SRT Erythroid Cells Project, 2022-2024

Sickle cell disease (SCD) is a hemoglobinopathy with the greatest public health impact in tropical Africa, where its prevalence ranges from 0.5 to 2%. Patients with SCD have variable levels of fetal hemoglobin, and this influences the clinical severity of the disease.

In order to investigate the mechanism whereby hemoglobin F is modulated, a powerful approach is the study of cultures *in vitro* of erythroid cells, grown up from blood samples from individual patients.

San Rocco Therapeutics has provided financial support for a research project to be carried out at the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. Over a period of two years **Dr Florence Urio**, the Principal Investigator of this project, has set up the necessary methodology and has obtained preliminary results.

This is the first time that a project of this kind is carried out in Sub-Saharan Africa. As the project progresses, we can hope that the results obtained will help to optimize the management of patients with SCD.