

Review of: "The Plight of Rare Diseases in Southern Africa: Health and Social Services Policy Recommendations"

Gayatri Saberwal¹

¹ Institute of Bioinformatics and Applied Biotechnology

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This paper surveys the status of knowledge about the prevalence of rare diseases, regulations that govern such diseases, research on such conditions etc. in Africa. The authors – from half a dozen African nations – then place this picture in the global context.

Rare diseases need to receive much more attention than they currently do, across the continent, and in fact in many parts of the world. The authors have several suggestions on how this could be achieved. These include a common definition of a rare disease, the creation of a common rare diseases' database, including rare diseases in national health strategic plans with a suitable budget, etc. Given the paucity of effort in individual countries, this common approach seems to be sensible.

I have no major suggestions for the manuscript. Largely, it is well written.

Minor points:

Fig 1: I couldn't read the areas labelled in the map

The abbreviations should be alphabetical.

Who is the author ABD? Perhaps it is AD?