

OVERVIEW

In general the Informatics and Knowledge Management sub-Directorate (IKM(s)D) has had a positive year and it is growing from strength to strength in many areas. However, this growth is constrained by several factors, notably a lack of resources. Nevertheless, through the actions of IKMD, the MRC is now considered one of the leading knowledge management institutions in South Africa.

IKMD has made substantial progress in achieving its MRC objectives, although limited progress has been made in integration of systems, mainly as a result of a lack of resources and expertise in the directorate. In order for the directorate to continue to grow, increases in resources and expertise will be essential.

This Performance Review report is based on the MRC Strategic Objectives and the approach reflects the alignment of the activities of the sub-directorate to the overall objectives and goals of the MRC.

A matrix of IKM objectives and activities is presented below. The table indicates activities completed and those that are in progress.

A MATRIX OF IKM OBJECTIVES AS PER MRC BUSINESS PLAN & ACTIVITIES TO ACHIEVE THEM

Reference:

MRC strategic objective 7: Informatics and knowledge management:

- Create an understanding and appreciation of the value of knowledge management, especially in the MRC research community
- Create a data warehouse for the MRC
- Create a national health research database
- Optimise information and knowledge flow within the MRC and externally
- Disseminate health research information to the general public
- Create a culture of knowledge sharing : Open Access System or database/repository
- Develop and implement an e-health research strategy
- Create an integrated and fully functional knowledge and information management system.

IKM OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITY	COMPLETED	PROGRESS
1. Create an understanding and appreciation of the value of Knowledge Management (KM) within the MRC, especially in the MRC research community	-Workshop on Knowledge Management (KM) and Open Access (OA), 17 and 18 August 2006.	X	Report on the workshop available on the MRC corporate Web site
Challenges - Poor support for and attendance of researchers at KM events	-	X	
	-May 2006 issue of Umyezo IKM Newsletter	X	Available on the MRC corporate Web site

IKM OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITY	COMPLETED	PROGRESS
	-November 2006 issue of Umyezo Newsletter		In preparation; will be made available on the MRC corporate Web site
2. Create a data warehouse for the MRC; create a national research data warehouse	-Policy framework for the development of an MRC data warehouse	X	Outcome of the KM and OA workshop
Challenges -No human resources for the development of the data warehouse infrastructure	-Policy development for Research data warehouse.		Planned for 2007; working committee identified at KM and OA workshop
3. Optimise information and knowledge flows within MRC and externally	-MRC Publications Report	X	
Challenges - Some MRC researchers do not submit their reports to IKM for inclusion in SA HealthInfo; for some units it was not possible even to get information for the MRC corporate Web site.	-SETI Review	X	
	- KPI Report	X	
	- Conversion of Pretoria Library into a virtual environment	X	
	- Training on data and information management for unit secretaries and admin officers		Planning in progress; for implementation 2007
	- Open Access Policy Framework	X	Outcome of the KM and OA workshop
	-Development of a Contract Budget system	X	

IKM OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITY	COMPLETED	PROGRESS
	- Some MRC Research reports added to SA HealthInfo	X	
	- Pretoria University AIDS Policy Reports received for publication on AfroAIDSinfo	X	
	-CARISA: Updates published on SA HealthInfo	X	
	-Burden of Disease Reports	X	New module under development on SA HealthInfo
	-University of Stellenboch Nutrition: SA HealthInfo - NRF (WITS/SUN) TB Centre of Excellence: a new Web site developed and integrated in SA Health Information	X	
	- Knowledge Management project on organizational learning and knowledge sharing for Intranet deployment		Concept document developed, to be integrated in the upgrade of the MRC Intranet
	- ISD function: Library and information services, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - electronic health and related resources; - interlibrary loans service. 		Ongoing Ongoing
4. Disseminate health research information to the	-Updates on AfroAIDSinfo Portal- added	X	

IKM OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITY	COMPLETED	PROGRESS
<p>general public</p> <p>Challenges</p> <p>- Too much work in relation to limited available financial and human resources while demand for services continues to increase.</p>	<p>*women focused section</p> <p>*youth section</p>		
	<p>-Pilot sites for Knowledge Centres developed in:</p> <p>*Khayelitsha school</p> <p>*Univ of Venda</p> <p>*WSU</p>		<p>Pilot project underway and development in progress</p>
	<p>-Collaborative e-learning programme between Khayelitsha and Irish learners on HIV awareness and ICT-use</p>		<p>In progress</p>
	<p>-I-Schools Info – health curriculum on HIV/TB/Malaria/IKS/nutrition and general hygiene</p>		<p>under development with Western Cape Education Department</p>
	<p>-Frequently asked questions on chronic disease of life style in SA HealthInfo</p>	<p>X</p>	
	<p>-Video on HIV for sexual education classes (Khayelitsha and MRC Research)</p>		<p>In progress</p>
	<p>-Peer education e-learning programme for WSU/Univen</p>		<p>In progress</p>
	<p>-Audio clips</p>		

IKM OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITY	COMPLETED	PROGRESS
	*NSTF Award winners 2004-2005	X	2006 in progress
	*Broadcast on 6 Campuses	X	
	-Community Radio Broadcast packaged info on MRC related Research for 18 community radio stations	X	
	-Web casts *2 live streams *6 web scheduled casts	X	
	-All audio broadcast to SABC channel Africa	X	
	-Toll free number installed for community members to ask research related questions	X	

<p>5. Create a culture of knowledge sharing</p> <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lack of Expertise -Lack of KM Systems -Culture change in knowledge creation -Reward Systems -Publishing Culture 	-KM and OA Workshop	X	Knowledge sharing Policy Framework as outcome of workshop
	-Policy development on Open Access		Planned for 2007; working committee identified at KM and OA workshop
<p>6. Develop and implement an e-health Research Strategy.</p> <p>Challenges</p> <p>Very few specialists in the area of Informatics & Knowledge Management within the MRC and in SA</p>	-IKM & e-health strategy revised 2006	X	Included in the IKM strategic objectives from 2006
	-Investigation of the use of ICTs to support patient care in rural areas ('wireless project')		Research project in progress in the North West province
	-Clinical decision support system(CDSS) for the public		Under development; DST research intern project
	-Research on ART surveillance system development 3 reports out		X
	-Consumer health informatics research on determining information needs for AfroAIDSinfo consumer groups. Report published in AfroAIDSinfo Portal	X	Ongoing surveys
	-e-learning Pilot study between learners of first and third world countries		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiated Irish funding

	-Research on the convergence of ICTs to communicate scientific achievements of NSTF Award winners	Initial report published on NSTF Awards Web site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing collaboration established • Negotiated NSTF funding
	- eHealth research project: Factors associated with the successful implementation of computerised hospital information systems in SA ('CHIS success')		Research project in progress
7. Create an integrated and fully functional information management system Challenges -Lack of Expertise -Lack of market-related salary scales within MRC	-Open source-based integration of MRC corporate systems)		Process started and abandoned: - no expertise within MRC since person resigned - no baseline funding available for this project.
	- Additional projects related to integration of information systems: - MIS – ongoing; HR system selection - QlikView pilot ; review of other integrated tools		

IKM OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITY	COMPLETED	PROGRESS
8. Biomedical Informatics Research and Development Challenges - Reduced MRC budget and post allocation has necessitated	-Developing biomedical informatics systems for HIV/AIDS and TB services and research	In progress In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued development and management of the Free State ART data warehouse • Initiated open source electronic medical record systems

IKM OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITY	COMPLETED	PROGRESS
<p>reducing informatics support activities within MRC and increasing self-initiated and collaborative research activities funded by grant income</p>		<p><i>In progress</i></p> <p><i>In progress</i></p> <p>Yes</p> <p><i>In progress</i></p> <p><i>Completed, In progress</i></p>	<p>development project (www.openmrs.org)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Initiated an African support and implementers network for OpenMRS</i> • <i>Initiated development of open source health data management systems</i> • <i>Developed and implemented and integrated HIV/AIDS and TB patient and treatment management system at Richmond Chest hospital in KwaZulu-Natal</i> • <i>Proposals submitted for development of integrated HIV/AIDS and TB patient at Edendale hospital in KwaZulu-Natal</i> • <i>Participate in WHO expert committee on electronic TB recording and reporting systems</i>
	<p><i>-Developing collaborative biomedical informatics research</i></p>	<p><i>In progress</i></p> <p><i>In progress</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ongoing surveillance of the development of drug resistance associated with the Free State ART program</i> • <i>Founder member of the Southern African HIV Treatment and Resistance network (SATuRN; www.saturn4hiv.org)</i> • <i>Collaborator in two projects to investigate the interrelationship</i>

IKM OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITY	COMPLETED	PROGRESS
			<i>between HIV infection and extremely drug resistant TB in KwaZulu-Natal</i>
	<i>-Biomedical informatics capacity development</i>	<i>In progress</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Co-investigator in development of Graduate Program in Biomedical Informatics at University of KwaZulu-Natal</i> • <i>External PhD examiner in medicine at University of KwaZulu-Natal Medical School</i> • <i>External examiner in computer science at University of KwaZulu-Natal</i>
	<i>-Developing Grant Income</i>	<p><i>Yes</i></p> <p><i>Yes</i></p> <p><i>Yes</i></p> <p><i>In progress</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Continued income of funds from the Free State ART program (R750,000)</i> • <i>Awarded a grant from the IDRC for the development of a handheld health data collection application (R1m)</i> • <i>Awarded a grant from the IDRC for the development of an OpenMRS implementers network (TBA)</i> • <i>NIH Fogarty International Center grant for Informatics Training (R250,000)</i>

CROSS CUTTERS

STAKEHOLDER RELATION		FINISHED	PROGRESS
<i>DOH</i>	<i>-Evaluation Committee for a National electronic Health Record</i> <i>- NHISSA committee</i> <i>- Western Cape province NHISSA committee</i>		X
<i>DST</i>	<i>-Steering Committee for the R&D Integrated Systems development</i> <i>-DST World Bank & Finland Panel on Knowledge Economy</i>	X	X X
<i>DAC</i>	<i>-Advise on Library and information Science</i>		X
<i>PID</i>	<i>-Library support</i>		X
<i>NEPAD</i>	<i>-Partnership with NEPAD DBSA and WITS in developing KM for Africa Institute</i> <i>Partner in the NEPAD e-Schools Project</i>		X X
<i>HON (Health On the Net)</i>	<i>Accreditation Centre for</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Developing HON for</i>

STAKEHOLDER RELATION		FINISHED	PROGRESS
<i>foundation</i>	<i>Health and Medical Web sites in Africa representing the HON Foundation</i>	<i>Collaboration established</i>	<i>Africa Web site</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Developing e-education programmes focusing on economic empowerment of women</i> <i>Ongoing reviewing of Web sites for accreditation</i>
SAASTA	<i>-Science Communication</i>		X
NSTF	<i>-Comprehensive programme to communicate NSTF Award winners' achievements to tertiary audiences</i>	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Researching development of a knowledge transfer model for wider implementation</i>
SABC CHANNEL AFRICA	<i>Audio Broadcast</i>	X	

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

<i>Masters Students</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>-Knowledge Engineering</i>		X
	<i>2</i>	<i>-Information & Communication</i>		X
	<i>3</i>	<i>-Communication Development</i>		X
		<i>-Journalism</i>		X
<i>Skills Development</i>				X

<i>University Students</i> <i>Facilitating Health Informatics degrees</i>	<i>-WSU</i>	X	
	<i>-KZN</i>	X	
	<i>-UNIVEN</i>		X x

TRANSFORMATION

<i>Managers</i>	<i>-White =2</i> <i>-Black=2</i> <i>-Coloured=1</i>		
<i>Other Staff members</i>	<i>-White=3</i> <i>-Blacks=9</i> <i>-Coloured=11</i>		
<i>Resigned</i>	<i>-Coloured=1</i> <i>-Black=2</i>		
<i>Finance:Income</i>	<i>R 200 000-00 (HIRD)</i> <i>R 2 000 000-00 (BIRD)</i> <i>R 412 000-00 (WMTD)</i>		

RESEARCH TRANSLATION

<p><i>Research Translation is mainly part of the work done by WMTD</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>20 Web sites, including Web portals for the SA HealthInfo – a knowledge network for southern Africa and AfroAIDSinfo – an information portal on HIV/AIDS</i>➤ <i>Radio broadcasts</i>➤ <i>Community outreach initiatives</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>AfroAIDSinfo – no baseline funding or human resources</i>➤ <i>SA HealthInfo – no baseline funding or human resources</i>➤ <i>MRC projects</i>➤ <i>Non-MRC projects generating income</i>
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