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First word

We celebrate the 6th year in which The Pan African Thoracic Society Methods in Epidemiological and Operational Research (PATS MECOR) has been training clinicians and other health professionals in Africa. The organisers of this course noticed that Africa had both a shortage of spirometers and the expertise to do quality lung function tests. PATS then partnered with trainers from South Africa and the UK and together they have successfully trained over 60 participants from across Africa in the last 2 years.

Chronic respiratory diseases, which include asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), are among the commonest of chronic respiratory diseases. Some 210 million people worldwide are affected with COPD, the diagnosis of which is made by a combination of typical history and a lung function test using a spirometer. The lack of spirometers and quality testing has hampered the diagnosis and thus the management of COPD and other chronic lung diseases.

AJRM would like to recognise the PATS MECOR and the spirometer team for their effort in training and equipping African clinicians. This effort is exemplified by noticeable visibility on 'spirometer day' and the increase of studies in chronic respiratory diseases. We expect to receive more manuscripts in this area.

Dr Evans Amukoye

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