



**International Geneva**  
**Directory of Geneva Global Health Actors**

**Réseau en Afrique Francophone pour la Télémédecine | RAFT**

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**BACKGROUND AND MISSION**

In 2001, the University of Geneva Hospitals established RAFT, a telemedicine network now connecting hundreds of care professionals in mostly African countries. This network aims at supporting isolated medical and technical professionals who are outside the reach of well-equipped capital city hospitals in maintaining their expertise and gaining new skills. The main function of RAFT is webcasting interactive courses on various medical topics on low bandwidth, on topics proposed by the local partners. The RAFT project is the core of the activities of the WHO Collaborating Center for eHealth and Telemedicine based at Geneva University Hospitals.

**AREAS OF INTEREST**

- Continuing education of health care professionals
- Tele-consultations, for example in dermatology and emergency medicine
- Tele-radiology, for example in conventional radiology, ultrasonography and CT-scan
- Development of educational online material including shareable learning objects and virtual patient simulators

**HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES**

Through its telemedicine network and with the use of technology, RAFT contributes to the advancement of public health. RAFT supports local healthcare professionals in isolated locations, and enables local healthcare professionals to pursue professional development from their workplace. The courses are interactive in allowing the participants to ask questions from the teacher, while also being free, thus also making them accessible. Most of the courses are also produced in Africa by local experts. Courses focus, among other things, on paediatrics, malaria, patient safety, reproductive health, HIV&AIDS and hospital management. The courses allow improved patient care even in rural areas in low-income countries.

**GOVERNANCE AND STAFF**

The director of RAFT is Professor Antoine Geissbühler and the coordinator is Professor Cheick Oumar Bagayoko. In each of the of the partner countries, RAFT activities are supervised by a focal point, a medical authority, a medical coordinator, and a technical coordinator. An additional team of 5 collaborators provides the central coordination of the network, and is based in Geneva.

## **FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET**

RAFT is sponsored by the University of Geneva Hospitals, the canton of Geneva, the Swiss federal government, the Global Digital Francophone University, and private foundations. The yearly operational budget is about 200'000 CHF.

*Last update: 21.08.2019*