Reviewers Comments

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to review this paper. I think this is a very good description of what is happening/has happened.

My other observations are indicated below.

Title of Paper:

The African Health Profession Regulatory Collaborative

Version: 1 Date: August 12, 2011

Reviewer: Sheillah Matinhure

Reviewers Report

Discretionary revisions

1. Title: Can the title be more explicit indicating the What or the How of the Collaborative?

2. Conclusion of the Abstract: I am not sure if the ARC is global as implied in the conclusion. Arc may borrow from global concepts but is an African Collaborative to strengthen African Institutions. This applies to the TEXT as well.

3. Logical sequencing: Page 5: “In February 2011, ARC launched this regional initiative in Nairobi, Kenya, during an--------“ I think the launch should have come earlier than the description of what happened during the launch. (Discretional revision))

Major Compulsory Revisions

4. Page2: On discussion line no. 5: It is s important to mention that ECSACON is an implementing Partner. ECSA-HC implements this collaborative through ECSACON. Regulatory bodies and Professional Associations are members of ECSACON. This can also be rectified in the TEXT

5. Structure of the Abstract is different from that of the manuscript. In both the abstract and TEXT (manuscript) we would have preferred to see background, objectives, methods, results, discussion and conclusion. This is not the case.

6. In addition to that, what we see as discussion, are more of the methods. The discussion should be on findings. In the paper, the findings/results are not clearly defined in both abstract and TEXT (manuscript) and yet authors allude to findings in the disclaimer
7. **Results:** I did not see the results section (Compulsory major revision)

8. **Limitations:** In this type of paper, I am not sure if we need to mention limitations. If so, I have not seem any

9. **Acknowledgements:** I have not seen acknowledgements (major compulsory)

**Minor Essential Revisions**

10. Page 2 of the Abstract Discussion, line no.2, the “east, central and southern Africa” to capitalize each word.
11. 3rd paragraph: the “east, central and southern Africa” to capitalize each word and similarly to do so for the rest of the document.

**My advice on next steps:**

Given the major compulsory revisions required as indicated above, I am unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

**Level of interest:**

The manuscript make interesting reading and has potential for being a best practice and also has potential for replicability. However, the authors need to make the paper scientifically sound. It is an article of outstanding merit and interest in its field of Health Professions regulatory authority (of the kind that might be found in the leading specialist journal in the field)

**Quality of English:**

Acceptable but needs minor corrections as already indicated above

**Declaration of competing interests**

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Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

- Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future? -NO

- Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future? - NO

- Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript? Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript? -NO
- Do you have any other financial competing interests? -NO

- Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper? NO

I declare that I have no competing interests