

---

## DataFax in Africa

Name            Michael Holdsworth  
Company        Perinatal HIV Research Unit  
                    Baragwanath Hospital  
                    Soweto, Johannesburg  
                    South Africa

## 1<sup>st</sup> DataFax installation in South Africa

---

- The Perinatal HIV Research Unit has accomplished the first DataFax installation in South Africa.
- Achieved with funding support under a Comprehensive International Program of Research on AIDS grant (CIPRA).
- This first installation is significant because we had to overcome certain obstacles.

## Obstacle no 1

---

- Africa is a resource-impooverished continent
- Skills and technology are expensive and difficult to source

## Obstacle no 2

---

- Data Management has traditionally been handled offshore
- Clinical Data Management in Africa is underdeveloped

### Obstacle no 3

---

- There is a certain amount of resistance to developing a Clinical Research Data Management Industry in Africa

### Obstacle no 4

---

- As a consequence of not managing their own data, African Researchers have a poor understanding of Clinical Research Data Management.
- It is often difficult to convince local researchers that significant amounts of money and time are required to handled Clinical Research Data in a responsible manner.

## Obstacle no 5

---

- Africa based researchers have a lack of confidence in local Data Management structures, skills and expertise.
- Part of our challenge is to demonstrate that an African Data Management Centre can handle data as effectively and responsibly as our first world counterparts

## Twinning

---

- Many of the obstacle have been counteracted only because of extensive collaboration and support from established first world organizations.
- However, there is an ongoing need for training and support, and therefore there is a need to 'twin' developing organizations in the Third World with those that are developed and established in the First World.

## Future of DataFax in Africa

---

- The future of DataFax in Africa is promising.
- Besides PHRU, there are other research organizations that are planning on implementing DataFax:
  1. CAPRISA: The Centre for AIDS Program of Research in South Africa (Durban, South Africa)
  2. MRC: Medical Research Council of South Africa (Cape Town, South Africa)
  3. UZ-UCSF: University of Zimbabwe and University of California (San Francisco) collaboration (Harare, Zimbabwe)

## Collaboration

---

- There is hope that there will be strong collaboration between these developing data management centers.
- A common information platform is envisioned for the region which would include laboratory, bioinformatics, and clinical data hubs.