

REGIONAL COOPERATION: AFRICA 2008

NETWORK: Southern African Regional Co-operation in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Biotechnology (SARBIO)

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IPICS grants:	k-SEK
1995/96 (18 months)	250
1997	318
1998	161
1999	320
2000	100
2001	125
2002	440
2003	210
2004	170
2005	268
2006	220
2007	293
<u>2008</u>	<u>168</u>
Total	3043

SUMMARY OF THE NETWORK

In developed countries scientific research is fostered and strengthened by the links that scientists are able to develop within the scientific communities which are geographically related to each other. The sheer critical mass of scientists in any region of the developed world has very positive effects on scientific development as a whole. The benefits of regional co-operation arise from interactions including the exchange of ideas and expertise, sharing of equipment, and collaborative studies. One of the considerable disadvantages facing development of Science in Africa is that, for the most part, scientists work in relative isolation in a number of different countries with few opportunities to interact. Often, the external links of African scientists are with Europe or USA and few with scientists within Africa. With the positive development of democratisation in South Africa, the Southern African sub-continent now has the opportunity of reaping the benefits from the existence of a critical mass of scientists in the region.

The objective of SARBIO is to strengthen regional research capacity in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology by promoting links between scientists in the Southern African sub-continent and between this sub-region and the rest of Africa. One important development in this

area has been the launch of the Federation of African Societies of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in Nairobi in September 1996. Many scientists in the region are starting to become acquainted with each other and to realise the potential for interactions regionally. The activities supported within the region include:

- the exchange of post-graduate students and staff for research training or for work on collaborative research projects;
- workshops, research meetings or conferences within the region; and
- interaction with other regional initiatives in order to co-ordinate activities and to share information for effective use of resources.

The support fosters collaborative regional research and training. It is hoped that this type of support nurtures regional confidence and independence together with a realisation of the resources and expertise available within the region. It is proposed that Masters and PhD level training within developed laboratories in the region be encouraged by offering support for training of staff and students from less developed universities. Many countries look toward Europe or USA for Masters and PhD training when often very good and perhaps more appropriate training can be acquired within the region. By fostering meaningful links between scientists in the region, fruitful collaborative projects and strengthened capability for regionally-based training will result.

Keywords: Regional co-operation, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Southern Africa, Africa

Fellowships

Name, Duration of fellowship (months)	Home Institute	Host scientist/ Host institute
Dr Kudzai Mutenda (1; June 1996)	Dept of Biochemistry Univ of Zimbabwe, Harare	Prof Iqbal Parker, Univ of Cape Town Medical School, South Africa
Mr Victor Konde (1; Nov 1996)	Univ of Zambia	Dr A B Siame, Univ of Botswana
Dr Ayob Maghimba (1,5; Sep 1997)	Muhimbili Medical Centre Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania	Prof Julia Hasler, Univ of Zimbabwe
Ms Yolanda Giyose (1,5; Sep 1997)	Univ of Cape Town, S. A	Prof. Julia Hasler, Univ of Zimbabwe
Mr Collet Dandara (1,5; Jan 1998)	Dept of Biochemistry Univ of Zimbabwe	Prof Iqbal Parker, Univ of Cape Town
Dr Jane Sayi (1,5; May 1998)	Muhimbili Medical Centre Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania	Prof Julia Hasler, Univ of Zimbabwe
Mr Collet Dandara (2; Sep-Oct 1999)	Dept of Biochemistry Univ of Zimbabwe	Dr Jane Sayi Muhimbili Med College Tanzania
Mr Ketulo Salipira (12; 1999)	Mkondezi Res. Station Malawi (Cassava Safety)	Harare Polytechnique Zimbabwe
Mr Lazarus Chirombe	Dept of Biochemistry	Prof Iqbal Parker

(2; May-Jun 1999) Ms Priyum Koonjul (12; 1999) Mr Hannan Babiker Eltahir (3; 2000) Mr Victor Konde (1; 2000) Mr Ketulo Salipira (12; 2000) Mr Ketulo Salipira (11; 2001) Mr Ketulo Salipira (12; 2002) Mr Edward Mwenje (1; 2002)	Univ of Zimbabwe Mauritius Univ of Khartoum Sudan Univ of Zambia Mkondezi Res. Station Malawi (Cassava Safety) Mkondezi Res. Station Malawi (Cassava Safety) Mkondezi Res. Station Malawi Nat. Univ. Science and Tech., Bulawayo Zimbabwe Dept Food Science and Nutrition, Univ. of Zimbabwe, Harare Nat. Univ. Science and Tech., Bulawayo Zimbabwe	Univ of Cape Town Dr Georg Lindsey Univ of Cape Town Prof Iqbal Parker Univ of Cape Town Prof Braam Louw Univ of Pretoria Harare Polytechnique Zimbabwe Technikon Witwatersrand South Africa Technikon Witwatersrand South Africa Univ. of Pretoria South Africa Univ. of Free State South Africa Dr Masola Dept of Biochem. Univ. of Zimbabwe Harare, Zimbabwe Prof Julia Hasler, Univ of Zimbabwe Technikon Witwatersrand South Africa Univ. of Free State South Africa
Georg Charimba (6; 2002)		
Karen Sakala (1; 2002)		
Ayob Maghimba (1; 2002) Mr Ketulo Salipira (6; 2003)	Muhimbili Medical Centre Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania Mkondezi Res. Station Nkhata Bay, Malawi (MAW:01) Dept Food Science and Nutrition, Univ. of Zimbabwe, Harare Univ of Khartoum Sudan Univ. of Zimbabwe	Univ of Zimbabwe Technikon Witwatersrand South Africa
Georg Charimba (6; 2003)		
Ms Hb El Tahir (4; 2006) Ms L Mapeka (2; 2006)		
Ms M W Mariuku Ms N Wachira	Kenya Kenya	Univ of Cape Town Prof MI Parker Univ of Cape Town Dr L Mapuru Univ. of Limpopo South Africa Kenya Kenya