maladie qui nous touche tous."

Dr Billy Sivahera, Chef de mission pour ALIMA, Guinée

“ *The ANTICOV consortium is a broad partnership bringing African scientific leaders and global R&D organizations together to respond to an urgent unmet medical need. Collaboration is the only way to provide robust scientific responses to these research questions. The trial was designed in a way that enables rapid and flexible decisions as we gather knowledge.*”

Dr Nathalie Strub-Wourgaft, Director of COVID-19 Response for DNDi, Switzerland

“ *We support the ANTICOV trial because it will provide key data about early treatment for COVID-19, a knowledge gap that numerous scientists have called to fill in recent months. ANTICOV is a stellar example of research being led by African research institutions in collaboration with international partners. Its adaptive platform trial design is innovative, complementary to other efforts being conducted for severe illness, and will provide important information for WHO and countries to rapidly adapt their policies.*”

Dr Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist, World Health Organization

STATEMENTS FROM ANTICOV CONSORTIUM DONORS & PARTNERS

DÉCLARATIONS DES PARTENAIRES ET DONATEURS DU CONSORTIUM ANTICOV

“ *EDCTP is proud to be a member of the COVID-19 Clinical Research Coalition and funder of the ANTICOV trial in Africa. By treating COVID patients at an early stage, this trial will identify promising drugs to stop the development of severe illness, reduce transmission of the infection, and safeguard hospital resources for those who need them most.*”

Dr Pauline Beattie, Operations Manager, EDCTP, The Netherlands

“ *Treating patients suffering from mild forms of the COVID-19 infection before they evolve into more severe disease and require hospitalisation is a critical challenge around the world. This is even more important in resource-limited healthcare settings of low- and middle-income countries. The ANTICOV trial is designed with this objective in mind, aiming to find safe and effective treatments that work for everyone.*”

Dr Nick Cammack, COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator Lead at Wellcome, co-convener of the ACT-Accelerator Therapeutic Partnership, United Kingdom

“ *There is a need for large clinical trials in Africa for COVID-19 to answer research questions that are specific to an African context. African countries have mounted an impressive response so far to COVID-19 and now is the time to prepare for future waves of the disease. We welcome the ANTICOV trial led by African doctors because it will help answer one of our most pressing questions: With limited intensive care facilities in Africa, can we treat people for COVID-19 earlier and stop our hospitals from being overwhelmed?*”

Dr John Nkengasong, Director of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, Ethiopia