

Strengthening One Health research capacity in Guinea through characterization of acute febrile illness of unknown etiologies

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Strong One Health (OH) research platforms are a cornerstone of pandemic preparedness. While many pathogens underlying acute febrile illnesses (AFI) are zoonotic, animal and OH research targeting AFI is limited and the underlying infectious agents often remain underdiagnosed. In 2022, we started the implementation of an interdisciplinary study to characterize AFI in Guinea, the Fever Project. A core objective of the project is to strengthen capacities for OH research and zoonotic disease risk reduction. The Fever Project consists of two parallel strands of questionnaires and specimen collection: 1) hospital patients presenting with acute fever, and 2) healthy community members and animal species commonly found in and near communities. Fundamental premises of the project are capacity strengthening and collaboration and coordination with national and local authorities, to ensure that the project's research activities successfully contribute to national and regional epidemic preparedness and health security efforts. The Fever Project research platform has already provided opportunities for other OH collaborations, leveraging our collaborations and partnerships. We trained 25 Guinean partners during three workshops and three field-based trainings on laboratory and field techniques. The project also explicitly includes annual stakeholder meetings, for dissemination of information, solicitation of input, and to conduct programmatic evaluation of our collaborative research approach.

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Professional Status of the Speaker

Postdoc

Junior Scientist Status

No, I am not a Junior Scientist.

Primary authors: Dr BARRY, Alpha Mahmoud (Santé Plus); HAMMER, Charlotte; Dr CATALANO, Stefano (University of Glasgow); Mr TRAORE, Zoumana Isaac (University of Georgetown); Ms DIALLO, Mariama Dalandia (Santé Plus); Dr CARLIN, Ellen (University of Georgetown); Ms RYAN-CASTILLO, Emilie (University of Georgetown); Mr KEITA, Mamadou (Santé Plus); Mr CAMARA, Alimou (Santé Plus); Dr KONATE, Yacouba (Santé Plus); Mr CAMARA, Robert (Santé Plus); Mr BOUMBALY, Sanaba (Santé Plus); Mr MAGASSOUBA, N'Faly (Santé Plus); Dr VALITUTTO, Marc (Ecohealth Alliance); Prof. STANDLEY, Claire (University of Georgetown)

Presenter: HAMMER, Charlotte

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