



Title: North-South cooperation on transfusion and hematology teaching: A Benin experience

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With the assistance of the Ministry of Health and the Health Sciences Faculty team on Anesthesiology, National Blood Transfusion Agency and Blood Diseases Service at the National University Hospital of Cotonou organized a training for medical and paramedical personnel from 15 to 17 December 2014. This initiative received support from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Forty six hospital doctors, divided into 26 from public hospitals and 10 from private hospitals took part in this first training in Hematology and Blood Transfusion. A French delegation made by Professors Philippe COLOMBAT and Jorge DOMENECH from the Faculty of Medicine of Tours, Jean-Yves PY and Bernadette MARTENOT from French Blood Establishment gave support to ten teachers from Health Sciences Faculty in Cotonou for this training. Several themes with clinical cases were the menu of exchanges. Discussions focused in particular the needs of labile blood products in Benin, different types of anemia and their mechanisms and diagnosis, classification of malignant blood diseases, strategies for prevention or anticipation of labile blood product's needs, and their production and conservation. The most important decision from participants at the end of the training was the establishment of Hematology-Transfusion network. Currently, 24 practitioners are listed in the Facebook directory network, of which 11 did not take part in the formation in December 2014. The effects of the shortage of staff specialized in health services can therefore be lessened with the support of cooperation between North and South.

Biography

Dr Edgard LAFIA has completed the degree of Medical Doctor at the Faculty of Health Sciences in Cotonou, Benin. He also graduated in Microbiology at Cheick Anta Diop University of Dakar in Senegal, and in Blood Transfusion at St John of God Blood Transfusion Center in Rome, Italy and at the University Clinic of St Luc in Brussels. He worked as civil servant for 30 years and is currently external collaborator for the National Agency for Blood Transfusion in Cotonou. He has published 18 papers and is member of three international scientific societies.