RESEARCH PLATFORMS AND CLINICAL COHORTS:

Represent the basis on which a large proportion of scientific research funded through competitive grants is conducted. They provide an important competitive advantage when submitting research grants, the opportunity to carry out preliminary, exploratory work and to host PhD and career development students. MRCG researchers have equal access to all platforms and cohorts.

HEALTH DEMOGRAPHIC AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS

Supports demographic research e.g. adult mortality, facilitates identification of clinical cases/study subjects for all research themes; and provide a well-defined denominator for estimating morbidity/mortality rates. It provides an excellent opportunity to investigate important but neglected causes of morbidity and mortality.

WEST AFRICA COLLABORATION

Active in building strong collaborative links with other West African institutions and has actively engaged in capacity building activities consisting of international postgraduate training and institutional strengthening, e.g. Regional HIV database system, blood bank system, development of a clinical trial lab at the Laboratories Biotechnologie et Virologie (LBV), Universite Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD) in Dakar, partly supported also by competitive funding.

CLINICAL RESEARCH

Combines MRCG clinical services, the Sukuta Health Centre often used by the Vaccines and Immunity Theme to carry out clinical trials on vaccines and the pediatric ward of the Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital in Banjul. Merging these three different entities has the objective of better coordination for increasing clinical research.

TUBERCULOSIS CASE CONTACT

Has existed since 2001 and provides the ideal framework to identify correlates of protection and of latent infection in populations who are TB-exposed. It hosts studies of household transmission dynamics, biomarker research for diagnosis and treatment responses, and facilitates evaluation of novel diagnostic tests and of genetic and immunologic host markers, all of which are required to inform the TB vaccine designs of the future.

RESEARCH PLATFORMS AND CLINICAL COHORTS:

We believe in nurturing talent for transformational, professional and personal development to deliver the mission of MRCG.

Objectives:
• Develop the best researchers in the West African region by providing scholarships and fellowships at the pre-doctoral, doctoral and post doctoral levels.
• Provide training that is essential to delivering excellent science safely and ethically.
• Enable staff to develop fundamental competencies through value adding professional qualifications.
• Develop training strategies, materials, courses and workshops to build capability and capacity.
• Support and strengthen national, regional and international training partnerships to mutual benefits.
• Encourage Africans to develop research capacity to become inspirational and transformational leaders.

RESEARCH PLATFORMS AND CLINICAL COHORTS:

RESEARCH GOVERNANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

Created with the aim of better coordinating activities between different components (clinical trial support, data management and statistics, research development and project management) and by providing support to investigators to carry out clinical research at the highest possible standards. Research development and project management provides support for negotiating and managing research contracts and it’s entirely supported by competitive funds.

LABORATORY SERVICES

Includes all laboratory activities carried out at MRCG plus the biobank and the biomedical engineering, and it’s essential for producing world leading science. The clinical lab, the serology and TB lab have successfully achieved ISO15189 accreditation and the state of the art ISO17025 accreditation standards. The increasing number of large scale population based studies, community interventions and vaccine genomic approaches require high throughput technologies and increased capacity in bioinformatics.
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The MRCG Unit on Pathology in The Gambia was established in 1947 (McGregor) to address major infectious diseases of global importance in West Africa and sub-Saharan Africa. Its role is to maximize the impact of its research on public health, particularly in low and middle-income countries, supported by an enabling research environment.

- To maintain the ability to attract and retain the highest calibre of staff by ensuring that MRCG’s reputation for world-class research and excellence in excellence is preserved.
- To translate the outcomes and outcomes of the MRCG’s research into better health for the population by ensuring that the health and economic impact of our research.
- To train and develop MRCG staff in order to ensure the required capacity to manage and deliver robust research and development.
- To address health issues of priority in low- and middle-income countries by strengthening partnerships and working with a range of stakeholders, including the people and the Government of The Gambia, the West African region, funding partners and research collaborators.