



ACCELERATE Stakeholders Workshop

On July 25th, 2024, we conducted a comprehensive stakeholders workshop for the ACCELERATE project (mAnaging siCkle CELL disEase through in-cReased adopTion of hydroxyurEa). The workshop provided participants with in-depth insights into the program's study design and implementation strategies.

The ACCELERATE project is set to increase the use of Hydroxyurea in the management of Sickle Cell Disease patients across Nigeria. Hydroxyurea has been established as an effective drug in the management of Sickle Cell Disease which reduces episodes of crises and hospitalization in patients but its

use in Nigeria has been low considering its benefits. This will have the effect of educating patients, caregivers and healthcare workers more about Hydroxyurea, and also addressing factors that are limiting its adoption in patient care.

AUGUST



Building Capacity for Patient-Centered Care

The Patient-Centred Sickle Cell Disease Management in Sub-Saharan Africa (PACTS) hosted a transformative capacity strengthening workshop at the University of Abuja Main Campus on August 23rd, 2024.

Themed *"Driving Innovation in Sickle Cell Care: Strengthening Capacity for Better Patient Outcome,"* the workshop delivered

remarkable results:

1. Participants developed a deeper understanding of patient-centered sickle cell disease management approaches.
2. Each participating site crafted specialized action plans to address their unique regional challenges.
3. The workshop significantly enhanced collaboration between healthcare

providers and community stakeholders, thereby promoting a more holistic care model.

This workshop marks a significant milestone in improving SCD care in Nigeria. By fostering collaboration between healthcare providers and communities, PACTS is paving the way for innovative, patient-centered approaches to managing sickle cell disease.

SEPTEMBER

Newborn Screening Skills Enhancement

The CESRTA team, under the umbrella of the Consortium on

Newborn Screening in Africa (CONSA), successfully executed a

training workshop supported by the Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS)



grant. The initiative focused on empowering healthcare workers with advanced skills in sickle cell disease newborn screening. The workshop yielded two significant outcomes:

- Healthcare workers were equipped with advanced skills: Participants gained hands-on training and expertise in newborn screening

techniques and patient management, enabling them to detect and provide high-quality care to newborns with sickle cell disease.

- Effective follow-up care established: The workshop resulted in the establishment of seamless follow-up processes. These processes will ensure that identified babies receive timely and

comprehensive care, thereby significantly improving their chances of thriving.

By empowering these frontliners with the tools and expertise they need, we continually grow closer to a bright and healthy future for Golden Babies and Warriors.

CESRTA Media Competition: Amplifying Sickle Cell Awareness

In a pioneering initiative to raise community awareness, CESRTA launched a creative media com-

petition on November 5, 2023. The competition invited university students to develop compelling jingles and skits

promoting newborn screening for sickle cell disease across Primary Health Centres in the Federal Capital Territo-



ry. The judging committee, composed of Dr. Hezekiah Isah, Dr. Rukkayat Ibrahim, Ms Ijeoma Udeozo and Dr. Kelechi Obi-Nwaigwe, evaluated submissions based on creativity, impact, and potential to drive public engagement.

Competition Highlights:
- First Place (Jingles Category): Anthony

C. Ndubisi, a 600-level Medicine and Surgery student
- First Place (Video Category): Annette Yakubu, a 300-level Medicine and Surgery student
On September 2, 2024, both winners were honored with monetary rewards. Moreover, they will collaborate directly with CESRTA to refine their submissions, preparing them for broader public dissemination as part of

our ongoing sickle cell newborn screening awareness campaign.
CESRTA recognises the potential of young leaders to champion meaningful change. By partnering with university students, we're fostering a movement of informed advocates who will amplify the importance of newborn screening and sickle cell disease awareness.

Editorial Team

Ijeoma Udeozo

Dr. Ayomide Fasina

Chidume Jacob