Balancing locally relevant investment in a Globalised environment

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Location of Malawi
The gloomy picture

- Africa suffers 24% of the world’s burden of disease, but has only 3% of the world’s health workforce.
- Poor retention of talented and potential academics and researchers
- Poor working environment & enumeration
- Political and economic instability
  - Most schools facing budget cuts
Tuition Costs and Sources of Income in Sub-Saharan African Medical Schools (source: SAMSS final report)
Dependence on international collaborators for research agenda, scientific support & funding

- Sustainable research capacity development?
- Intellectual ownership with collaborators
Faculty Involvement in Grant Supported Research in Sub-Saharan African Medical Schools by School (Source: SAMSS final report)

![Bar chart showing distribution of faculty involvement in grant supported research by school in Sub-Saharan African medical schools. The chart indicates the percentage of medical schools in each category, with bars color-coded for different regions: Central Africa, East Africa, Southern Africa, and West Africa.]
The gleam picture

- National and international interest in regard to strategic investment in African medical institutions
- Environment provides a lot of untapped research questions
- ↑ young ambitious academics & researchers
  - Setting own agenda (Yes we can generation!)
  - Need mentoring & capacity to compete globally
Strategies to make Africans globally competitive

1. Provide sustainable strategies to fund staff retention scheme
2. Provide academic career development thru research & international partnerships
3. Provide & promote opportunities for staff participation in research of excellence
4. Develop sustainable local research capacity
   - Develop local research ownership
Malawi Experience

- **Context** – Research and investments still driven by foreigners
- **Staffing** – Norad has trained Malawians***
- **Research Support Centre (RSC)** – cultivating research culture
- **Sustainability** – need for IGA & deliberate budget for sustaining investments
Concept and Functions of RSC

I. Research management (research culture & capacity development) at its core
II. Research training – individual support
III. Clinical trial support
IV. Grants administration and medical-legal services
V. Research information & data management support
Other ingredients to empower Malawians

- Utilisation of research affiliates

- Staff retention schemes
  - Both academic & support/administrative

- Academic collaborations with centres of excellence
Malawians who are First or Senior Authors in publications from research conducted in Malawi by Year
Realising the Full Light

- Need for strategies for sustainable research capacity & local ownership

- Unless we invest in the young faculty to compete at a global level, Africa’s agenda will continue being driven by non-Africans
Teach Africans how to fish rather than giving them the fish that will only last for one meal.
ZIKOMO

THANK YOU

Welcome to Malawi