

Project 3: 'AFCC AfricaMedLab Internet Radio'

Date supported: July 2017

Description of project:

Africa has a population of 1.2 billion people. Of the 54 countries in Africa 30 are classified as very poor and they face rising disease burden from HIV, malaria, infectious disease, tuberculosis, malnutrition, diarrhoea, cancer, cardiovascular disease and diabetes. There is an urgent need to improve the quality and scope of laboratory medicine to help tackle this burden of disease. There is also a need to use modern technology to communicate with and educate laboratory medicine specialists across Africa and the users of their services.

Based on the success of the 'El Microscopio' internet radio project across Latin America (<http://www.infobioquimica.com>) the African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC) launched a pilot AfricaLabMed internet radio programme in June 2016. The 'El Microscopio' team are supporting the development of internet radio in Africa.



The pilot established the feasibility of AfricaLab Med internet radio and provided encouragement to put in place the infrastructure and facilities to provide programmes on a regular basis. The team in charge of the project, led by Professor Hilda T Marima-Matarira from Harare, Zimbabwe, has secured accommodation to deliver the project and technical support from a local IT company. They have also assembled a large team of young scientists from across Africa who will act as 'reporters' in a voluntary capacity. The FEN has provided an award of 10,000 Swiss Francs for the purchase of the capital equipment to record, broadcast and archive the radio programmes.

Programmes will contain news items, innovations in laboratory medicine, educational opportunities and a range of interviews on items that are topical to health in Africa. The programmes may be listened to live or accessed via an archive file.

Date project completed:

Project report and outcome: