

● How Can International Funding Agencies Best Support African Research Management?

Funding bodies from the UK, Europe and North America have supported several initiatives to help develop African research management in recent years. These tend to take the form of time limited project., usually acting independently of each other. Several had mechanisms in place to monitor project delivery and achievement against objectives. However there has been little assessment of their collective impact.

This session will address three questions:

- Impact – Is there evidence to suggest that such projects have changed the development of African research management?
- Objectives – Have the aims of donor funding changed over time?
- Future Priorities – What objectives should donors prioritise in any future support for African research management

Presenters:

- Dr John Kirkland, Independent (United Kingdom)
John Kirkland has worked in research management for over thirty years, in his roles as Head of Research Services at Brunel University, Deputy Secretary General of the Association of Commonwealth Universities, and Chief Operating Officer of the UK National Institute of Economic and Social Research. In the context of African research, he has worked on substantial projects funded by the European Commission, UK Department of international Development, Carnegie Corporation of New York and IDRC (Canada), amongst other bodies. He now chairs Diversity in Development, a UK charity concerned with increasing access to international development roles, and holds various advisory positions.
- Dr Garry Aslanyan, TDR | World Health Organisation (Switzerland)
Garry Aslanyan has since 2013 been Manager for Partnerships and Governance for the World Health Organisation, based in Geneva. He also coordinates the ESSENCE group of international health funders research, which in recent years has promoted several high profile initiatives in research management, in areas such as overhead recovery rates and equitable partnerships. Prior to taking up his current role, Gary managed the Policy and Knowledge Management function at WHO, and previously held health policy advisory roles for Global Affairs Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada. He is also a past Chair of the Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research.
- Dr Maggy Heintz, UK Collaborative on Development Research (United Kingdom)
Maggy Heintz is Executive Director of UKCDR, the UK Collaborative on Development Research. In her role, she provides high-level engagement, strategic coordination and supports best practice amongst the UK main funders of international development research. Maggy has a background in academic research, science diplomacy and research management, having being Head of Research and Business Development and International Research Development Manager at the University of Leicester (UK) for over 8 years. She worked with partners in LMICs, supporting consortium building and coordinating large scale challenge-led interdisciplinary research proposals. She is passionate about the added value brought by the research management profession.
- Ms Allen Mukhwana, African Academy of Sciences (Kenya)
Allen Mukhwana has been Programme Manager and Transition Coordinator at the Nairobi based Science where she is leading the organizational development series of work streams to build robust structures and systems. Prior to that she worked for four years at the African Academy of Sciences, also based in Nairobi. A major element in both roles has been the development of ReMPro Africa Programme which addresses the expertise necessary to sustain research ecosystems at institutions in Africa. Allen previously worked as Centre Manager at the Entebbe based MUJI Plus Centre, and the Infectious Diseases institute, part of Makerere University
- Dr Sepo Hachigonta, National Research Foundation (South Africa)