

Matched parallel cohort study designs to evaluate the burden of nosocomial infections

Dr Alexander Aiken is an infectious disease epidemiologist and clinician from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK with an interest in hospital-acquired infections in low-income settings, particularly sub-Saharan African countries. He is currently planning some future research work which aims to collaborate with Prof Hajo Grundmann and Freiburg University. This work relates to the transmission of antibiotic resistant gram-negative bacteria between hospital inpatients in paediatric wards in Harare, Zimbabwe. The central design of the study is a stepped-wedge cluster-randomized trial, with hospital wards as the unit of randomization. The planned intervention in this trial would be the use of alcohol-based hand rub, which currently has very low uptake in many African hospitals. He will present some of the findings from a pilot-study conducted in Zimbabwe in 2015 and discuss some of the planned research activities for the planned grant application.