

Expansion of the PHFI Certificate Course in Management of Hypertension to the African continent

Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), International Society of Hypertension (ISH), British and Irish Hypertension Society (BIHS), Centre for Chronic Disease Control (CCDC), and the Pan-African Society of Cardiology (PASCAR) conducted the first continental meeting for the expansion of the Certificate Course in Management of Hypertension to the African region in Nairobi, Kenya. The course that has successfully trained over 1400 primary care physicians in India is now being adapted for the training of healthcare professionals in Africa. The meeting was attended by 28 key opinion leaders in the field of cardiology from across the continent.

In the meeting that lasted for two days, leading experts from Africa and from around the world deliberated on various key issues related to the roll-out of the course in the region as well as engaged in extensive review of the course to adapt it for the African context. A press conference was also held with the Cardiovascular Journal of Africa to announce the landmark collaboration between the five esteemed organizations.

PHFI, ISH, BIHS and CCDC have partnered with Pan-African Society of Cardiology (PASCAR) to launch CCMH for capacity building of healthcare professionals in the African region. **PASCAR intends to roll-out this capacity building program across the African region in English, Portuguese, Arabic, French as well as other local languages.** The course will be delivered in the original once-a-month contact based sessions over **ten months for prescribers** as well as a shorter, modified **five month contact based program for non-prescribers.**

The various dignitaries that attended the meeting include **Prof. Neil Poulter** (President, ISH), **Prof. Francesco Cappuccio** (President, BIHS), **Prof. Saad Subahi** (President, PASCAR), **Prof. Elijah Ogola** (Secretary General, PASCAR), **Prof. Anastase Dzudie** (Vice-President, PASCAR (Central Africa Region) and Chair, PASCAR Task Force on Hypertension), **Prof. Harun Otteno** (Vice-President, PASCAR (East Africa Region)), **Prof. Ibrahim Ali Toure** (Vice-President, PASCAR (West Africa Region)), **Prof. Ojji Dike** (Co-Chair, PASCAR Task Force on Hypertension) and **Prof. Gamra Habib** (President, African Heart Network). The delegates included members from different parts of Africa including Kenya, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Niger, Tanzania, South Africa, Cameroon, Mozambique, Sudan and Cote D'Ivoire. **Dr. Sandeep Bhalla** (Program Director- Trainings, CCCI, PHFI) and **Dr. Arun Jose** (Senior Program Manager, CCCI, PHFI) represented PHFI at this meeting.

Prof D. Prabhakaran (Vice-President, Research and Policy, PHFI) with his visionary leadership and guidance has made this collaboration with PASCAR possible. His untiring efforts have led to the first international expansion of this course and marks the beginning of a landmark journey.

Following the continental meeting at Nairobi, regional meetings will be held over the next few months for the training of the trainers in their respective regional languages. The first regional meeting for the course is tentatively planned to be held at Nairobi, Kenya on the 25th of April, 2018. The course is expected to roll-out in various parts of Africa in the coming months.

PASCAR has also shown its keen interest to adapt other PHFI-led capacity building initiatives such as the Advanced Course in Prevention and Management of Diabetes and CVD (ACMDC), and the Certificate Course in CVD and Stroke (CCCS) in the coming months.

Glimpses:



Release of CCMH Africa Brochure

(L to R) Dr. Sandeep Bhalla (PHFI), Prof. Anastase Dzudie (PASCAR), Prof. Saad Subahi (PASCAR), Prof. Neil Poulter (ISH), Prof. Francesco Cappuccio (BIHS), Dr. Mzee Ngunga (Kenyan Cardiac Society)



Group photograph of the delegates that attended the Continental Consultation Meeting at Nairobi, Kenya



Dr. Arun Jose (PHFI) speaks during the session on CCMH Overview



Press conference with the Cardiovascular Journal of Africa



The key opinion leaders review the modules in their respective groups.



Module Review in progress



Deliberations on the modules and adaptation of the content for the African context