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PARTNERSHIP FOR ENHANCED ENGAGEMENT IN RESEARCH (PEER)

May 2018 - May 2021 Implementer: National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAS)

The Partnership For Enhanced Engagement In Research (PEER) activity will work to improve specialty care services for Liberians in areas of Family Medicine (FM), Ophthalmology, and Infectious Disease (ID) through the establishment of a clinical residency program, training of specialist doctors, and the promotion of clinical research activities with the goal of improving the quality of care provided to Ebola survivors specifically, as well as the general population. PEER will ensure an increase in the quality of and access to specialty care services for Liberians by increasing the number of Liberian medical specialists able to provide critical services in various disciplines and enhance retention of Liberian specialists through locally directed research and training opportunities.

Current Activities

- Support the establishment of a residency program for training of residents in the following areas: Family Medicine, Ophthalmology, and Infectious Disease
- Strengthen FM, ID and pre clinical training curricula and develop curriculum for Ophth training program
- Support clinical research training and mentoring activities in Liberia for faculty, residents, and interns to build a culture of research for evidence based interventions
- Improve the quality of teaching through the establishment of a faculty development program for pre, intra, and post medical training in Liberia

Accomplishments to Date

Family Medicine

- 10 Liberian medical doctors enrolled in residency program
 - Five have passed the West African College of Physicians (WACP) primary exams
- Program received two year accreditation from the WACP

Infectious Diseases

- One ID fellow started fellowship training
- Curriculum development completed for residency program

Ophthalmology

- Curriculum developed and now being piloted to FM residents
- Two Ophthalmology residents on rotation through residency program

Research Training

- Three research trainings completed (40-70 attendees)
- Training course materials developed and available on UMass website and will be transitioned
- Two rounds of pilot research projects, 3 projects funded (diabetes, HIV, heart failure)

Faculty Development

- Six trainers identified to lead trainings at University of Liberia
- Eight faculty apprentices selected to be trained through the FDP

Planned Outcomes

- Strengthened quality of postgraduate medical and pre-clinical training programs;
- Place specialists in the areas of family medicine, ophthalmology, and infectious diseases to major county referral hospitals for quality service provision;
- Help ensure availability of qualified instructors to teach in pre-clinical training program at University of Liberia medical school; and
- Strengthened curricula for medical training in Liberia which is inclusive of a well-integrated research component.