

## **Sponsored symposium: Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development (PAVIA) & Karolinska Institutet (PROFORMA)**

### **Equity in safety: improving pharmacovigilance of drugs and vaccines in Africa**

New drugs and vaccines for poverty-related diseases (PRD) are often introduced with limited safety data from clinical trials in Africa, putting African patients at increased risk of toxicities. Post marketing safety surveillance (pharmacovigilance) is therefore key to identify public safety concerns of new drugs and vaccines. The number of combination drugs used in mass administration to control PRDs, and new medical products including vaccines for mass deployment in Africa is increasing. However, in many African countries regulatory systems and capacity for pharmacovigilance are still under development.

PROFORMA and PAVIA are ongoing EDCTP-funded projects aimed at strengthening pharmacovigilance capacity in Africa through education, research and improvement of information exchange and collaboration between medicine regulators, academia, and public health programmes (through which PRD drugs and vaccines are often delivered). This symposium, jointly organized by PROFORMA and PAVIA, shares the experiences drawn and lessons learnt from these two projects. It in addition explores how these can be used to address the challenge of safety surveillance of Covid-19 vaccines on the continent. Presentations on each of these three topics, followed by a live panel discussion on how research, education and system strengthening can go hand in hand to improve equity in drug safety on the African continent. The symposium will bring the perspectives from the two projects but also from key policy bodies including the World Health Organization and the African Union Development Agency.

Chair: Sten Olsson, International Society for Pharmacovigilance (Immediate Past President), United Kingdom

Co-chair: Margareth Ndomondo-Sigonda, African Union Development Agency - NEPAD, South Africa

#### Speakers:

Eleni Aklillu, Karolinska Institute, Sweden

Strengthening Pharmacovigilance in mass drug administration and immunization programs: experience from the PROFORMA project

Yohanna Avong, Institute of Human Virology, Nigeria

Making safety surveillance work: Lessons learnt from the PAVIA project

Sujeet Kumar Jain, WHO AFRO, Republic of Congo

COVID-19 vaccine safety surveillance in Africa