



TEL AVIV אוניברסיטת
UNIVERSITY תל אביב

SACKLER FACULTY OF MEDICINE

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**Tel Aviv University School of Public Health &
Copperbelt University School of Medicine**
Academic Collaboration and Exchange Program - Zambia

**Activity Summary Report
2020-2021**

Director: Daniel Cohen, MPH, PhD

Prepared: June 2021

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

*All activities were affected due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of which could not take place.
Every effort was made to adapt as many activities as possible and maintain continuity.*

ACTIVITIES

Collaborative supervision of PhD and MPH theses

Professor Daniel Cohen (TAU SPH) in collaboration with Professor Seter Siziya (CBU SOM) are supervising Dr. Sam Miti's PhD thesis proposal on "Burden and characteristics of shigellosis and immune response to *Shigella* natural infection in children under 5 in Ndola, Zambia". Dr. Miti's PhD studies will be essential in the development of his academic career, and he will also be involved in graduate student teaching at CBU SOM. Ms. Mazyanga Lucy Mazaba's PhD thesis on "Epidemiology of Rubella and Congenital Rubella Syndrome in Zambia" is also under the joint supervision of Professors Siziya and Cohen. Members of CBU SOM have approached Prof. Cohen with requests for PhD supervision, and are currently applying for doctoral programs. Lastly, Dr. Sigal Eilat-Adar (TAU SPH) is supervising the MPH thesis of Dr. Njekwa Katenekwa. All these activities contribute to academic capacity building in the field of public health at CBU SOM.

Joint research projects in various topics in public health will provide possible thesis opportunities for additional 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 utilized to build the Masters of Public Health program at CBU SOM, as well as a student and faculty exchange program for public health teaching and research are still in use to strengthen these teaching and academic partnerships. The CBU SOM MPH program opened in the 2017/2018 academic school year. In order to further support the MPH program, TAU SPH faculty members are co-teaching intensive courses at CBU SOM for the initial stages of the program.

Due to pandemic-related travel restrictions, TAU SPH faculty members were unable to travel to Ndola to teach the MPH cohort in-person. However, the following courses were taught over Zoom:

- Dr. Sigal Eilat Adar (TAU SPH), with Mr. Bright Mukanga (CBU SOM)
Course: "Health Promotion with a Focus on Nutritional Epidemiology and Food Security"
- Dr. Aviva Ron (TAU SPH), with Mr. Lee Chilese (Ministry of National Development Planning, Zambia)
Course: "Public Health Economics and Management and Universal Health Coverage in Zambia"

- Dr. Oren Zack (TAU SPH), with Dr. David Mulenga (CBU SOM)
Course: "Environmental and Occupational Health"

Each TAU SPH faculty member conducted live virtual lectures, prepared multiple versions of interim and final examinations for students and were asked to evaluate the students' accomplishments. Technical difficulties arose due to internet bandwidth, and were resolved as best as possible given the circumstances. Teaching and evaluation proved to be a significant time commitment for the lecturers.

Courses were successful and insightful, and we are currently assessing potential future courses, to be taught in-person and/or virtually.

Summer Institute of Advanced Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine

The annual Summer Institute of Advanced Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at TAU-SPH, which is taught in collaboration with Johns Hopkins University was not taught in Summer 2020, and will not be held in 2021. We look forward to welcoming CBU participants when the program resumes. As mentioned in previous reports, in the future we hope to establish a similar Summer Institute at CBU SOM with courses co-lectured by TAU SPH and CBU SOM professors and potential guest lecturers from other Universities abroad.

International course at TAU SPH

In the spring semester 2021, Professors Daniel Cohen and Khitam Muhsen (TAU SPH) coordinated a semester long course at TAU SPH entitled, "Vaccines Against Bacterial and Viral Infections Including COVID-19". The course was taught virtually, in English, once a week, as part of the TAU SPH course offerings for Masters and doctoral level students. The current MPH cohort and faculty at CBU SOM were invited to join. The course was attended by participants from 11 countries, including scientists and researchers from Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ) in Lusaka. The course hosted many world renowned guest lecturers, providing a unique opportunity for learning and engagement to all those involved. Students from the MPH program at CBU SOM who participated in the course will be eligible for course credit, given they pass the final examination.

FUNDING

There are still some remaining funds in order to support additional teaching activities and student exchange programs with CBU SOM for the next couple of years.



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Selected Pictures: (Due to the lack of in-person activities, pictures are from previous years)



Top: Profs. Cohen and Siziye and CBU SOM faculty members (Nov. 2019)

Bottom: Dr. Sigal Eilat Adar with members of the MPH class (June 2019)





Top: Dr. Aviva Ron with members of the inaugural MPH class (Apr. 2018)

Bottom: CBU SOM participants at the Summer Institute of Advanced Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at TAU (July 2017-2019)





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Prof. Cohen and Mrs. Cynthia Zukas in Lusaka (Nov. 2019)