

## **Establishing a Biomedical Engineering Quality System in Africa**

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Competition for international health funding is becoming more and more competitive and big international donors are requiring much more rigorous monitoring and evaluation of health research services. The UK's Medical Research Council (MRC) in The Gambia, West Africa, is the UK's single largest investment in medical research in a developing country, having performed research and offered clinical services in The Gambia for over 60 years. Recognizing the importance of providing quality services, both for financial stability and international credibility as a research organization, the MRC has recently hired a Quality Manager to oversee the implementation of quality systems across all departments. The goal is to achieve international standards such as Good Clinical Practices (GCP), Good Clinical Lab Practices (GCLP), and ISO accreditation. What does this mean for three Canadian biomedical engineers and one Canadian senior biomedical technologist who work alongside a team of Gambian technologists in the MRC's Biomedical Engineering program? A good biomedical engineering quality system starts with clearly defined policies, standard operating procedures, equipment support plans, and key performance indicators. This paper outlines the structure and implementation process for the quality system being put in place for the Biomedical Engineering program at the MRC.