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Addressing the shortage of Physician-scientists and clinical trial professionals: A challenging matter in developing countries



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Short CV

Dr. **Jean-Marie Ntumba Kayembe**, is the current Rector of the University of Kinshasa since September 2021.

He has been previously the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the same University during 6 years and the Deputy Dean in charge of research at the school of Medicine for 6 years.

He is a pulmonologist, at the University Hospital of Kinshasa Hospital, Internal Medicine Department.

Dr. Kayembe earned his MD degree at the University of Kinshasa. He then specialized and got a PhD Pulmonology at the University of Liege in Belgium.

He serves as Scientific Advisor to the National Program to combat Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. He is a member of the National Committee on Health Ethics and, Editor in Chief of the African Annals of Medicine since 2008 (Annales Africaines de Médecine) a periodical supported by funding by the US National Institutes of Health (through the National Library of Medicine and the Fogarty International Center) and facilitated by the Council of Science Editors (www.anafrimed.net).

He is the President of the commission of treatment of COVID-19 at the national level.

Abstract

Clinical trials bridge the gap between basic science and improving human health and are therefore crucial in every health system. Africa is home to 17% of the world population, but accounts for less than 3% of clinical trials(1), in part due to deficiency of appropriate training.

Awareness of the gap caused by the absence of researchers specializing in clinical trials has led to training, in the form of collaboration with institutions and countries with advanced experience in this field. The University of Kinshasa, through its Faculty of Medicine, found a solution by collaborating with the NCGM of Japan. Through this collaboration, many scientists have been trained in clinical trials. However, this necessary and fruitful step is not the end of the story.

Three other elements are essential: the formalization of specific curricula for training of Physician-scientists and clinical trial professionals in our universities, creation of research Centres and the attraction of clinical studies in which these trained scientists will find practical training opportunities and jobs.

Collaboration with experienced institutions is necessary to start and enforce these objectives in Africa and in the DRC in particular.