Can We Rely on Your Organization’s Support for the Kampala Declaration to Improve Care for Sepsis and Severely Ill Patients in Africa?

November 15th, 2017

As Chair of the African Sepsis Alliance, I write to ask you to consider pledging your organisation’s support for, and commitment to, the Kampala Declaration to improve care for sepsis and severely ill patients in Africa (a copy of which is enclosed). The Declaration was produced by the African Sepsis Alliance, African Federation of Critical Care Nurses, Global Sepsis Alliance, and World Federation of Critical Care Nurses on the 20th of October 2017 in Kampala.

The African Sepsis Alliance is a not-for-profit organisation founded as a collaboration of 15 African Countries and international professional bodies dedicated to improving outcomes from sepsis. Our message is simple: sepsis is the most important cause of severe illness in Africa and must be prioritised in order to save lives and reduce suffering. Every patient in Africa has a right to survive sepsis.

Sepsis is a life-threatening condition that arises when the body’s response to infection injures its own tissues and organs. It can lead to multiple organ failure and is the most common cause of death in patients with infection. There are an estimated 30 million cases of sepsis every year and sepsis is the second cause of death worldwide and number one cause of preventable death. It is responsible for 6 to 9 million deaths worldwide; most of them preventable. Many of these cases and deaths occur in Africa – at least 2 million deaths. In addition, since sepsis affects younger people in Africa, it is associated with a disproportionate number of years of life lost. However, there is limited data, research and quality improvement initiatives from Africa, a continent with the highest incidence of infections and expected to be associated with worse outcomes. The improvements in sepsis care that have been made in high income countries also need to occur in Africa.

We urge you to commit your organization to the enclosed pledge and, in so doing, join the body of enlightened organizations from Africa and around the globe dedicated to reducing the health, economic and human burden of sepsis.

We are not asking your organisation to make a public commitment to any specific target. We would be delighted if you would support this declaration by doing 3 things:

1. Become a signatory of the declaration. Please ensure that your pledge is made online via this link or on the website of the African Sepsis Alliance
2. Share it with your contacts and news items
3. Contact us to discuss how the initial signatories could work with you to bring about improvements in sepsis in Africa

The African Sepsis Alliance can be contacted via the chair, Emmanuel Nsutebu. The African Federation of Critical Care Nurses can be contacted via the chair, Cliff Aliga. Your suport to reduce the suffering from sepsis in Africa would be very much appreciated.

Kind regards,

Dr Emmanuel Nsutebu
Consultant Infectious Disease Physician, Royal Liverpool Hospital
Chair: African Sepsis Alliance

“Due to the enormous death toll in Africa, the establishment of the African Sepsis Alliance is a very encouraging quantum leap in the fight against sepsis.”
- Prof. Konrad Reinhart, Chair of the Global Sepsis Alliance