October 2011 saw a step forward for the Research for Health Africa (R4HA) initiative, with a first meeting of its Group of Advisors. The group of six were welcomed by the R4HA team in Midrand, South Africa to provide strategic advice on the main activities and direction of the initiative. The group of advisors agreed on how they can best use their diverse skills and expertise to support the initiative.

The meeting also gave an insight into the forthcoming ‘cross-country’ meeting for the country partners already signed up to be involved in Research for Health Africa, another first for the initiative.

The members of the group of advisors to Research for Health Africa are **Prof. Eric Buch**, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Pretoria; **Dr Paulo Ferrinho**, Director of the Instituto de Higiene e Medicina Tropical, Portugal; Retired Army Colonel, **Prof. Samuel Kofele Martin**, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, **Dr John Mugabe**, Professor of Science and Innovation Policy, Graduate School of Technology Management, University of Pretoria; **Dr Amabélia Rodrigues**, President of the National Institute of Public Health (INASA), Guinea Bissau and retired AMREF chair, **Prof. Miriam K. Were**.

*Group of Advisors’ Profiles*