Tel Aviv University School of Public Health &
Copperbelt University School of Medicine

Academic Collaboration and Exchange Program - Zambia

Activity Summary Report
2017-2018

Director: Daniel Cohen, MPH, PhD

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TAU SPH: Tel Aviv University School of Public Health | CBU SOM: Copperbelt University School of Medicine
ACTIVITIES

Summer Institute of Advanced Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine

As part of the academic collaboration and exchange program between Tel Aviv University School of Public Health (TAU SPH) and Copperbelt University School of Medicine (CBU SOM), CBU SOM lecturers and students are invited to attend the Summer Institute of Advanced Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at TAU-SPH, which is taught in collaboration with Johns Hopkins University. In the future a similar Summer Institute will be established at CBU SOM with courses co-lectured by TAU SPH and CBU SOM professors and potential guest lecturers from other Universities abroad.

Summer 2018

Four newly appointed faculty members were nominated by Professor Seter Siziya and participated in the 2018 program. All travel arrangements (flights, taxis), accommodations (guest housing on campus), registration (course tuition, application fee, health insurance), and other activities were organized by TAU SPH and paid for by the TAU-CBU partnership funds donated by Council for Zambia Jewry in Lusaka in May 2015.

1. Dr. Sam Miti
   Courses (2): Intermediate Observational Epidemiology, Selected Topics in Vaccinology
   Special Visits: Since Dr. Miti is a PhD candidate in Ndola, a visit to the Central Virology Laboratory at Sheba Medical Centre was arranged. Dr. Miti also went to Assaf Harofeh Hospital for a visit and tour arranged by Dr. Orna Tal, the hospital’s deputy director.

2. Dr. Chikafuna John Banda
   Courses (3): Intermediate Observational Epidemiology, Selected Topics in Vaccinology, Nutrition and Public Health
   Special Visit: A visit and tour of Assaf HaRofeh Hospital was arranged for all CBU SOM participants by Dr. Orna Tal, the hospital’s deputy director.

3. Paul (Modern) Syapiila
   Courses (3): Intermediate Observational Epidemiology, Selected Topics in Vaccinology, Nutrition and Public Health
   Special Visit: A visit and tour of Assaf HaRofeh Hospital was arranged for all CBU SOM participants by Dr. Orna Tal, the hospital’s deputy director.

4. Victor Daka
   Courses (3): Intermediate Observational Epidemiology, Selected Topics in Vaccinology, Nutrition and Public Health
   Special Visit: A visit and tour of Assaf HaRofeh Hospital was arranged for all CBU SOM participants by Dr. Orna Tal, the hospital’s deputy director.
In addition, TAU SPH arranged for the four CBU SOM participants to have lunch with Dr. Aviva Ron. Dr. Ron, originally from Ndola, Zambia, is actively involved in the Zambian-Israel public health partnership. She addressed the Summer Institute classes to give a brief explanation of the Zambian connection.

Lastly, the CBU SOM participants met with Prof. Daniel Cohen and Prof. K’hitam Muhsen to discuss faculty mentorship and opportunities for growth within the CBU SOM public health program. The participants were invited to discuss their previous experiences and future goals in hopes of strengthening the connections between our institutions. Among the meeting conclusions the importance for CBU SOM faculty members to obtain PhD degrees was highlighted as a critical step for advancement in their academic careers and teaching capabilities.

Collaborative supervision of PhD thesis proposal

Professor Cohen (TAU SPH) is supervising Dr. Sam Miti’s PhD thesis proposal in collaboration with Professor Seter Siziya (CBU SOM). Dr. Miti’s stay in Israel included a week after the Summer Institute courses to have ample time to meet faculty members, and work on his thesis proposal. Dr. Miti’s doctoral studies will be essential in the development of his academic career, and he will also be involved in graduate student teaching at CBU SOM.

Joint research projects in various topics in public health will provide possible thesis opportunities for MPH and PhD students. Data generated by these projects will serve as basis for further TAU-CBU collaborative research proposals to be submitted to competitive funding agencies, such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Fogarty International Center at NIH, the European Union, and others.

MPH program at CBU SOM

Funds given by the Zambian Jewish Community are being utilized to help establish a Masters of Public Health program at CBU SOM, as well as a student and faculty exchange program for public health teaching and research. In order to further support the MPH program, TAU SPH faculty members will be travelling to teach intensive courses at CBU SOM for the initial stages of the program. The CBU SOM MPH program opened for the 2017/2018 academic school year.

In February, Professor Dani Cohen went to meet with CBU SOM Dean Prof. Seter Siziya, the inaugural MPH class and CBU SOM faculty. A dialogue was conducted regarding future possibilities of establishing research projects of common interest to students and faculty, complimentary to the teaching objectives, some of which can serve as topics for MPH theses under supervision of local faculty and with academic support from TAU faculty members.
Over the course of his visit, Prof. Cohen visited the main CBU campus in Kitwe and met Copperbelt University Vice Chancellor Prof. Naison Ngoma. Prof. Cohen also visited the new CBU SOM campus and Jewish Community Building, the Arthur Davison Children’s Hospital, the Ndola University Teaching Hospital, the Tropical Diseases Research Centre, and met with the directors of the institutes.

- **Prof. Daniel Cohen**  
  **Dates:** Feb 18-21  
  **Details:** Prof. Cohen gave an introductory lecture to students, faculty and staff on epidemiology of diarrheal diseases and vaccines.

- **Dr. Sigal Eilat Adar**  
  **Dates:** March 31- April 8  
  **Course:** “Health Promotion with a Focus on Nutritional Epidemiology and Food Security”

- **Dr. Aviva Ron**  
  **Dates:** April 22-30  
  **Course:** “Public Health Economics and Management and Universal Health Coverage in Zambia”

- **Prof. Gabriel Chodick**  
  **Dates:** May 14- 21  
  **Course:** “Research Methods in Epidemiology with Selected Topics in Medical Informatics and Pharmacoepidemiology”

- **Dr. Oren Zack**  
  **Dates:** June 24- July 2  
  **Course:** “Environmental and Occupational Health”

- **Dr. Zohar Mor**  
  **Dates:** August 6-11  
  **Course:** “Maternal and Child Health; HIV, TB and Additional Topics”

In addition to frontal teaching at CBU SOM, each TAU SPH faculty member prepared multiple versions of interim and final examinations for students and were asked to evaluate the students’ accomplishments. Teaching and evaluation proved to be a significant time commitment for the lecturers.

All six visits were highly successful and insightful, and we are currently assessing potential future courses.
Selected Photos

From L to R:
Mr. Paul Syapiila,
Dr. Chikafuna John Banda,
Dr. Sam Miti, Mr. Victor Daka

From L to R:
Dr. Chikafuna Banda, Mr. Paul Syapiila, Prof. Moyses Szklo, Dr. Sam Miti, Mr. Victor Daka, Prof. Dani Cohen
Top: Prof. Dani Cohen Copperbelt University School of Medicine, 2018
Bottom: Dr. Aviva Ron with the members of the inaugural MPH class at Copperbelt University School of Medicine in the Jewish Building, 2018