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Foreword

Dear Readers,

SickleInAfrica is 5 years old, and we are rounding off the first phase of SickleInAfrica. We have come a long way since our 2017 inaugural newsletter.

In this special issue, we are happy to share highlights of some the consortium's achievements during the first round of funding, letters from sickle cell disease (SCD) patients to researchers, and a spotlight of some of our outstanding researchers and working groups and our sister networks.

It has been a productive 5 years, a learning curve for many of us. We have had some challenges, but the bright moments stand out. Our research and data fellows, patient support group leaders, co-Investigators, project managers/coordinators/administrators, finance officers and advisory board members have worked extremely hard to support the consortium in achieving its objectives. We particularly want to congratulate SickleInAfrica fellows and researchers who completed their degrees; received national and international awards; or forged new collaborations. Our patient support group leaders have remained committed to efforts aimed at raising public awareness on SCD, despite the challenges introduced by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Capacity building is a core activity of SickleInAfrica. We are committed to building the careers and skill sets of our all our staff and fellows. Since the start of the consortium in 2017, some of our fellows and investigators have taken up new roles and positions and/or expanded their research niches. For example, some SickleInAfrica members were recently involved in initiatives aimed at expanding new-born screening programs for SCD in Ghana and Nigeria and others are broadening their research scope to cover issues around gene therapy, mobile health, bioethics, and the social sciences. We will continue to provide a supportive and collaborative space for each one of us to thrive.

We are also happy to announce that the SickleInAfrica family is getting bigger. We started with three Sickle Pan African Research Consortium (SPARCO) sites (Ghana, Nigeria and Tanzania), the SPARCO hub at the Sickle Cell Program, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (Tanzania) and the Sickle Africa Data Coordinating Centre (SADaCC), University of Cape Town (South Africa). The second phase of SickleInAfrica will see the addition of new sites in different African countries. We are confident that with more “hands on deck” we will build Africa's largest harmonised patient centric SCD registry globally.

Lastly, we thank our funders, the NIH National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; our program officer Dr Shimian Zou; and the Vice Chancellors, Deans and Heads of Departments of host institutions for SPARCO and SADaCC. With a renewed focus on sustainability, we will grow SickleInAfrica to be a leading world-class SCD research network.

We hope that you will enjoy this issue of the SickleInAfrica Newsletter and thank you for your continuous support.

- Prof Julie Makani (*Principal Investigator, SPARCO*) & Prof Ambrose Wonkam (*Principal Investigator/Director, SADaCC*).

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Layman's summary of some SickleInAfrica publications
- Mini projects within SickleInAfrica
- Certificates of appreciation to some outstanding SickleInAfrica Members
- Faces behind the patient support groups in SickleInAfrica



Prof Julie Makani



Prof Ambrose Wonkam

CONSORTIUM NEWS

Gold Medallist!



Dr. Gaston Mazandu

CONGRATULATIONS!

...to Dr Gaston Mazandu

(Bioinformatician-SADaCC), on receiving a C2 National Research Foundation (NRF) rating. NRF ratings are allocated based on a researcher's recent research outputs and impact as perceived by international peer reviewers.

C2-rated researchers are established researchers with a sustained recent record of productivity in their field of expertise. The University of Cape Town provided seed funding to Dr Mazandu in recognition and support of his C2 rating.

SickleInAfrica remains committed to building the career and skills of its staff and research fellows.



Prof Obiageli Nnodu, Principal Investigator for SPARCo Nigeria, , was honored with a gold medal by the University of Abuja for her contribution to the University's research and development program.

The University of Abuja, Nigeria awards gold medals to staff who have attracted at least N10,000,000 (~24,000 USD) in

grants to the university. In the award ceremony, the Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdul-Rasheed Na'Allah, congratulated awardees for weathering the storm and demonstrating academic achievement through research, grant writing and scientific publishing.

Well done Prof Nnodu!

Letters from Patients

Dear SCD researchers and health care workers,

I am Kuukua Sekyi, 31 years, and I stay in Ghana. I was diagnosed as an SCD patient when I was 6 months. Growing up, Sickle Cell was not quite known and those who knew had limited knowledge about the disease, even healthcare workers. There have been considerable improvements over the years though I believe there is room for improvement.

I would like to see more healthcare workers (doctors, nurses, PA etc) trained to be specialists in sickle cell disease. I believe with this; we would be effectively cared for. They should also be patient with us when we are in crisis and visit the hospitals.

With regards to research, I would like to suggest if they could research into fruits and food that could help us to boost our immune systems to probably help in reducing crisis and fight other diseases related to SCD.

*Thank you,
Kuukua, Ghana*

PhD Graduation



Dr Khuthala Mnika (SADaCC Fellow) graduated with her Ph.D. (Human/Medical Genetics) from the University of Cape Town.

Her thesis, titled *Pharmacogenomics of Sickle Cell Disease Therapeutics: Pain and Drug Metabolism Associated Gene Variants and Hydroxyurea-induced Post-Transcriptional Expression of miRNAs*, was supervised by Prof Ambroise Wonkam (P.I of SADaCC).

She also received co-supervision from Prof Collet Dandara (Division of Human Genetics, UCT), Dr Gaston Mazandu (SADaCC), Dr Shaheen Mowla (UCT) and Dr Emile Chimusa (SADaCC).

Dr Mnika identified gene variants associated with pain in SCD and discovered a novel Hydroxyurea-induced miRNA that specifically targets foetal haemoglobin regulatory genes.

Her research will inform ongoing efforts to identify and design new therapeutic approaches for SCD.

In recognition of the quality of her work, Dr Mnika was given automatic membership to the University of Cape Town, Golden Key Society, for being one of the top 15% graduate students (2020) in her field of study.

Congratulations Dr Mnika!



Dr Siana Nkya

CONGRATULATIONS!

...to **Dr Siana Nkya** Nkya (SPARCO-Hub), who was awarded the 2021 Domic Labie prize for her presentation on "*SCD and COVID19-clinical case in Tanzania*" at the 8th International Symposium of the Réseau d'Etude de la Drépanocytose en Afrique Centrale (REDAC). Dr Nkya is a lecturer in the Department of Biological Sciences, Dar es Salaam University College of Education and an honorary lecturer at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences. Her research focuses on the genomics of SCD and she is currently working towards a program that will see the establishment and use, in Tanzania, of a MinION DNA sequencing platform for hemoglobinopathies.

Working Group Highlights: Standards of Care

The goal of the SickleInAfrica Standards of Care Working Group (SoC WG) is to develop or adapt existing, standards of care guidelines for SCD. Some of the key deliverables of this WG include:

1. the creation of a database of SCD management guidelines and
2. facilitating the adoption of guidelines within the Sickle Pan-African Network (SPAN).

To achieve its objectives, the WG collected and reviewed SCD management guidelines and protocols from the different SickleInAfrica sites and internationally. So far, the WG has developed a number of guidelines and practice notes on clinical care for persons with SCD.

The chairperson of the SoC WG is Professor Kwaku Ohene-Frempong. Please contact him if you have any questions on the WG or if you would like to collaborate with the WG. **Contact details on page 8**

SICKLEINAFRICA EVENTS

Webinars, Training and Workshops



Prof Julie Makani

CONGRATULATIONS!

...to **Prof Julie Makani**, 2020 Recipient of The Dr LEE Jong-Wook Memorial Prize for Public Health.

The Dr Lee Jong-Wook Memorial Prize for Public Health is awarded annually by the World Health Organization to individuals, institutions and organizations that have made an outstanding contribution to public health.

The 2020 prize was awarded to The Sickle Cell Disease Consortium, Tanzania, for creating an enabling scientific environment for the professional development of clinicians and scientists.

Congratulations to Prof Makani and her team!

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and the challenges of having in-person meetings, SickleInAfrica organized webinars on topical issues in SCD.

The selection of online seminar topics was guided by themes emerging from our engagement with SickleInAfrica stakeholders, mainly patients, their families, and health-care workers. The first webinar was on COVID-19 and SCD, and the second one on gene editing.

COVID-19: PERSPECTIVES FROM AFRICA (8 APRIL 2020)

The webinar on SCD and COVID-19 was informed by reports that many SCD patients were unable to regularly attend their clinic appointments and that there was little guidance on COVID and SCD.

To address these gaps, SickleInAfrica, together with SickleCharita, H3ABioNet and the Diaspora Council of Tanzanians in America (DICOTA), organised a virtual symposium on “COVID-19: Perspectives from Africa”.

The panelists discussed issues related to SCD and risks of severe COVID-19, clinical care and challenges with the stay-at-home public health strategy, advisories on SCD and COVID-19, and COVID-19 research funding.

The symposium brought together SCD patients, healthcare workers, SCD research and advocacy

groups from across Africa and globally.

GENE EDITING WORKSHOP (18 JUNE 2020)

Gene therapy for SCD is gaining interest amongst SCD patients, their families and caregivers.

Many of them are eager to know when gene therapy will be available at their clinics and hospitals. In the webinar on gene editing and SCD, researchers, funders and healthcare professionals discussed Africa’s readiness to engage in gene therapy for SCD.

This webinar was organised in partnership with SickleCharita, Rice University (USA), and the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences. Presentations from the webinar can be viewed on [YouTube](#).

SICKLEINAFRICA BLENDED LEARNING WORKSHOP: CONDUCTING AND REPORTING SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS

In 2019, SADaCC conducted a pilot workshop on writing and publishing systematic reviews. This workshop took place during a face-to-face meeting of the Sickle Cell Disease Ontology (SCDO) Working Group meeting in Cape Town South Africa.

The goal was to support SickleInAfrica researchers to identify research niches, while learning how to develop and write manuscripts for publication in peer reviewed journals. We also used the workshop to identify fellows for...

Continued on page 5

Webinars

Continued from page 4

...the SickInAfrica course on big data analytics.

The pilot training adopted a blended learning approach and consisted of two interactive online sessions and two face-to-face classrooms. Fifteen fellows in the different SickInAfrica sites were trained in systematic reviews. Topics covered included: identifying a research question, data extraction and manuscript writing. The workshop facilitators were Arthemon Nguweza (SADaCC) and Taahira Goolam Hoosen (University of Cape Town writing centre).

So far, 15 of our research fellows are working on their systematic reviews, and some of them already have manuscripts to be submitted for publication in peer reviewed journals. Despite the

recorded success, fellows encountered significant challenges in developing their manuscripts mainly due to limited access to journal articles. SickInAfrica Principal Investigators will continue to support fellows in the writing of their manuscripts until it is published. SADaCC is planning on organising more training and follow-up workshops on research skills. - *by Arthemon Nguweza, PhD Research Fellow, SADaCC*



Mr Arthemon Nguweza

AAS Research Management Grant co-led by Dr Victoria Nembaware



Dr Victoria Nembaware

Dr Vicky Nembaware (Project Manager for SickInAfrica Data Coordinating Center) was awarded the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) Research Management Programme in Africa (ReMPro Africa) and ARMA United Kingdom grant.

The project team comprises research managers from the University of Cape Town, the University of the Western Cape, the African Institute of Biomedical Science and Technology, the University of the West of England, and the GW4 Alliance (Universities of Bath, Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter). Congratulations Dr Nembaware!

See “Reflections from Research Managers...” article on page 7



Dr Maxwell Nwegbu

RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Maxwell Nwegbu is a research fellow with SPARCO, Nigeria (**P.I.:** Prof Obiageli Nnodu) .

He is a Chemical Pathologist at the University College Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria and also an Associate Professor and Acting Dean of the Faculty of Basic Clinical Sciences, University of Abuja.

He was awarded the Global Health Fellowship by the Novartis Institute of Biomedical Research.



Dr Mwashungi Ally

RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT

Dr Mwashungi Ally is a Physician and Research Fellow with the SPARCo Tanzania Site (P.I.: Dr Emmanuel Balandya).

She is also the co-Chair of the SickleInAfrica Data Standards of Care Working group. Dr Ally is interested in research on haemolytic anaemia

SCD FACT: *Did you know?*

Alhaja Asiata Adupe Onikoyi Laguda of Nigeria, lived with SCD up to the age of 94 years (Nov 1925 - Feb 2020). Mama Onikoyi-Laguda was born in Ibadan Nigeria and lived an active and fruitful life until her death in 2020.

Student and Fellows mini-Projects



Mr Reuben Chianumba

Mr Chianumba (SPARCo-Nigeria Research Fellow) is excited about the impact of Hydroxyurea (HU) in the management of Sickle Cell Disease. As part of his MSc. program at the University of Abuja, Nigeria, he is investigating reasons for the poor uptake of HU among SCD patients.

He hopes that the results of his study will inform avenues to improve the uptake of HU among SCD patients. Side effects and adverse reactions of HU are some of the obvious reasons for poor utilization of HU, are there natural methods to manage such conditions? This and other questions

motivate his interest in this area.



Mr Isaac Nyanor

Mr Nyanor (SPARCo-Ghana Data Science Fellow) is currently working on a systematic review on blood transfusion in paediatric Sickle Cell as part of the fellows training. “...I am looking at the mode of administration, indications and reported adverse reactions in terms of blood transfusion as part of manager options for sickle cell patients...”

Consortium Publications

(Paper summaries were compiled by Dr Jack Morris, SADAaCC)

SICKLEINAFRICA MARKER PAPER: MAKANI ET AL

A pan-consortium paper: the authors raise awareness of the successes of the entire consortium over the past five years.

They draw attention to the unique challenges posed by the sickle cell disease burden in Africa, and impress upon the global medical community the ethical importance

of building local capacity wherever we perform medial research.

Our progress as a consortium is clear and well showcased in this short, but impactful read. [Read article](#)

Consortium Publications

THE SICKLE CELL DISEASE ONTOLOGY: ENABLING COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AND CO-DESIGNING OF NEW PLANETARY HEALTH APPLICATIONS. NEMBAWARE ET AL.

The sickle cell disease ontology is a key project milestone and one of our proudest achievements to date. Several workshops - bringing together consortium members from across the continent - have been held to evaluate the status of the ontology, to propose how it may be improved, and to explore new applications; this paper describes the fourth workshop in the series which took place November 2019. The focus of the workshop was planetary health and the ontology. [Read article](#)

SICKLE CELL DISEASE CLINICAL PHENOTYPES IN NIGERIA: A PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF THE SICKLE PAN AFRICA RESEARCH CONSORTIUM NIGERIA DATABASE: ISA ET AL

The authors describe, for the first time, the frequency and distribution of sickle cell disease complications across Nigeria. The SPARCO Nigeria database, at the time of publication, comprised 3,622 patients enrolled from 20 sites across 6 geopolitical zones. In this preliminary analysis the investigators found bone pain crises were the most common complication; more than 5 in 10 patients in each age group had a history of these crises, regardless of where they lived. Patients are also at risk of stroke and other severe outcomes. [Read article](#)

REFLECTIONS FROM RESEARCH MANAGERS AND ADMINISTRATORS ON THEIR SMARTLIFE KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

Large collaborative research projects are fast becoming the norm, bringing with them the need for more structured organization, management, and administration both at institutional and project level.

To promote knowledge exchange between research managers and administrators, we worked collaboratively with a team of research managers and administrators to develop the **Sustainable Management and Administration for Research: Training across the project Lifecycle** (SMARTLife) project.

SMARTLife was supported by the **ReMPro** (Research Management Project) **IRMSDP** (International Research Management Staff De-

velopment Program), an initiative of the **AAS** (African Academy of Sciences) and **ARMA** (Association of Research Managers and Administrators).

Members of our team are based at institutions in South Africa (**UWC** [University of the Western Cape], **UCT** [University of Cape Town]); Zimbabwe (**AiBST** [African Institute of Biomedical Science and Technology]) and the United Kingdom (University of West of England and the **GW4 Alliance** [Comprised of the Universities of Exeter, Bristol, Cardiff and Bath]).

Continued on page 8

PATIENT SUPPORT GROUP LEADERS



Mr Joseph Antwi Sarfo
(Ghana)



Ms Arafa Said (Tanzania)



Ms Adebola Benjamin
(Nigeria)



Mr Grajevis Bakatukanda
(South Africa)

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REFLECTIONS FROM RESEARCH MANAGERS AND ADMINISTRATORS...

Continued from page 7

Details of the SMARTLife project and outputs are freely available online [here](#).

We hope the SickleInAfrica community will benefit from these resources and will continue promoting knowledge exchange activities not only for researchers, but the research support staff such as managers and coordinators. - *Victoria Nembaware, Ailsa Davies, Simon Glasser*

*“...As a research manager with no formal training in this field, it was a privilege to learn from more experienced members of the team. I hope that this partnership will continue. A major obstacle was the inability to travel and network in-person with all partners due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the weekly online meetings helped create a cohesive team...” - **Victoria Nembaware** (Project Manager, SADaCC and Co-Lead of the SMARTLife project)*

“...This was a rare and extremely valuable opportunity to work closely with international

*colleagues. Having the time to learn from them and understand our different experiences and common challenges was fantastic. I hope our initial outputs will be useful for our networks and it would be great to get feedback on these for any future work we do together ...” - **Simon Glasser** (Research Development Manager (International), University of Bristol and Co-Lead of the SMARTLife project)*

*“...Being early in my research administration career the IRMSDP programme has been hugely beneficial to me, particularly working alongside a team with such a wealth of knowledge and experience in research administration and management. The relationships and networks that I have developed with colleagues locally and internally as a result will hopefully continue beyond the project long into my career ...” - **Ailsa Davies***

(International Research Officer, Cardiff University and team member of the SMARTLife project)

Fostering Intra-consortium Collaboration



Prof Emile Chimusa (SADaCC); Dr Siana Nkya (SPARCo Hub-Tanzania); Dr Gaston Mazandu (SADaCC)



CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

SUPPLEMENT: 6TH SICKLEINAFRICA CONSORTIUM MEETING

Highlights of the Sixth SickleInAfrica meeting and dissemination event

By Upendo Masamu & Khuthala Mnika

The 6th SickleInAfrica consortium meeting took place on the 26-30 April 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health measures, the meeting adopted a hybrid model, with some participants attending physically at SickleInAfrica sites in Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa and Tanzania, while others joined virtually. Being the last consortium-wide meeting for the 1st phase of SickleInAfrica, the objective of the meeting was to present the achievements of the Consortium since it was launched in 2016; and to reflect and plan for the future.

The meeting was opened to the public and meeting attendees included SickleInAfrica consortium members (and their collaborators and advisors); researchers and healthcare workers involved in sickle cell disease research and health care; sickle cell disease patient support groups; policy makers; administrators of the institutions hosting SickleInAfrica sites; representatives of the funders; members from our sister networks, amongst others. Slightly more than 250 persons registered for the meeting, on average 100 persons attended every session of the meeting.

During the 5-day meeting, SickleInAfrica shared some of its key achievements with meeting attendees. Some of these include:

- The establishment of a multi-country, patient centric electronic SCD registry in Africa.
- The development of standard operating procedures for project activities such as administration, database management, training, and skills development.
- Training of over 550 healthcare professionals in SCD management and database management.
- The setting up of a peer-mentorship scheme for our research and data fellows.
- The development of afro-centric guidelines on SCD management and care.
- The development of consortium-wide ethics guidelines on consent, data sharing and authorship.

The consortium used the opportunity to recognise and acknowledge some of its members and collaborators who have made significant contributions to the SickleInAfrica consortium (see margins for names and pictures). Some of our research and data fellows (Dr Agnes Jonathan, Mr Kevin Esoh, Dr Emmanuela Ambrose and Mr Wilson Mupfukurirwa) also received prizes for best presentations at the 6th SickleInAfrica meeting.

Our next meeting will be in the second half of 2021. Please keep an eye on our website and social media outlets for a “save a date” announcement for the 7th SickleInAfrica meeting. We look forward to more interactions and engagement.

...were awarded to consortium members for their tireless effort, dedication, outstanding contribution and support.



Prof Lucio Luzatto



Prof Kwaku Ohene-Frempong



Prof Olopade Olufunmilayo



Prof Solomon F Ofori-Acquah

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION



Prof Isaac Adewole



Prof Abdul Rasheed Na'Allah



Dr Alayo Sopekan



Dr Furahini Tluway



Prof Julie Makani

SPARCO GHANA (P.I.: Prof Alex Osei-Akoto & co-P.I.: Dr Vivian Paintsil)

“...target enrollment of 3,000 exceeded...”



SPARCo Ghana is part of the Paediatric Sickle Cell Unit, Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH), Kumasi Ghana, and the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. SPARCo Ghana had a target enrolment of 3,000 persons.

Despite several challenges, Ghana exceeded the set target. SPARCO-Ghana has over the first 5 years of SickleInAfrica established collaborations with industry partners, patient support groups, and the Ghana health service. Currently there are nine research fellows (MPH, PhD, Postdocs) at the Ghana site.

SPARCO NIGERIA (P.I.: Prof Obiageli Nnodu)

“...recruited 6,453 patients into... registry...”



Based at the Centre of Excellence in Sickle Cell Disease Research and Training (CERSTA), University of Abuja Nigeria, SPARCo Nigeria has enrolment sites and partners across different states in Nigeria. SPARCO Nigeria has enrolled 6,453 patients into the SickleInAfrica registry trained 1,396 health care and other professionals in registry enrolment and database management; and published 28 peer reviewed articles on SCD since the inception of the site in 2016.

SPARCo Nigeria is also involved in holistic SCD stakeholder engagement and has been actively involved in the Nigeria national demographic survey and advocating for Point of Care Tests for SCD to be included in the essential diagnostic lists of the World Health Organisation.

SADACC (P.I.: Prof Ambroise Wonkam)

“...skills training for data analysis...”



Located at the Genetic Medicine of African Populations (GenMAP) research centre at the University of Cape Town, SADaCC, provides data management, training and ethical, legal and social (ELSI) support to the SickleInAfrica consortium.

In the first phase of the consortium, SADaCC has set up and designed standard operating procedures for a tracking pipeline and data capturing process for SickleInAfrica, developed ELSI guidelines and templates, implemented the Baobab LIMS system, set up a big data analysis pipeline, developed scripts to harmonize retrospective data, led the development of skills training for data analysis and developed a patient sickle cell disease ontology ([SCDO](#)). The SCDO is currently being translated into French and Portuguese. SADaCC continues to do training and skills development and ELSI monitoring.

SPARCO TANZANIA

“...enrolled 100%... of the targeted 4,000...”



TANZANIA SITE (P.I.: Dr Emmanuel Balandya)

The SPARCO Tanzania site is based at the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences and had the goal of enrolling 4,000 HbSS patients into the SickleInAfrica registry. The site reached 100% of its target, expanded its satellite sites, trained over 460 health care workers in SCD management, patient enrolment and database management.

Through mass screening and the use of point-of-care SCD tests, the site was able to identify 1,045 HbSS patients. As part of its advocacy activities, SPARCo Tanzania has introduced the use of the SCD Clinical Management guidelines in different healthcare centres in Tanzania, participated in the development and launch of the SCD health passport, and is advocating for the introduction of hydroxyurea into the National Health Insurance scheme... *Continued on page 12*

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION



Dr Raphael Sangeda



Dr Jill Kent



Mr Reuben Chianumba



Mr Samuel Osagie

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SPARCO TANZANIA

SPARCO HUB (P.I.: Prof Julie Makani)

Continued from page 9... The SPARCO Hub is nested in the Sickle cell disease program at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences. The SPARCO hub works closely with SADaCC to support project management and administration across the consortium. It also works with the SPARCO Tanzania site to support patient recruitment and enrolment into the registry. In the last 5 years, the SPARCO hub has actively engaged with policy makers at the national level; patient support groups across Tanzania and the private sector to facilitate SPARCO activities in Tanzania and to advocate for improved clinical management of SCD in Tanzania. The hub played a central role in developing standard operating procedures and ethics guidelines for the consortium and in supporting the standards of care and skills working group. So far, the Hub has submitted 10 grant applications to support research and training activities at the hub.

CONGRATULATIONS!!



Research fellows from each of the SPARCo sites were given an opportunity to present on the research they have undertaken. These presentations were evaluated and graded in order to select the best presentations of the week. The eventual winners were Dr Agnes Jonathan (SPARCo, Tanzania), Mr Kevin Esoh (SADaCC, South Africa), Dr Emmanuela Ambrose (SPARCo, Tanzania), Mr Wilson Mupfururirwa (SADaCC, South Africa). Well done to all our research fellows!

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6th SickleInAfrica Consortium Meeting Supplement: Upendo Masamu, Khuthala Mnika
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