

Needs driven talent and competency development for the next generation of regulatory scientists in Africa

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Abstract

There is a critical skills gap on the African continent in regulatory sciences, and an acknowledged need to develop a long-term strategy for training and professional development of African regulatory personnel. Capacity building programs for African regulators should link education, training and research with career development in an approach that combines an academic base and experiential learning aligned within a competency framework. A regulatory ecosystem that engages with a broad range of stakeholders will mean that expertise in the ever-expanding field of regulatory science filters into teaching and research in a symbiotic way. In this way capacity development interventions will be a collaborative approach between the learning context (academic and training institutions) and the performance context (regulatory agencies and industry), which will ultimately best serve the patients. Monitoring and evaluation of capacity development interventions will be essential to show value of investments and ultimately guide continued funding and sustainability. This paper reviews the skills and human capacity gap and outlines a staged tactical approach for Africa that builds on previous efforts to strengthen African regulatory ecosystems.

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