

## HIV/AIDS Twinning Center



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## AIHA Mourns the Loss of South African Partner, Prof. Johan Esterhuyse



**Prof. Adriaane Johannes Esterhuyse.**

AIHA is immensely saddened by the loss of our partner and friend, Prof. Adriaane Johannes Esterhuyse, of Cape Town, South Africa, who in early August passed away unexpectedly following an illness.

"As Head of the Department of Biomedical Sciences at Cape Peninsula University of Technology's Faculty of Health and Wellness Sciences, Prof. Esterhuyse — known to us all as Johan — championed the growth and harmonization of a four-year honors degree in biomedical sciences across Africa," said AIHA Country Director for Southern Africa John Capati.

"His guidance and leadership were crucial to the successful establishment of the new biomedical sciences program implemented through our twinning partnership between

the Polytechnic of Namibia and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences."

Twinning partner Donald Simpson, chair of the Department of Laboratory Sciences at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and director of its Office of Global Health, said, "I attribute much of the success at the Polytechnic to Johan and his passion for Namibia.

He realized that the quality of lab testing should not be dependent upon where people live and that a local workforce had to be developed so that appropriate testing could be done and the efficacy of ART properly assessed."

Noting that Prof. Esterhuyse also valued the importance of higher education and was responsible for many members of the program faculty advancing their credentials through collaboration with Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Dr. Simpson continued, "To me he was a mentor, an example of kindness and professionalism, and a real friend who will be missed tremendously.

Prof. Esterhuyse joined Cape Peninsula University of Technology, heading the Department of Biomedical Sciences since 2006.

Prior to that, he was at Cape Technikon, where he started as a Lecturer in 1989,

working his way through the ranks to become Head of the Department of Health Sciences in Faculty of Applied Sciences in 2002.

Earlier professional experience included positions at the South African Institute for Medical Research and Stellenbosch University.

After studying medical technology at Cape Technikon in 1979, Prof. Esterhuyse pursued two Bachelor's degrees and a Master's degree at Stellenbosch University, completing his Doctoral degree there in 2005.

"No words can express the depth of our sadness at the loss of Prof. Esterhuyse," said AIHA Executive Director James P. Smith.

"He was a consummate professional with a long, distinguished career that serves as a testament to his dedication to the development of biomedical sciences education and practice throughout Africa.

We mourn his passing and extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and the many people whose lives he touched."

## Tanzania Partners Pilot New Tablet Project to Help Improve Nursing Education



AIHA Technology & Strategic Information Specialist Ronald Nakaka demonstrates the tablet devices during the pilot launch.



AIHA's PEPFAR-supported Tanzania Nursing Initiative (TNI) collaborated closely with partners at Tanzania's Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to deliver low-cost tablet devices to nursing schools in Mirembe and Same in early March.

Designed to help optimize learning through real-time access to evidence-based tools and resources, this pilot project represents an innovative new approach to advance nursing education. It sets the stage for a nationwide roll out for Nursing Education National Technical Award Levels 4-6.

The tablets are providing tutors and students with up-to-date curriculum materials and references, enriching the learning experience with multimedia content and myriad possibilities to tap into other evidence-based electronic resources, while at the same time allowing for timely curriculum revisions and electronic updates.

The devices will also support more responsive nursing and midwifery education, laying the foundation for Tanzania to use this and other innovative technologies in health professions education.

The Ministry has been a key TNI partner since AIHA first launched the national inter-agency nursing capacity building program in 2005 thanks to funding from CDC in Tanzania. TNI has adopted a multi-pillared approach to achieve systemic change in nursing education and practice on a national level.

A community-based consortium led by World Services of La Crosse, Wisconsin, provides targeted technical assistance, working with local stakeholders to strengthen the nursing profession in Tanzania through faculty and leadership development, advocacy and governance, improved education, and expanded opportunities for acquiring clinical skills.

TNI also supported the Ministry's efforts to transition nursing school curricula at the certificate and diploma levels from knowledge-based to competency-based in 2008 and 2009 by helping develop training modules and materials, such as facilitator and learner guides.

A crucial challenge, however, has been for tutors and students to access and use these newer materials given the high costs of printing and photocopying lengthy paper versions.

The tablets are helping to overcome this obstacle. They have the potential to improve the quality of nursing care, as well as health outcomes, throughout the nation by elevating the level of instruction and providing access to more learning resources through the use of appropriate, low-cost, dynamic information and communication technology.

## AIHA Graduates Botswana OVC Partnership, Celebrates Accomplishments of Marang



Gary Harper accepts AIHA's "Partner in Health" award from USAID/Botswana's Mosarwa Segwabe. Partners at Children's Place International have committed to continuing their support of Marang using their own funding, as well as through a private-sector initiative called Healthcare Partnerships for Children.

AIHA honored the work of the Marang Childcare Network Trust in Botswana and its twinning partner Children's Place International during a graduation celebration held in Gaborone on July 28.

This partnership achieved great success, strengthening Marang's capacity to support its network members in their efforts to deliver high quality, comprehensive care and support services to children living with, or affected by, HIV in Botswana.

Margaret Mokochene, National OVC Coordinator at the Botswana Ministry of Local

Government and Rural Development, spoke at the event, lauding Marang's mandate to coordinate the OVC response of the country's community-based and civil society organizations.

Later, partners disseminated lessons learned to local stakeholders, including member organizations, the government, and civil society. They also shared "Let's Talk" (or "Are Beong" in Setswana), a comprehensive OVC manual on HIV-related psychosocial care for adolescents that they developed, conducting a final training of trainers session on the tool.

Children's Place's Gary Harper demonstrated some sample activities from the manual, and representatives from two Marang Network member organizations shared results of the projects they were able to implement with small grants provided by AIHA and administered by Marang.

Marang Executive Director Kgomotso Sejoie expressed her appreciation for the support of PEPFAR, AIHA, and especially the U.S. partners, stating, "In Children's Place International, we have our perfect twin. We speak the same language."

## Debre Berhan Referral Hospital Initiates Push for Quality Improvement

Ethiopia's Debre Berhan Referral Hospital has ushered in many positive changes as a result of their long-term partnership with Elmhurst Hospital Center in New York City. Chief among these is a strong and ever-growing foundation for continuous quality improvement.

Together, partners worked diligently to develop and implement a process to systematically review and revise Debre Berhan's policies and practices to ensure measurable improvement in the services they provide to patients.

To do this, though, they needed to understand their own delivery system and key processes. That's where the wealth of knowledge and experience at Elmhurst was invaluable.

"As a team, we provided a direct orientation to principles and techniques for measuring quality improvement indicators and brought strategies for implementing quality improvement projects to the table during each exchange," explains Elmhurst Medical Director Dr. Joseph Masci.

"We've been able to help our Debre Berhan partners quantify things, look for quality indicators, and make the necessary changes to improve based on our own framework," he says.

As Debre Berhan staff began to initiate the quality improvement process, they learned some surprising things. For example, they discovered that no instances of surgical site infection had been previously recorded because there was no active surveillance system in place. This meant that the surgical site was not observed, says General Surgeon Dr. Ayalewu Ayale.

"Once baseline surveillance was implemented, the results showed a high number of surgical site infections. I presented these results to the hospital administrators and other stakeholders, who supported my vision on the need for hospital-wide quality improvement projects," he says.

When Dr. Ayalewu had the opportunity to travel to New York on a professional exchange at Elmhurst, he was eager to learn everything he could about quality improvement.

"Shadowing our partners and learning from them while observing quality improvement being implemented on a hospital-wide basis really expanded my knowledge. I knew I wanted to use what I had learned to make things better at Debre Berhan," he says.

When he returned to Ethiopia, Dr. Ayalewu spearheaded the initiation of a hospital-wide quality improvement effort that focused on key problem areas, including surgical waiting time and the prevention of healthcare-associated infections.

The project necessitated closely examining many long-standing protocols and practices, which all too often revealed gaps in both care and in reporting.

Using the Ethiopian Hospital Reform Implementation Guideline (EHRIG), the Ministry of Health's 36 indicators, and the regional health department's six as a guide, Dr. Ayalewu worked with his colleagues to design and implement a number of important quality improvement projects.

"Several projects are being used as models for the rest of the country," he says.

"I personally grew from the experience I had at Elmhurst, as well as through working with our American partners when they came here," Dr. Ayalewu notes, citing leadership, management, teamwork, organization, and the open sharing of knowledge, experience, and training materials as some of the most valuable lessons he has gleaned from the twinning experience.

And, because the partnership with Elmhurst helped improve communication and cooperation among Debre Berhan's various departments, staff in the neonatology department began collaborating more closely with colleagues in the hospital's obstetrics and gynecology department.

This, along with ongoing training, mentoring, and communication from Elmhurst and support from AIHA, has helped reduce preventable newborn deaths, Dr. Ayalewu reports.

He says the changes that have been spreading throughout Debre Berhan Referral Hospital as a result of the PEPFAR-supported twinning partnership with Elmhurst have given him hope that even greater changes will take place.

With a strong focus on quality improvement; support from the Ministry of Health, PEPFAR, and CDC; and technical assistance from AIHA and our Elmhurst partners, Dr. Ayalewu says he's hopeful for the future.

"I think the transformation we've seen at Debre Berhan is outstanding in the context of our background," he concludes, "but we all know that we can go further."



With support from PEPFAR and CDC/Ethiopia, AIHA's Debre Berhan / Elmhurst partnership have made great strides toward implementing a strong culture of continuous quality improvement at Debre Berhan, including the creation of the hospital's Quality Improvement Committee, which meets periodically to review policies and practices, and make recommendations.



## Social Work Partners Support the Launch of Tanzania's Second MSW Program

**AIHA's Social Work and OVC Support Initiative has been working closely with the Tanzanian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and other key stakeholders since 2006 to strengthen the country's social welfare workforce and elevate and expand the social work profession.**

AIHA partners at the Hubert Kairuki Memorial University (HKMU) celebrated the successful launch of its new Master of Social Work (MSW) program, which welcomed its first cohort of 31 students in October 2013.

HKMU is just the second Tanzanian school to offer an MSW program, following the Open University of Tanzania's launch of their own program during the 2012-2013 academic year.

Dunford Makala, Tanzania's Commissioner for Social Welfare officiated the June 17 ceremony at HKMU's campus in Dar es Salaam. Long-time AIHA partner Dr. Theresa J. Kaijage, Chairperson of the Social Work Department at HKMU, and AIHA Country Director Ms. Sally Chalamila, also spoke at the event.

Severely overburdened, Tanzania's social welfare system faces many serious

challenges in providing much-needed support services, particularly to vulnerable populations such as orphans and other children or families affected by HIV/AIDS.

"The existing pool of social workers in the field lacks adequate skills to provide leadership and supervisory outreach services, as well as to solve advanced social issues, which are ever becoming more and more complicated each day," Dr. Kaijage said.

"This MSW program is expected to train highly qualified professional social workers, who in turn will serve as leading technical experts, practitioners, researchers, and training institution faculty in communities across Tanzania," she explained, noting that the current training output of the Institute of Social Work and other Tanzanian social work schools is inadequate to cater

for the current needs in the country.

HKMU's MSW program is being offered in two flexible schemes to accommodate students, as well as working professionals who are looking to broaden their knowledge and skill set: a one-year program for candidates with a background in social work and an 18-month program for candidates with their first degrees in other disciplines. Both schemes are full-time evening programs.

Development of HKMU's MSW program — including curriculum development and faculty training and mentoring done by experts from the Midwest AIDS Training and Education Center at the University of Illinois in Chicago — was carried out through AIHA's Tanzania Social Work and OVC Support Initiative with support from PEPFAR and CDC/Tanzania.

## Wits Clinical Associates Program Launches CommCare Electronic Logbook System



Clinical Associates students at the University of the Witwatersrand gathered in Johannesburg in April for the launch of the new CommCare system. This electronic logbook will help streamline reporting during clinical rotations.

AIHA twinning partners at South Africa's University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) in April officially launched CommCare, an electronic logbook system that makes data entry faster, simpler, and more efficient for Clinical Associate students during their training at district hospitals.

With support from PEPFAR, CDC/South Africa, AIHA, and the South African telecommunications company Dimagi, Wits piloted their CommCare program in 2013.

Based on the pilot's success, they decided to scale up the project to better support

student learning during the clinical rotations that are such a critical element of Clinical Associate training.

Students gathered at the Wits campus for a two-day workshop to learn how the CommCare logbook works.

Training included overviews on topics such as daily use, troubleshooting, device management, practice scenarios, and how to most effectively self-monitor skills and hours logged.

Additionally, Wits established a CommCare help site on the student portal. This useful tool contains logbook tutori-

als, update announcements, and discussion forums that address issues related to the new system.

Reports generated by the CommCare system provide faculty with a clearer picture of student progress in terms of attendance, procedures performed, and evaluations from clinical staff — all of which are important to enrich the learning experience and ensure proper training.

CommCare also enables students to build a portfolio of their professional skills, procedural competencies, and clinical experiences.

## AIHA Distance Learning Course on Patient Education Highlighted at 2014 EAHIL Conference

AIHA Knowledge Management and Learning Resources Consultant Irina Ibraghimova made a presentation on our distance learning course on evidence-based information for patients at the 14th European Association of Health Information and Libraries (EAHIL) conference in Rome, Italy, in June.

Ibraghimova's study reveals that while most patients want more information and to play a greater role in the decision-making process, healthcare professionals are not always aware of or sensitive to this need.

Because a wealth of patient education information exists online, AIHA's distance learning courses can help tailor information to better fit specific language, format, and media that is most applicable to each practitioner's target audiences.

Patient information needs, internet-based resources and initiatives, and the dissemination and evaluation of patient information materials all help doctors and other healthcare providers apply the principles of evidence-based practice when providing information to patients.

The overall results of Ibraghimova's study suggest that healthcare professionals feel the gap between their knowledge and skills in most, if not all, aspects of providing health information to their patients.

Many consider distance learning very practical for helping health and allied professionals acquire the requisite knowledge and skills they need to identify the best sources of evidence and the best methods for developing and introducing patient information materials in their own practice.



AIHA Knowledge Management and Learning Resources Consultant Irina Ibraghimova presenting on our patient education distance learning course at the June EAHIL conference in Rome.

## VHC Volunteer Dr. Aelaf Worku Presents a TED Talk on Experiences at Debre Berhan Hospital

Former AIHA VHC volunteer Dr. Aelaf Worku recently presented a TEDxUChicago Talk titled, "Sometimes Less is More: The Perspective that Global Health Can Lend to the U.S. Health Care System."

Dr. Worku, a Hospitalist Scholar at the University of Chicago since 2013, served as a quality improvement and

infection prevention adviser at Debre Berhan Hospital in Ethiopia from February 2011 to July 2012. During that time, he also supported the country's Medical Education Initiative, a joint Ministry of Health-Ministry of Education project to rapidly increase the number of well-trained physicians in Ethiopia.

He is applying what he learned in Debre Berhan to his current work creating models for hospital efficiency and systems that standardize the delivery of care.

You can watch Dr. Worku's TED Talk at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-NMgKnBpwk>.



Dr. Aelaf Worku.

## AIHA Workshop Highlights Critical Role of Mid-level Health Workers in South Africa

AIHA conducted a workshop titled "The Impact of Mid-Level Workers on South Africa's Health System" at the 10th PHASA Conference in Polokwane on September 3.

More than 30 conference attendees representing government, academia, the NGO community, and other stakeholders participated in the event, which focused on three mid-level worker cadres

that have been supported by AIHA: clinical associates, pharmacy technicians, and paramedics.

Based on the robust questions, answers, and discussions at the end of each group of presentations, there is a great interest in the role mid-level workers can play in strengthening and enhancing South Africa's healthcare system.

Many in attendance underscored the important role that public health practitioners must play in conducting research that can potentially inform future training and deployment of these crucial human resources for health.



Sanele Ngcobo, clinical associate, faculty at the University of Pretoria, and member of the PACASA Executive Committee, describes first-hand his experience as a member of this new profession in South Africa.

## Conferences and Opportunities



### **9th International Conference on HIV Treatment and Prevention Adherence**

June 8-10  
Miami, FL

### **6th Conference on Peer Education, Sexuality, HIV & AIDS**

June 18-20, 2014  
Nairobi, Kenya

### **CCIH 28th Annual Conference Transforming Lives: Christians in Global Health**

June 20-23, 2014  
Arlington, VA

### **Social Work: Courage, Hope & Leadership**

July 23-26, 2014  
Washington, DC

### **20th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2014)**

July 20-25, 2014  
Melbourne, Australia

### **American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Annual Meeting**

July 26-30, 2014  
Grapevine, TX

### **AfricaHI 2014: 3rd IASTED African Conference on Health Informatics**

September 1-3  
Gaborone, Botswana

### **2014 Southern African HIV Clinicians Society Conference**

September 24-27  
Cape Town, South Africa

### **CUGH Annual Conference**

March 26-28, 2015  
Boston, MA

### **2015 Conference on Social Work and HIV/AIDS**

May 21-24 2015  
New Orleans, LA, USA

## HIV/AIDS Twinning Center

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**Visit us on the Web at**

**[www.TwinningAgainstAIDS.org](http://www.TwinningAgainstAIDS.org)**

The HIV/AIDS Twinning Center mobilizes and coordinates the resources of healthcare and allied professionals in the United States and abroad to effectively build capacity to reduce HIV infection rates and provide care to those infected with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS in support of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

Funded by PEPFAR through a cooperative agreement with the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, the Twinning Center is a project of the American International Health Alliance, a US-based nonprofit dedicated to helping limited-resource communities make positive, sustainable changes that improve accessibility to a broad range of high-quality healthcare services and preventive programs.

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