

2016



ICORD

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Rare Diseases & Orphan Drugs

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CAPE TOWN | SOUTH AFRICA

Research for Rare Diseases Challenges and Opportunities

Summary of Discussions from Break-out Group

Data Sharing

Barriers

- Lack of common data elements
- Lack of policy
- Limitations in consent forms
- Academic disincentives to sharing
- Lack of guidelines and best practices (e.g. publication policies)
- Multiple IRB reviews in multi-site studies

Opportunities

- Existing infrastructure (e.g., H3 Africa)
- International partnerships (e.g., ICORD)
- Patients support data sharing
- Other stakeholders (governments, industry) need data

Patient Engagement

Barriers

- Lack of information
- Stigmatization
- Cultural/language/religious barriers
- Lack of funding/support
- Uncertainty how to find accurate and reliable information online
- Fragmentation of patient communities, geographic dispersion of patients

Opportunities

- Forming umbrella organizations, unified voice, “lumping rather than splitting”
- Social media, mobile technology such as smart phones
- Active partnership throughout the research process (e.g. protocol development groups, IRBs)

Sustainable/Scalable Models

Barriers

- Misalignment of stakeholder pathways and incentives
- Lack of national and international coordination of priorities
- Lack of harmonized policies
- Duplication of efforts and re-inventing the wheel
- Rare disease “myth” = not a priority in developing countries, not a significant public health concern

Opportunities

- Sharing of resources
- Benefit of studying indigenous populations
- Involving patients as disease experts
- Social media and mobile technologies
- Cutting-edge bioinformatics and technological solutions for data management
- Re-phrase the goal: Not a way to study rare disease only, but to make progress on common diseases

Thank you

Gareth Baynam (co-moderator)

Petra Kaufmann (co-moderator)

Megan Scott

Marli Dercksen

Narcisse Kimbrassa

Mehmet Gunduz

Selda Bulbul

Elizabeth Breedt

Veronica Alonso

Roan Louw

Daria Julkowska

Loren Leclezio

Desiree Gauhed

Simon Day

Raj Ramesar

Maja Stojiljkovic

Kathrine Scholtz

Francois van der Westhuizen

David Franklin

Christiaan van Woerden

Tebogo Selebatso

Etienne Nortje