

Supplementary appendix

This appendix formed part of the original submission. We post it as supplied by the authors.

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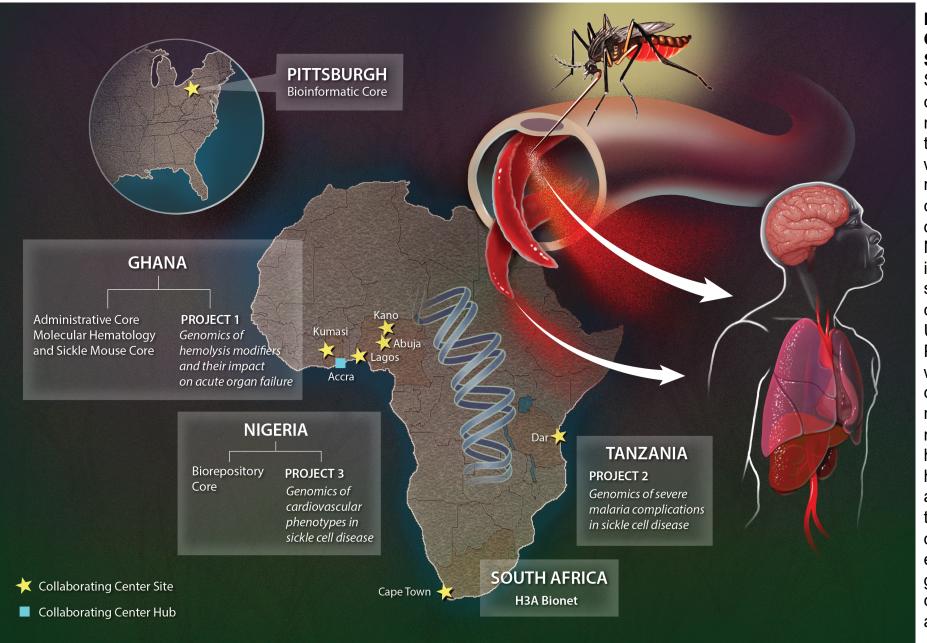


Figure 1. Overall Concept and Organization of the SickleGenAfrica Network. SickleGenAfrica is an international collaborative project operating in multiple institutions in Africa, and the University of Pittsburgh, USA with a focus on the role and mechanism of haemolysis cytoprotective pathways on organ dysfunction in sickle cell disease. Network activities are organized into three research projects, several scientific cores and a coordinating centre located in the University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana. Project 1 is focused on genome wide association studies cytoprotective proteins that neutralize the major alarmins released bγ intravascular cell-free haemolysis notably haemoglobin, extracellular haem and free iron. Project 2 examines the interaction between sickle cell disease and malaria, and Project 3 examines the role of cytoprotective gene variants on the risk of echocardiovascular disease among adult sickle cell disease patients.