Human Capacity Building in Africa – The BIRS Model

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1BIRS, Agricultural and Biological Engineering Purdue University; 2Medical Missionaries of Mary, Tanzania; 3Industrial and Physical Pharmacy, Purdue University; 4BIRS MS. Students.

Introduction

Skilled personnel are needed in the African pharmaceutical industry, to reach a level of scientific competence that can provide sustainable quality medicines for all of Africa. We need institutions to train African pharmaceutical scientists to position them as leaders of the manufacturing industry and regulatory sciences in Africa.

Objective

To explain the model of the Biotechnology Innovation and Regulatory Sciences (BIRS) program for the building of human capacity in manufacturing and regulatory sciences in Africa.

The Biotechnology Innovation & Regulatory Sciences (BIRS) Model

Collaborative: Purdue University (U.S.) and the Medical Missionaries of Mary (Tanzania)

Certificates Awarded

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Training</th>
<th>PhD</th>
<th>M.S.</th>
<th>Certificate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delivery Mode</td>
<td>2 two-weeks face-to-face sessions in Spring and Fall</td>
<td>Synchronous and asynchronous online delivery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pedagogic Approach

- Hands-on activities
- Collaborative group work
- Case studies
- Reflections
- Didactic presentations

Participants

- Regulators
- Industry
- Academia
- BIRS Program

Participants: Purdue Professors, Industry Experts

Faculty

Outcomes

- Number of participants
- African countries representation in the BIRS program
- Participants in different levels of training
- Percentage of participants by gender

Conclusion

Developing collaborations and partnerships will help break the cycle of insufficient human capacity building in Africa.

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Project funding and support through UNIDO, Merck Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Purdue University AUC, AUDE-NEPAD, WHO and host country (Zimbabwe).