The Human Heredity and Health in Africa Consortium
3-6 October 2013, Johannesburg, South Africa

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Wellcome Trust
Genomics research in Africa

• African populations and their genetic variation are understudied

• African researchers are under-represented in modern genetics and genomics research

• Capacity to undertake population-based genetics and genomics research in Africa is under-developed
The origins of the H3Africa Initiative

- First discussed at an AfSHG meeting in Cairo
- Advanced at funding agencies by Francis Collins, Charles Rotimi and Mark Walport
- H3Africa was selected as an NIH Common Fund project (current budget $10M/year) and approved for funding by the WT (current budget £10M)
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AfSHG

NIH
An introduction to the H3Africa Initiative

Formal launch

In Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in October 2012
The Goals of H3Africa

• Increase the number of African scientists who are internationally competitive in genomics and population-based research
• Establish collaborative networks of African investigators pursuing genomics-based disease-oriented projects
• Create/expand infrastructure for genomics research, including bioinformatics and biorepositories
Distinguishing features of H3Africa projects

- Awards are made directly to African Institutes & PIs
- Projects comprise a research network of multiple sites
- Data must be shared through a public repository
- Must deposit biospecimens in H3Africa Biorepository
- Must include training and capacity building
- Must use the H3Africa bioinformatics network – H3ABioNet
- May include societal implications research
H3Africa

- The H3Africa consortium has funded 20 projects
  - A bioinformatics network
  - 4 pilot biorepositories
  - 15 Research Projects working on:
    - Obesity
    - Stroke
    - Microbiome (2)
    - Trypanosomes (2)
    - Schizophrenia
    - Rare neurological Disorders
    - TB (2)
    - Sickle Cell
    - Disease (ethics)
    - Kidney disease
    - Heart disease
    - Diabetes
    - Fevers of unknown origin
    - TB (2)
27 countries, 20 primary awards and 93 collaborators
Questions?