Building Global Alliances Working Group Members
Hellen Mwithiga, Co-chair, Claudie Martinez, MD, Co-chair, Tammy Ramsey-Evans, MD, Co-chair, Tim Hague, Richard Walker, MD, Natasha Fothergill-Misbah, PhD, Maria Barretto, PhD, Angela Halpern, PhD, SLP-CCC, Cynthia Fox, PhD, SLP-CCC, Roland Weber, Samuel Ng, Ignacio Mata, PhD

Working Group Goal
Your place of birth has a significant impact on how much access you have to health information and services. Access is limited or non-existent in low- and middle-income countries. The Building Global Alliances Working Group was created to explore ways the global Parkinson’s community can more effectively work together to increase equity of access to healthcare.

Working Group Activities
The Working Group is reviewing an existing survey made available to all WPC partner organizations. The survey review will help to:

- Better understand what resources are available
- Identify resource gaps
- Identify what language translations are most needed

From this review, the Working Group will create a centralized database of resources that will simplify and improve the sharing of global resources and best practices.

Breakout Groups
The Working Group conducted breakout sessions to help with the development of its planned activities and determine what forum members and organizations were willing to do to help improve equity of access. Some key takeaways shared with the general group:

- When considering sharing of resources, it’s important to consider human resources, as well. Organizations in low- to middle-income countries often need human support to assist and implement programs.
- There is a great need for translations of existing education materials and research.
- Beyond verbatim language translation, there is a need for more localized reviews and adaptations of materials from a cultural and accessibility perspective.
- It’s important to consider how best to reach people with little to no online access or with limited education — e.g., Whatsapp, Snapchat, utilizing systems and
communications networks within smaller communities, a one-pager that can be printed and disseminated by hand.

- There needs to be a greater alliance between allied healthcare professionals globally to assist with information dissemination.
- There should be a team to monitor the resources included in the database to ensure quality and accuracy.

Q&A Takeaways
During its presentation, the Working Group conducted a Q&A session with three panelists from the group — Ignacio Mata from the Cleveland Clinic, Cynthia Fox from LSVT Global, and Richard Walker, former lead for the MDS African Task Force. Key takeaways include:

- One of the biggest needs in Latin American in terms of educational resources is providing trusted resources in Spanish.
- The healthcare community needs to do a better job of educating and training clinicians such as Speech & Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists and Physical Therapists in low- and middle-income countries about Parkinson's.
  - Within LSVT Global, 2% of certified clinicians are in low- or middle-income countries, but serving 84% of the global population.
  - Setting quantitative goals or standards for increasing healthcare professionals with Parkinson’s-specific training in underserved countries may help move the needle more quickly.
- The biggest challenges faced in the African Parkinson’s community are:
  - Information dissemination
  - Lack of awareness among people and healthcare professionals
  - Lack of access to affordable treatments

What’s Next
The Working Group is seeking support regarding funds, resources, expertise, and key global contacts to help them with their activities. If you would like to join the group or help in some way, please see contact details below.

Questions for the Building Global Alliances Working Group?
Contact Tammy Ramsey-Evans at clinical@parkinsons.org.nz

Questions for the WPC?
Contact Elizabeth Pollard at eli@worldpdcoalition.org

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