

## GOVERNANCE

The consortium will comprise the core scientific team, which includes, Dr Cindy George, Prof Ikechi G. Okpechi, Prof Mark Woodward and Prof Andre P. Kengne, along with additional office staff, including students and fellows. In addition, the principle investigators of the contributing studies and regional experts in the field of CKD will also be included in the scientific team.

*Dr Cindy George:* Senior Scientist in the Non-Communicable Diseases Research Unit (NCDRU) unit of the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC). Dr George has a background in research related to non-communicable diseases (NCDs), particularly in African populations. She also has valuable experience in large database management, evident by her role in collating the database of the caregivers' data of the Birth-2-Twenty study. In her role as project lead, she will oversee all day-to-day coordination of the consortium, thus monitoring progress on a day-to-day basis for all activities, monitoring progress against the baseline plans, managing risk and any issues as they arise as well as managing the overall configuration of the consortium.

*Prof Ikechi G. Okpechi:* Researcher in the Department of Medicine and Division of Nephrology University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada and Specialist nephrologist and Professor in the Division of Nephrology and Hypertension at the University of Cape Town. As a nephrologist, Prof Okpechi has extensive expertise in the field of kidney diseases, in particular kidney disease in Africans. Furthermore, as a member of various national and international renal societies and associations, including the South Africa Renal Society (SARS), the Nigerian Association of Nephrologists (NAN), the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and Steering committee member of the ISN Global Kidney Health Atlas (GKHA), Prof Okpechi has a far-reaching network in the field of CKD. He also has valuable expertise in setting up and successfully managing consortiums and large cohort studies, which is evident in his role as principle investigator (PI) of the African Lupus Genetics Network (ALUGEN) consortium, and the South African Cape study on induction Therapy with Mycophenolic Acid or cyclophosphamide in patients with lupus nephritis (CAPTAIN Trial), as well as his role as co-PI in the Comparison of Three Combination Therapies in Lowering Blood Pressure in Black Africans (CREOLE) study. In addition to contributing this expertise to the consortium, Prof Okpechi will assist in overseeing set-up, development and execution of the consortium.

*Prof Mark Woodward:* Professor of Statistics and Epidemiology at Imperial College, London, UK. Prof Woodward is a global leader in the application of individual participant data (IPD) for research. He is a co-founder of many major IPD consortia including the global CKD-Prognosis consortium, the Asia-Pacific Cohorts Studies Collaboration, The Prospective studies collaboration, the Blood Pressure Lowering Trialist collaboration to name a few. Professor Woodward will bring this experience to the African setting. He also has considerable experience in Africa, having undertaken more than 20 development aid missions, including more than two years in Zimbabwe.

*Prof Andre P. Kengne:* Director of the NCDRU unit of the SAMRC and Professor at the Department of Medicine of the University of Cape Town. Prof Kengne has extensive experience on research relating to chronic diseases in Africa and globally. As a result, he has a far-reaching network, which is of significant importance to the consortium. He has great expertise in conducting large multi-centres/multi-national trials and collaborative studies. This is evident through his work as a member of the central coordinating team of the global Action in Diabetes and Vascular disease: PreterAx and DiamicroN MR Controlled Evaluation (ADVANCE) trial, he was also actively involved in the monitoring of the Asian Centres who took part in the Systolic Heart failure treatment with the If inhibitor Ivabradine (SHIFT) trial, as well as being involved in the pan-European EPIC-InterAct cohort study, which is the world's largest study of incident type 2 diabetes. He is also the secretariat for the Asia Pacific Cohort Study Collaboration (APCSC). The APCSC database now has data on over 650,000 participants from 44 separate cohort studies in mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, New Zealand and Australia. It is considered the largest epidemiological collaboration in the southern hemisphere and in the top five of the world's largest medical studies. He also leads the African working group of the NCD Risk Factor Collaboration (NCD-RisC), which currently includes nearly 80 investigators from across Africa and beyond. He is internationally known as a leader in the field of NCD research in developing countries. In his role as director of the consortium, he will oversee all activities relating to the development, execution and scalability of the consortium.

*Office staff:* The central office staff consists of students and fellows who (1) assisting Dr George with the development and maintenance of the network of collaboration, (2) assisting the core scientific team in identifying research opportunities, initiatives and advances, (3) assist in identifying and planning appropriate workshops and conferences, (4) scientific contributions to

the preparation and co-authoring kidney disease-related scientific articles and reports and (5) presenting research findings at national and international conferences.

*Principle investigators of the contributing studies:* The consortium will appoint an executive committee of about 10 members in charge of overseeing the activities of the consortium.