

Third all Africa Workshop on Rheumatic heart Disease (RHD) was held from 20th to 21st February 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This workshop, the third following the Drakensberg and Mosi-o-Tunya meetings, recognises rheumatic heart disease as a neglected disease and the need for action to counteract its effects. The Drakensberg meeting identified four key focus areas for action to reduce the burden of Rheumatic Fever (RF) and RHD in Africa, namely; **A**wareness raising, **S**urveillance, **A**dvocacy and **P**revention (ASAP). This led to the setting up and execution of the REMEDY study to gather data on RHD in various African countries. For the collective study Prof. Bongani Mayosi was the overall PI with the various countries having their local PI's. Prof. Ogendo the PI for the Kenya chapter. Preliminary results have been presented in various fora and are an eye-opener.

The workshop was convened under the auspices of WHO-AFRO, Pan African Society of Cardiology (PASCAR) and the AU.

The main agenda of the workshop was to,

1. Advise on how to quantify the burden of RHD within Africa
2. Develop a roadmap on an action plan
3. Advise on stockholder engagement and establish collaborations

The opening session was attended by the AU Commissioner for Social Affairs, His Excellency Dr. Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko, Acting director for Disease Prevention and Control, Ministry of Health, Ethiopia, Dr. Malit Kiple and the WHO, Steven Shongwe.

It was stressed that health is not an issue of disease alone and is also pillar of development. The meeting was mandated to come up with relevant "asks" that can be presented to the ministers during their meeting in April 2015 towards morbidity and mortality reduction in RHD.

Resolutions reached for presentation to the ministers as asks were formulated and will be refined within the next few weeks.