SHORT COMMUNICATION

Building national capacity for cardiovascular disease prevention in low–medium income countries: The Nigerian Heart Foundation experience

Kingsley K. Akinroye a,*, Pascal Bovet b, Moses Tanimowo c

a Nigerian Heart Foundation, 4, Akanbi Danmola Street, Off Ribadu Road, Ikoyi, Lagos, Nigeria
b University Institute of Social & Preventive Medicine, Bugnon 17, 1005 Lausanne, Switzerland
c Department of Medicine, College of Health Sciences, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Osogbo, Osun State, Nigeria

Received 24 October 2005; accepted 25 October 2005
Available online 27 December 2005

Leadership at the national level is fundamental to a sustainable system for promoting cardiovascular disease (CVD) prevention in a population [1]. With the main aim of building national capacity for CVD prevention in Nigeria; a National Workshop on CVD prevention in Nigeria was held from July 17 to 28, 2005 in Ada (Osun State) [2–4].

This two-week workshop, an initiative of the Nigerian Heart Foundation was organized jointly with College of Health Sciences, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Osogbo and the University Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine of Lausanne (IUMSP), Switzerland. The workshop gathered 10 participants from 5 states of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 3 ladies and 7 men. The Nigerian Heart Foundation provided the seed fund and logistic support, the LAUTECH University largely funded the workshop while the University Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine of Lausanne (IUMSP) covered the travel costs of the two Swiss faculty members. The workshop benefited from broad community participation and support, as reflected in the various partners involved from the state government, local government and rural community in the workshop itself, at the opening and closing ceremonies, as well as at other functions organized during the two-week duration of the workshop [5].

The first week of the workshop was dedicated to lectures on CVD epidemiology and methodology. In particular, participants designed and conducted a rapid survey of cardiovascular risk factors in a nearby small town, analyzed the data, and wrote an ad hoc report. They reported the findings back to the local community during a vivid evening gathering attended by a hundred