



ANDI establishes 32 Centres of Excellence in Health Innovation in Africa

Addis Ababa, 27 October 2011. The African Network for Drugs and Diagnostics Innovation (ANDI) has concluded its annual stakeholders meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with the recognition of 32 African institutions as ANDI Centres of Excellence in health innovation.

The meeting was attended by over 400 participants including scientists, policy makers, donors, governmental and non governmental organizations from Africa and overseas. Several interactive panel discussions focusing on partnerships, financing as well as local pharmaceutical manufacturing took place.

Speaking during the conference, the Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Ms Jennifer Kargbo, said: “There are serious fears that Africa may not meet some of the health-related targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and ECA sees ANDI as key mechanism for achieving the MDGs and promoting regional integration and economic growth.”

The Commissioner for Social Affairs of the African Union Commission, Her Excellency Bience Gawanas praised the progress of ANDI and highlighted that the work of ANDI is relevant to the various declarations of African Heads of State on innovation including the African Manufacturing Plan. She expressed support and satisfaction with the collaboration between ANDI and African Union Commission.

The Ethiopian Minister of State for Health Hon. Kebede Worku stated that “ANDI is a key initiative in enhancing medical progress within the continent, aimed at turning the results of basic scientific research into tangible innovative products for the treatment of the plethora of neglected diseases that predominantly affect Africa”.

The co-chair of the ANDI Board and South African Minister of Science and Technology, Hon. Naledi Pandor, said that “unveiling the ANDI Centres of Excellence marks an important step to providing affordable medicines for all Africans”. She stressed the need to devise African solutions in Africa and generate jobs, generate skills and generate enterprises through research and development in the African continent, in collaboration with our global partners.”

The ANDI centres of excellence are spread across the five sub-regions of Africa and are conducting research and development; and innovation activities on drugs, diagnostics, vaccines, medical devices and traditional medicines. They will implement ANDI projects and capacity building on the continent.

“This is the beginning of a process that we hope will encourage African governments to invest in their institutions and scientists to become world class facilities in order to advance health innovation in Africa” remarked Dr Solomon Nwaka, ANDI Director. He stated that the main challenge facing ANDI is that of financial and human resources to implement the ambitious agenda, and expressed the hope that donors and governments will support ANDI.

Achieving these goals will require closer collaboration among research institutions in order to leverage existing capacity to support product development while at the same time building new capacity in Africa. It will also involve identifying, funding and managing a portfolio of projects across Africa, more work in developing infrastructure and broader South-South and North-South collaboration.

The ANDI Centres of Excellence are:

Institution	CoE
African Institute of Biomedical Science & Technologies	ANDI Centre of Excellence in <i>In-silico</i> Drug Metabolism & Pharmacokinetics and Toxicology Studies
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research	ANDI Centre of Excellence in Nanomedicine Research
Institut Pasteur de Tunis	ANDI Centre of Excellence for Bio-molecule Discovery
Institute of Medical Research and Medicinal Plants Studies	ANDI Centre of Excellence in Traditional Medicine Research
Institute of Primate Research	ANDI Centre of Excellence in Pre-clinical Research
iThemba LABS	ANDI Centre of Excellence in Radiochemistry
iThemba Pharmaceuticals (Pty) Ltd	ANDI Centre of Excellence in Medicinal Chemistry
Joint Clinical Research Centre	ANDI Centre of Excellence in HIV/TB Clinical Research
Kenya Medical Research Institute	ANDI Centre of Excellence in HIV Operational Research
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology - Kumasi Center for Collaborative Research	ANDI Centre of Excellence for Applied Biomedical Research
Makerere University	ANDI Centre of Excellence in Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases
National Center for Research	ANDI Centre of Excellence for Drug & Diagnostic Innovation
National Institute for Pharmaceutical R&D	ANDI Centre of Excellence in Phytomedicine Research and Development
Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research	ANDI Centre of Excellence in Disease Surveillance and Prevention
South African Medical Research Council	ANDI Centre of Excellence for IP management in health
Theodor Bilharz Research Institute	ANDI Centre of Excellence on Anti-trematodal R&D
Trypanosomiasis Research Centre	ANDI Centre of Excellence in Pre-Clinical Development
University of Bamako	ANDI Centre of Excellence for Clinical Development of Malaria Products
University of Buea	ANDI Centre of Excellence for Onchocerciasis Drug Research
University of Cape Town	ANDI Centre of Excellence for Drug Discovery
University of Cape Town	ANDI Centre of Excellence for TB Diagnostics Research
University of Cape Town - Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine	ANDI Centre of Excellence in Proteomics and Genomics
University of Ibadan	ANDI Centre of Excellence for Malaria Translational Research
University of Lagos	ANDI Centre of Excellence for Malaria Diagnosis
University of Mauritius	ANDI Centre of Excellence for Biomedical and Biomolecular Research
University of Stellenbosch	ANDI Centre of Excellence for TB Translational Research
University of Stellenbosch	ANDI Centre of Excellence for HIV Translational Research
University of the Witwatersrand	ANDI Centre of Excellence for Viral Gene Therapy
University of the Witwatersrand	ANDI Centre of Excellence in Drug Delivery Technology
University of Zambia	ANDI Centre of Excellence for HIV/TB Diagnostics Technologies
VACSERA	ANDI Centre of Excellence in Anti-venom Research
VACSERA	ANDI Centre of Excellence in Virus strains diagnosis



In closing the meeting, Hon. Essa Bashri, Minister of Science and Technology of Sudan, stated “It has been a pleasure to be a part of this forum and witness the successes of ANDI. The commitment of African governments is vital for ANDI’s existence. ANDI represents a real hope for the continent; hence I will be an advocate of its vision”.

About ANDI

ANDI is based at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It’s goals are to increase research and development collaboration among African institutions and countries, including through the management of Centres of Excellence in health innovation; fund and manage a portfolio of health R&D projects; support and promote public-private partnerships and new firms within Africa to support the development and manufacture of new drugs, diagnostics and other health products; manage and explore innovative mechanisms to encourage and reward local innovation while promoting access, including research drawing on traditional medicine and intellectual property management; leverage existing capacity to support south-south and north-south collaboration; and promote long-term economic sustainability through supporting R&D and access to health products in Africa.

Special thanks to the European Union for providing seed funding that has contributed to the establishment of ANDI.

Contact person George Davis davisg@andi-africa.org.

For more information: www.andi-africa.org