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Building Clinical Trial Research Capacity for HIV and Noncommunicable Diseases in Nigeria



Introduction: The Vanderbilt-Nigeria Building Research Capacity in HIV and Non-communicable Diseases (V-BRCH) program is a training platform with the goal of developing Nigerian investigators to become leaders in HIV-associated NCDs research. We present the results of two workshops focused on implementation science and grant writing for Nigerian physician-scientists.

Methods: Trainees attended interactive week-long workshops at Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital in Nigeria focused on implementation science frameworks, strategies, adaptation, and outcomes, as well as grant writing techniques, grant view processes, and funding opportunities. Participants completed pre-/post- surveys assessing self-perceived knowledge and confidence in topics/skills taught during these workshops.

Results: Thirty-four participants attended the implementation science workshop, and thirty participants attended the grant writing workshop. Improvements in knowledge and confidence were noted in all topic areas for both workshops. The implementation science workshop showed the following increase in pre-/post-workshop average knowledge scores by topic: adaptation frameworks (127%), implementation strategies (117%), implementation grants (106%), implementation outcomes (102%), implementation theory/frameworks (95%), implementation study design (91%). Participants reported increased confidence for the following competencies: teaching implementation science (143%), selecting implementation outcomes (136%), analyzing implementation measures (125%), identifying characteristics affecting implementation success (114%), selecting frameworks for implementation research (110%), and writing hybrid grants (92%). The largest percent increases between pre-/post-workshop average knowledge scores for the grant writing workshop were in: interacting with funding agencies (116%), identifying funding sources (115%), grant review process (108%), identifying components of scientific grants (98%), features of strong grant proposals (96%), generating scientific research questions (90%), writing specific aims pages (86%), and providing grant feedback (75%).

Conclusions: These workshops improved Nigerian physician scientists' knowledge in implementation science and grant writing techniques. Such training programs facilitate larger efforts to decolonize global health by providing physician-scientists with skills needed to compete for independent funding, to develop sustainable implementation strategies tailored to local needs, and to disseminate research findings.