Supplementary File 1.

Vignettes for the study exploring views of MTRH clients and healthcare providers on biobanking and the use of stored biological materials in Eldoret Kenya

Vignette 1

John, an upcoming Kenyan Scientist is a healthy adult male residing in Eldoret. He recently saw a poster advertising a blood biobanking project at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) and he volunteered. The biobanking team fully informed him about his blood sample that was drawn through the use of a needle and consequently stored in an American biobank. The stored blood is accessible to any approved researchers from any research institution in the world who wishes to carry out research that will add preventive and/or curative knowledge about malaria and any other conditions researchers may wish to explore. All users of the stored blood are required to pay a fee every time they request for supplies from the biobank. Should there be any emergent products and/or financial profits from any undertaking associated with these samples, the users have been asked to share all benefits with MTRH. John hopes that someday, he can utilize the biobank samples for his own research in Kenya.

Vignette 2

Peter has heard about a research team based in Eldoret that is currently examining the association between inheritable factors and risk for illnesses among Kenyans. He received a letter in the post inviting him to take part in the study. The information he received was detailed and explained thoroughly what would be involved. Volunteers would be consented and then be involved in interviews covering symptoms of diverse illnesses. Lastly, each volunteer was required to donate saliva for genetic analyses. At the end of the study, the researchers said they would donate all leftover saliva samples to Moi University College of Health Sciences for use in student teaching as well as by future researchers from Eldoret and beyond. This may contribute to treatment innovations that may arise from insights from research involving genetic matter.

Vignette 3

Kwetu is a biobank in Eldoret that was established in January 2016 through a collaborative effort encompassing Moi University School of Medicine and two research institutions in Britain. Kwetu biobank has been asking people to volunteer breast tissue to be stored in the biobank in order to facilitate research on breast cancer. Some people living with cancer have already donated parts of their tissue for research. Their tissue samples were taken during curative operations to remove tumors. Some patients actually said they were glad to donate their tissue to the biobank for what would otherwise have been waste material was now being used in a valuable way to inform
science and health care. The Kwetu biobank is already operational but due to ongoing refinement in the biobank infrastructure and training of relevant personnel to run the biobank and associated sample analyses, most of the samples are currently being shipped to Mbali biobank in Britain for storage. Upon request, stored samples will be available at a fee to any breast cancer researcher in the world in order to enhance our knowledge about the condition. Any resultant benefits such as new successful treatment products will be solely owned by the final sample user.