The IUPHAR Sub-Committee on Clinical Pharmacology in Developing Countries and The Medicines Utilization Research In Africa (MURIA) Group Co-Organized The Fourth Training Workshop on Drug Utilization Research in Africa.

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The Fourth Annual Training Workshop and Symposia on Drug Utilization Researches in Africa took place between 18 and 21 June, 2018 at The University of Namibia, Windhoek, with the theme 'Medicines Utilization Research in Africa influencing patient care and policy'. The meeting was co-organized by The IUPHAR Sub-Committee on Clinical Pharmacology in Developing Countries and The Medicines Utilization Research in Africa (MURIA) Group in conjunction with The International Society of Pharmacoepidemiology (ISPE) and her African Chapter.

The meeting drew over 100 participants from countries across Africa, Europe, North America and Australia including Botswana, South Africa, Swaziland, Nigeria, Ghana, Namibia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Kenya . In the evening of Sunday 17th June, 2018 participants had a time out with a welcome dinner during which they got to interact with one another and had an overview of the planned activities for the meeting.

The first day, Monday 18th June, 2018 featured the Introductory workshop anchored by three resource persons from ISPE namely; Dr Maribel Salas, Dr Vincent Lo Re and Dr Lisa Point combined with personnel from MURIA including Prof. Hannelie Meyer and Dr Margaret Oluka. Topics taught were an Overview of Pharmacoepidemiology, Introduction to Adherence/Persistence, Introduction to DUR including data sources, Introduction to Pharmacoepidemiology-Cohort Studies, Measuring adherence/persistence, The ATC classification/DDD, Case control and Cohort studies, Hypertension adherence/persistence and Interventions, Basic Statistics, Overview of statistical analysis by design and Introduction to DU research-special areas. The sessions were preceded by welcome remarks by the co-chairmen of the local organizing committee, Francis Kalemera and Prof Brian Godman, who gave a general overview of the schedules and logistics for the workshops divided in the usual way to the introductory and advanced sessions.

The opening ceremony took place in the morning of Tuesday 20th June, 2018 in the main auditorium of the Health Sciences Campus of The University of Namibia with the management team of the university, senior officials of the country's ministry of health and The British High Commissioner to Namibia, Ms Jo Lomas in attendance. The University Management Team in attendance included: Prof Kalumbi Shangula (Assistant Pro Vice Chancellor – Health Sciences Campus), Prof. Tim Rennie (Associate Dean – School of Pharmacy) and Prof. Peter Nyarango (Dean – Faculty of Health Sciences). Prof Kalumbi Shangula welcomed the delegates to the University campus and expressed the fact that the University of Namibia felt extremely honoured to be playing host to MURIA meeting in two consecutive years. He described the outlined workshop topics and paper presentations as being exciting and relevant. His words were further corroborated by the Associate Dean of The School of Pharmacy, Prof. Tim Rennie who in addition expressed his delight seeing a good number of the students of the institution participating and presenting papers at the meeting. The British High Commissioner to Namibia, Ms Jo Lomas in her remarks commended the organizers of the meeting and expressed great delight in the progress made so far while challenging the group to find solutions to the prevailing problems with drug utilization like

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). Similarly, The Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, Prof. Peter Nyarango also highlighted the need to find lasting solutions to the problem of AMR in Africa as well as vaccine development for some tropical diseases. He also proposed the need to start specific trainings and disciplines that will address the myriads of the health challenges of the continent of Africa citing a Masters degree in Emergent Medicine as an example. He thereafter declared the workshop opened.

The Introductory workshop continued on the second day, Tuesday 19th June, 2018 running parallel with the advanced workshop. The ISPE resource persons continued with the introductory session conducting trainings on the following topics among others: Use of database for Pharmacoepidemiology research, Introduction to Pharmacovigilance, Drug Utilization design, study methods and interventions, Measurements of exposures and outcomes, Passive Surveillance, Cofounding and Bias, Primary and Secondary Sources of data. Dr Sean MacBride-Stewart (Scotland), Prof Ilse Truter (South Africa), Prof Hennelie Meyer (South Africa), Dr Margaret Oluka (Kenya) and Dr Sylva Opanga (Kenya) handled the Advanced workshop featuring the following topics: Developing Quality Indicators for ambulatory care, Undertaking Qualitative DU Research, Undertaking adherence/persistence studies and Undertaking pahramacovigilance studies. The day ended with an evening reception hosted by The University of Namibia.

The third day of the meeting, Wednesday 20th June, 2018, was dedicated to symposia which featured presentations on different topics of interest to the MURIA group. In the morning session, members of MURIA gave feedback on activities from their respective countries principally around anti-infectives since the last meeting. These included presentations by Prof Ilse Truter, Dr Nathalie Schellack and Danie Kruger from South Africa, Dr Margaret Oluka, Dr Sylvia Opanga and Prof Anastasia Guantai from Kenya, Dr Joseph Fadare and Dr Olayinka Ogunleye from Nigeria, Dr Sekesai Zinyowera from Zimbabwe and Dr Joyce Kgatlwane and colleagues from Botswana . Other presentations at this session were; An update on ISPE project on Guideline for DU Research in Africa and Latin America by Dr Mirabel Silas, Pharmacovigilance Initiatives in Namibia by Dr Anna Shimbulu from Namibia Medical Research Council, Use of Complementary and Alternative Medicines in Pain: A South African consumer survey by Prof Ilse Truter and Addressing the Underreporting of Adverse Drug Reactions in Sub-Saharan Africa by Yohanna Kambai Avong from Nigeria. In the afternoon session, there were several oral presentations spanning both infectious diseases and non-communicable diseases areas. Of note was the segment dedicated for short oral presentations by participating students based on their posters with very impressive performances recorded by the students. Participants ended the day with a group dinner at a restaurant in the city of Windhoek.

The last day of the meeting, Thursday 21st June, 2018 featured the continuation of oral presentations in the morning session. The poster sessions ran throughout the four days of the meeting with time created for poster viewing and discussions at breaktimes. There were about 46 posters and over 25 oral presentations at the meeting. The participants adjudged the presentations to be of high quality and a remarkable progress over the previous editions of the meeting. A business session thereafter took place in the afternoon of the fourth day during which members reviewed the progress made so far and projected into the future with specific action plans put in place on formalizing and registering MURIA, continuous partnership with ISPE and a number of cross-national studies in Infectious Diseases and Non-Communicable Diseases. The meeting ended with remarkable positive feedback from participants who departed Windhoek in high spirits and renewed commitments for collaboration to improve drug

utilization across Africa. The next meeting is scheduled to hold in South Africa between June and July 2019.




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A cohort analysis, 2004 - 2016




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• Consistency
• Strength of association
– Quantitative strength
– Dose-response relationship
– Study design