



Sponsored symposium - Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII)

Fostering a stronger collaboration in Personalised medicine: The EU-Africa PerMed project

Sub-Saharan countries are undergoing a demographic transition leading to increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs,) that together with the infectious diseases burden represent a big challenge for the near future. To cope with this, Africa urgently needs to take full advantage of transformative new medical models and tools, such as the ones offered by Personalised Medicine (PM), that can be used to improve efficiencies and help health systems become more effective. Equitable accessibility to the tools is therefore key to ensure the Africa is not left behind and that PM does not increase inequity in health.

In this symposium we will present the EU-Africa PerMed project, an action funded by the European Commission H2020 programme, that seeks to facilitate and strengthen R&I collaboration between Europe and Africa in PM, fostering joint projects and programmes, as well as strengthening bilateral EU-AU science, technology and innovation relations in the area of health. On the long run, incorporating African countries in the global PM research agenda can contribute to shortening the existing health disparities between developed and developing countries, as well as facilitating the access of African countries to new tools and technologies that have the potential to make health care more efficient and equitable.

During the symposium, we will present the EU-Africa PerMed project, explaining its objectives, planned activities and expected results. We will share with the audience the results of the scientific and policy mapping of PM in Africa carried out: what is Africa publishing in PM, in what areas and who are the main actors, together with an overview of the policy landscape supporting R&I in PM. We will finalise with a presentation of what can PM offer to fight against main health challenges of the African population and why international collaboration in this area is important.

Chair: Joaquín Guinea, INNOVATEC, Spain

Co-Chair: Souleymane Mboup, Institut de Recherche en Santé, de Surveillance Epidemiologique et de Formations IRESSEF, Senegal

Speakers:

Joaquin Guinea, Innovatec, SPAIN

The EU-Africa PerMed project

Erika Sela, Innovatec, Spain

Amr Radwan, Egyptian Center of Innovation and Technology Development (ECITD), Egypt

The Personalised Medicine research and innovation landscape in Africa: results of the EU-Africa PerMed scientific and policy mapping work

Rizwana Mia, SA-MRC, South Africa

Challenges and opportunities of PM for Africa