

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

FARMOVS and Avacare Health Group: Advancing public health in Africa through world-class clinical research

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Dear Editor,

I am writing to highlight the critical role of FARMOVS and Avacare Health Group, in collaboration with the University of the Free State (UFS), in advancing public health in Africa through high-quality clinical research. With a remarkable track record of over 3,000 successful clinical studies, FARMOVS has emerged as an ideal partner for conducting research on the African continent, contributing to the development of innovative interventions to address the burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Africa is faced with the significant challenge of addressing both communicable and non-communicable diseases. To tackle these health challenges effectively, generating evidence through high-quality ethical research is paramount. FARMOVS, Avacare Health Group, and UFS have positioned themselves as key players in conducting clinical research in Africa, enabling the development of innovative interventions that aim to improve public health outcomes.

FARMOVS has a rich history dating back to its founding in 1974 when it conducted its first clinical trial at the academic hospital of UFS in Bloemfontein, South Africa. Recognizing the increasing demand for clinical trial services, FARMOVS established its independent spinoff company in 1986. In 1996, FARMOVS moved to a state-of-the-art 10,000 square meter clinical research facility on the UFS campus, further expanding its capabilities.

The core services provided by FARMOVS encompass comprehensive clinical research, including early pharmacology studies, pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic research, and Phase I-III trials across various therapeutic areas. Equipped with fully staffed wards and emergency medical equipment, FARMOVS facilitates the smooth conduct of clinical trials.

It is worth noting that FARMOVS is the sole site in Africa equipped for manual clamp studies on insulin.

FARMOVS also houses GLP and ISO15189 accredited laboratories with cutting-edge equipment for bioanalytical services. These laboratories adhere to FDA and EMA guidelines and provide qualitative and quantitative analysis of pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic samples in diverse biological matrices. Moreover, FARMOVS operates an in-house pharmacy registered with the South African Pharmacy Council, ensuring adherence to strict guidelines for dispensing and compounding activities.

The site management organization at FARMOVS maintains a network of over 50 external sites in South Africa, with plans for expansion across Africa. This network facilitates patient access and enhances research capacity through training, equipping, and mentoring of research-naïve sites. Collaborations with UFS and other institutions further strengthen recruitment activities and expertise in different therapeutic areas.

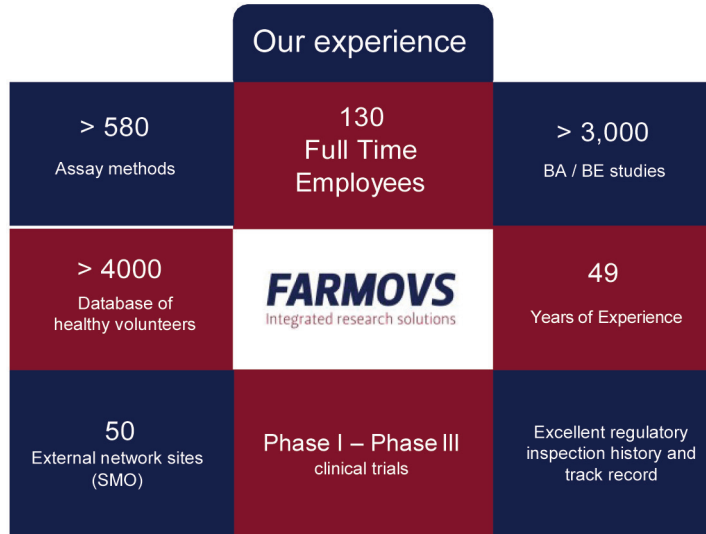
FARMOVS goes beyond core clinical research services and offers additional support services such as project management, medical writing, quality assurance, regulatory services, and logistics for sample handling and international shipments. These comprehensive support services ensure the efficiency and compliance of trial operations.

Access to diverse study populations is a notable strength of FARMOVS. With a database of over 4,000 healthy volunteers from various ethnic groups, including treatment-naïve patients, FARMOVS enhances the conduct of clinical research. Collaborations with UFS and other institutions further strengthen expertise in different therapeutic areas, expanding the knowledge base for improved recruitment activities.

In conclusion, FARMOVS and Avacare Health Group, in collaboration with UFS, play a crucial role in advancing public health in Africa through their world-class clinical research. Their commitment to high-quality ethical research, demonstrated by their successful track record and adherence to international regulations, establishes them as trusted partners in the development of innovative interventions. Through their comprehensive services, extensive networks, and dedication to excellence, FARMOVS and Avacare Health Group contribute significantly to the improvement of public health outcomes across the African continent.

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FARMOVS Credentials.

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