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Molecular biology in Kinshasa

Erick N Kamangu

University of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo

Molecular biology has reached its peak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and particularly in Kinshasa due to major epidemics outbreaks in the region such as EBOLA haemorrhagic fever, HIV, swine virus, cassava mosaic virus and so many others. First introduced in the medical curriculum, she quickly evolved in the field of biomedical research and various community services. Nearly 9 Molecular biology laboratories exist across the country, including 4 in Kinshasa and all in the public sector. At the National Institute of Biomedical Research (INRB), the work of molecular biology is mainly focused on the research and therapeutic development of EBOLA fever. At the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Kinshasa (UNIKIN), researches are more diversified. They range from HIV (diagnosis, management, genetic diversity and resistance) to plasmodium (diagnosis and resistance) through viral hepatitis and others parasites. In addition, molecular biology has made it possible to identify the viruses responsible for African cassava mosaic, the genotypes involved in sickle cell disease, the mapping of HIV strains circulating in the DRC and the different mutations associated with ARV resistance in Kinshasa. All molecular biology laboratories in Kinshasa have adopted the standards of good practice and research. Nevertheless, the challenges are still huge for the evolution of this new technology; In other, weak state funding and lack of partnership to support the different areas of research are the main struggle.

e: erick.kamangu@unikin.ac.cd