**ETATMBA External Advisory Board**

**Teleconference**

**Thursday 17th October 2013 at 08:30hrs GMT**

**MINUTES**

Present: Carmi Margolis (chair), David Davies, Paul O’Hare, Nynke van den Broek, Senga Pemba, Cynthia Meanwell, Tom Lissauer, Anne-Marie Brennan

Unable to contact: Edgar Kuchingale

**1. Apologies**

Sam Luboga, Paul Long

**2. Minutes of last meeting held on 21st March 2013**

No comments.

**3. Progress of project**

PO’H reported that the project is on course for its deliverables, and is now focussing on research. Making progress with networks. Severe problems with the finances due to the EC withholding substantial funds.

Tanzania – DD reported that the Tanzanian partners have been piloting a telephone support service, which works in daytime hours but relies on one clinician’s support. Only one emergency call has been logged; generally the requests are non-urgent. DD said that once about 6 months of data have been collected there can be a case made for widening the phone support network on a national basis, making it less dependent on one individual’s participation. C. Margolis commented that it would be worth reporting on this.

In parallel, a home-grown network AMEPTA (Association of Medical Practitioners of Tanzania, <http://ameptz.org/>) is evolving into a professional support body.

Malawi – Francis Kamwendo is in discussion with Airtel about the provision of a free telephone support service. A website has been set up for the Malawi clinical officers so that they can ask advice and support each other (<http://malawinpcnetwork.org/>).

Skyband Malawi is donating free bandwidth to access the internet in two hospitals, Bwaila and Mzuzu. This will enable not just clinical officers but other hospital staff to access a wide range of training materials.

AMB reported that the Description of Work and budget have been revised and re-submitted to the EC for review by an independent expert. Meanwhile, the EC’s decision to withhold a substantial amount of funding for all partners has created significant difficulties for the African partners in particular.

**4. Recommendations / advice from the Committee**

SP asked how this kind of project could be developed nationally? Interested in making presentations to the relevant government ministry. DD asked about the best way to proceed with this. SP said that the College of Medical Science would provide academic support for the case.

*Action:* SP to provide AMB with the contact details for the relevant Ministry and College of Medicine so that this can be progressed via mutual discussion.

C. Margolis commented that some difficulties have improved since the annual partner conference in Dar es Salaam in June but that other difficulties remain intractable due to the nature of EC bureaucracy.

As an example of how the project is reaching out beyond its own scope, C. Margolis cited an instance where he was able to meet Prof. Charles Mkone in Dar es Salaam and through this meeting has been able to assist in finding paediatric surgical support from Israel for Tanzania.

PO’H asked NvdB if she has encountered similar difficulties with EC problems. NvdB has not had personal experience comparable with this project. However, she is aware of the challenges of EC projects and offered to review documents and reports in the future if necessary.

*Action:* NvdB will arrange meeting with PO’H, probably December 2013 in Liverpool.

**5. Any other business**

None.

**6. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will Thursday 20th March 2014 at 10am (UK time). Note that this is GMT.