

Konbit Sante Research Policy  
1/24/2015

Goal: Konbit Sante is committed to the conduct of research that generates evidence for improved health policies and informs programs and practices in order to improve the health of the populations we serve.

- Foreign researchers proposing to conduct a study with one of Konbit Sante's institutional partners in Haiti, and/or with the organization's support, must identify a Haitian professional who will collaborate on the conception, design, implementation, analysis, and reporting on the study as a co-investigator. If a co-investigator cannot be found, the researcher will be required to develop a mentoring relationship with a young medical or health professional interested in acquiring and/or strengthening research skills.
- Research topics and questions must be discussed with and receive approval from a departmental-level MSPP (Haitian Ministry of Health) official, and the leadership of the health institution or community where the research will take place, before implementation will be considered.
- All human subjects research must receive approval from a recognized IRB in Haiti, as well as home institution if appropriate.
- Proposals for research collaborations with Konbit Sante must define a clear plan for how they will transfer research skills to Haiti partners.
- Research has to meet high standards, utilizing quality research approaches; therefore foreign researchers must have graduate-level training in research methods. Student researchers will have clear and engaged supervision support and oversight from institutional home. US faculty must be willing to provide same level of mentoring support for Haitian partner.
- Konbit Sante expects regular communication about progress, including mid-course review, as agreed to at the initiation of the project.
- Collaborating researchers must assure that all important research documents will be available in French or Haitian Creole, including all final papers produced.
- The findings of interventional or applied research should be able to be translated into changes in practice and policy in Haiti.
- Research results must be shared with MSPP officials, health facility leadership and/or community members.
- All data sets will be held jointly by all three parties (external research institution, Haitian research institution and Konbit Sante). Data Sharing and Utilization agreement will be codified in a signed MOU at the initiation of the project.
- The hiring and supervision of research staff shall be done in collaboration with Konbit Sante. If research staff are employed by KS, all HR contractual issues will be managed by KS administration.
- Compensation for expenses incurred by KS (including personnel, technical assistance, and use of materials and resources) will be negotiated in advance of initiation of the research, and the agreement reflected in the signed MOU.
- Haitian researchers must receive proper and prominent attributions in publications, including joint authorship. Authorship placement and inclusion will be decided at the initiation of the project.
- There is a strong preference for the use of open source journals for any publications so that policy, program, and scientific personnel could more easily access the information.
- Konbit Sante and Haitian institutional or community partners will be represented as full collaborators in any research-related publications.