



Secretariat: 2nd Floor

IDI- McKinnel Knowledge Centre

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The 5th ECSACOP Annual Scientific Conference Concept Note

Theme: COVID-19 - An African Perspective from Epidemiology to Clinical Management

When: 11th - 12th December 2020

Introduction

The Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic caused by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) constitutes a huge burden on national healthcare services worldwide. In less than a year since it was first reported, SARS-CoV-2 has caused over 58 million confirmed infections and 1.4 million deaths. As the pandemic evolves, the world has had to manage an unprecedented situation requiring a multi-faceted response involving governments, organisations, the general public and individuals.

Although Africa is the least affected region globally, the pandemic has had a serious impact on the continent's health, economy and security. To mitigate these challenges, most African countries have introduced measures to curb transmission of infection, prevent deaths and limit social and economic harm. Successful implementation of these measures depends on effective coordination, cooperation, collaboration and communication among African nations and with the rest of the world.

Scope

The East, Central and Southern Africa College of Physicians (ECSACOP) will hold its 5th Annual Scientific Conference to discuss the state of the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa. The virtual conference aims to bring together physicians, policy makers and industry to promote collaboration, knowledge exchange and to discuss equitable access to diagnostic, preventive and treatment resources for COVID-19 by African populations. The conference will offer a unique and timely forum for examining how Africa and the ECSA region can maximise access to effective COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics at a time when these resources are in high demand in resource-rich settings that bear the brunt of the pandemic.

Objectives

1. To share and compare data on epidemiology, clinical features and management of COVID-19 and the impact it has had on healthcare services across the ECSA region,
2. To explore research opportunities that will uncover the reasons underlying differences between the African COVID-19 experience and that of other countries worldwide.

East, Central and Southern Africa College of Physicians

A constituent college of the ECSA College of Health Sciences



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3. To discuss how Africa should prepare for the prospect of a second wave and how to position itself strategically to ensure equitable access to effective COVID-19 vaccines and therapies.

Expected outcome

1. Comprehensive understanding of several aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic relevant to Africa and the ECSA region,
2. Identify, encourage and support Africa-driven COVID-19 research, and specifically to understand why the infection and mortality rates are presumably not as high as in the other parts of the world
3. Use Africa's diverse experience from the first wave to inform COVID-19 preventive and treatment services, making use of continental and international organisations to access resources not yet available on the continent.