



**ACE II**

Eastern and Southern Africa  
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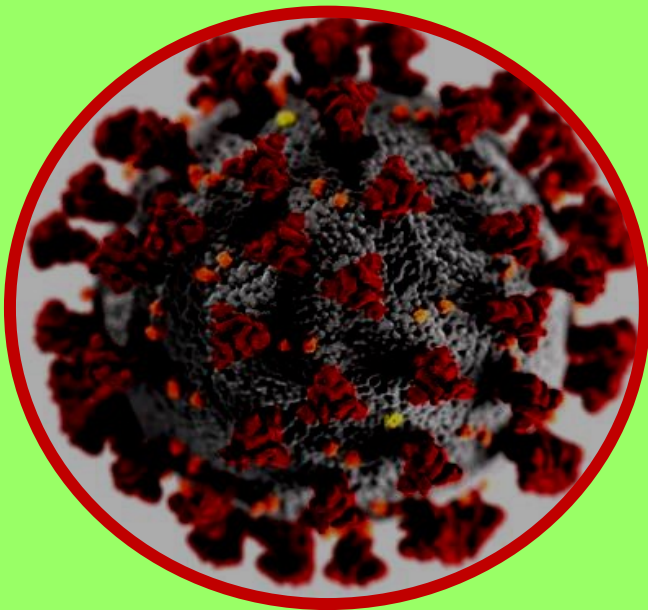
# **ACEIDHA** *Newsletter*

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Project Communication

January - June 2020

## **SPECIAL COVID-19 EDITION**



**ACEIDHA Commits  
US \$200,000 to National  
COVID-19 Efforts**





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### **VISION:**

To become a leading Centre for generating knowledge and skills for infectious disease prevention and control.

### **MISSION:**

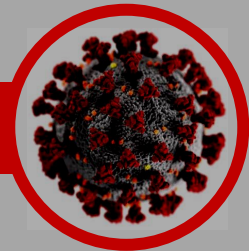
To conduct high level training through cutting-edge research.

### **CORE VALUES:**

- Excellence,
- Innovativeness,
- Integrity,
- Collegiality,
- Transparency and
- Equity.



## SPECIAL COVID-19 EDITION



# ACEIDHA Commits US \$ 200,000 to National COVID-19 Efforts

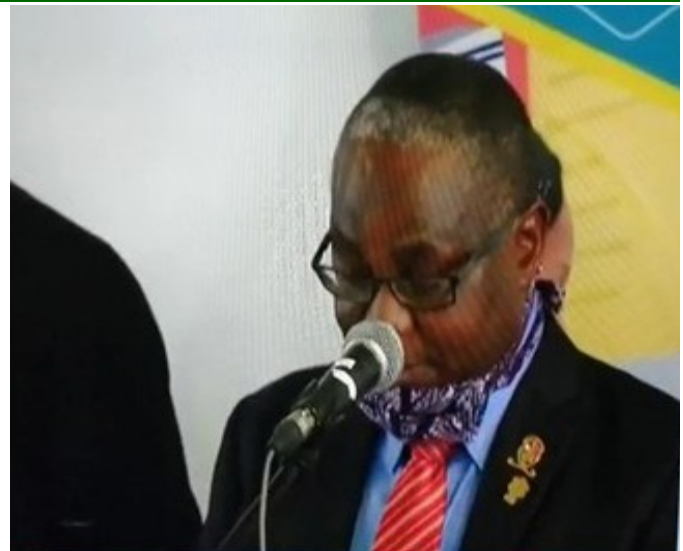
*By Damaseke Chibale*

The Africa Centre of Excellence for Infectious Diseases of Humans and Animals (ACEIDHA), based at the University of Zambia, has committed US \$200,000 to support the national COVID-19 efforts aimed at mitigating the disease. This was announced by the University of Zambia Vice-Chancellor, Prof Luke Evuta Mumba, on 21st April 2020, during the Press Briefing by the Minister of Health, Dr Chitalu Chilufya.

Prof Mumba said that the US \$200,000 was a grant given to ACEIDHA by the Skolls Foundation from California, USA, through the SACIDS Foundation for One Health. The grant is meant to support COVID-19 surveillance and diagnostics.

In this regard, ACEIDHA, will use part of this money (US\$110,000.00) to support the Zambia National Public Health Institute, conduct event based surveillance (EBS) in five (5) point of entry (POE) districts using mobile technologies. The districts are Kazungula, Chirundu, Lusaka, Kasumbalesa (Chillabombwe) and Nakonde. This will include procurement of phones, training of district emergency preparedness committee members and community health workers, and backstopping. It is hoped that setting up of the EBS will enable the capture of covid-19 disease events in real time and also assist with contact tracing. The remaining amount of money will be used for procurement of laboratory reagents and materials, in-country coordination and monitoring and evaluation.

Additionally, ACEIDHA would work in conjunction with the Zambia National Public Health Institute to utilise the US \$200,000 (ZMK3.7 million) to support national COVID-19 surveillance and diagnosis efforts. The major part of the funds would be used to purchase reagents for COVID-19 tests for diagnosis. Then the other part would be used to enhance field communication and tracing of contact persons between community health workers and the Zambia National Public Health Institute surveillance officers through mobile applications.



**UNZA Vice-Chancellor, Prof Luke Mumba, announcing the donation of US \$200,000 at the COVID-19 Press Briefing at the Ministry of Health Headquarters in Lusaka.**



**The University of Zambia is being used as one of the COVID-19 Centres in the country.**



## ACEIDHA Assists in Laying Foundation for Setting Up of COVID-19 Testing Centres in Chipata

**By Damaseke Chibale**

The Africa Centre of Excellence for Infectious Diseases of Humans and Animals (ACEIDHA) Centre Leader, Prof Bernard Hang'ombe says that the Centre has been approached to assess the possibility of setting up of a COVID-19 diagnostic centre in Eastern Province, Zambia

Prof Hang'ombe said that ACEIDHA conducted an evaluation mission to determine the suitability and requirements for the laboratories in Chipata in the Eastern Province of Zambia to conduct COVID-19 diagnosis.

He said that this was done at the invitation of the Permanent Secretary (PS) for the Eastern Province of Zambia and a report has since been submitted to the PS through the University of Zambia Vice-Chancellor's Office.

"As such ACEIDHA will assist with the validating of all the equipment that will be used for the diagnosis of the disease in the province. The Centre will play a key role in setting up the diagnostic laboratory in the Eastern region of Zambia," Prof Hang'ombe said.



**MASK UP:** ACEIDHA scientists and researchers pose for a group photo in Chipata during the evaluation mission to determine the suitability for setting up COVID-19 Diagnostic Centre. The team was led by ACEIDHA Centre Leader, Prof Bernard Hang'ombe.



ACEIDHA team pays a courtesy call during their evaluation mission in Chipata, Eastern Province. The Team was led by ACEIDHA Leader, Prof Bernard Hang'ombe and include Dr Humphrey Simukoko, Prof. Martin Simuunza and Dr Edgar Simulundu.

## 2 ACEIDHA PRINCIPAL STAFF PROMOTED TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS AT UNZA

*By Damaseke Chibale*

The Africa Centre of Excellence for Infectious Diseases of Humans and Animals (ACEIDHA) is proud to announce the promotion of two of anchor scientists and researchers to Associate Professorship at the University of Zambia. The two scientists and researchers are senior lecturers in the School of Veterinary Medicine and have been instrumental in the running of ACEIDHA. Prof Simmunza holds the position of Deputy Centre Leader and Prof Munyeme holds the position of One Health Coordinator in ACEIDHA.

In this regard, ACEIDHA would like to congratulate Prof Martin C. Simuunza and Prof Musso Munyeme on their promotions to join the ranks of Associate Professors at the University of Zambia. Below are the academic profiles of Professor Musso Munyeme and Professor Martin Simmunza:



*ACEIDHA Deputy Centre Leader Prof. Martin Simmunza.*

### ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MARTIN SIMUUNZA

Prof. Martin C. Simuunza joined the Department of Disease Control, School of Veterinary Medicine, UNZA, as Lecturer III in 2001, after completing his studies in Master of Science in Veterinary Epidemiology.

He completed his PhD in at the University of Glasgow in 2009. His research interests include epidemiology, socio-economics and population genetics of infectious diseases (mostly those due to protozoan parasites), especially those that are tick-transmitted and affecting livestock.

He is also a proponent of using the "One Health" approach in solving healthy problem and as such his research interest also covers a number of other endemic and emerging zoonotic diseases.

He has over the years been able to mobilise over US\$ 20.2 Million for both research and student scholarships at the postgraduate level, through competitive grant writing from a number of funding organisations.

He is also the Deputy Centre Leader of the US\$6 Million World Bank Group funded Africa Centre of Excellence for Infectious Diseases of Humans and Animals (ACEIDHA).

He has in total supervised 28 postgraduate students, 5 PhD and 23 MSc students. He has published 79 papers in peer reviewed journals and one book chapter, which have been cited 1090 times with an H-index of 19. On 29th November 2018 he was awarded the 2018 Science and

Technology Merit Award at a colourful ceremony, which was graced by the then Minister of Higher Education, Hon. Prof. Nkandu Luo, MP, at the Cresta Golf View Hotel. He was promoted to the rank of associate professor on 29th May 2019.

**He has over the years been able to mobilise over US\$ 20.2 Million for both research and student scholarships at the postgraduate level, through competitive grant writing from a number of funding organisations.**



## 2 ACEIDHA PRINCIPAL STAFF PROMOTED TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS AT UNZA - Cont'd

### From Page 4

Prof. Musso Munyeme was promoted to Associate Professor of Veterinary Public Health in the Department of Disease Control, School of Veterinary Medicine after having fulfilled the requirements of promotion to this level with a total of 999.28 accrued points according to the University of Zambia promotion tool.

In addition, he has a PhD in Veterinary Public Health with Scholarly Impact assessed through an H-index of 19 [with an i10-index of 37]. Additionally he has published 83 publications all in peer-reviewed journals, with 57 publications indexed under Pub-med.

He is currently the head of Department, Disease Control and the One Health Coordinator for the World Bank funded Africa Center of Excellence of Infectious Diseases of Humans and Animals (ACEIDHA).

Additionally, as a senior lecturer, he won various research grants individually and severally [including one (1) Infrastructure Grant under the BEIT-TRUST, which is currently being used to refurbish the School of Veterinary Medicine Animal Clinics]. Through the AFSCAN he was able to sponsor a final year Veterinary Student research grant.

Overall, Dr. Munyeme has over 18 years' experience in the field of Veterinary Medicine and Public Health, Epidemiology and the wildlife/livestock/human interface working across diverse landscapes mainly in the Southern African Sub-region.

Through this work, he has managed to supervise over 25 Master of Science students, 4 PhD and examined over 20 twenty postgraduate students from various Universities outside Zambia.



*ACEIDHA One Health Coordinator, Prof Musso Munyeme.*

### ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MUSSO MUNYEME

Further, he has managed a number of complex projects in natural resource settings and those linked to livelihoods, animal and human health under the "One Health" framework. Over the years he has managed to integrate scientific approaches, local and rural appraisal community participatory approaches in the management of natural resources.

Additionally, he has been involved in translating research findings into policy briefs for translational and evidence based research uptake. Through his work at the University of Zambia, he has networked with diverse stakeholders at National,

Regional and International level.

He has continued to provide leadership both at strategic and programme levels with a focus on value-added services to various stakeholders especially target beneficiaries linked to the One Health multi-disciplinary approach.

**Through the AFSCAN he was able to sponsor a final year Veterinary Student research grant.**

## ACEIDHA & Hokkaido University Research Centre for Zoonosis Hold Strategic Joint Symposium

By Damaseke Chibale

On 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020, the Africa Centre of Excellence for Infectious Diseases of Humans and Animals (ACEIDHA) and Hokkaido University Research Centre for Zoonosis (HURCZ) organised a high profile joint symposium for the control of Zoonoses in Zambia. The symposium was officiated by the Japanese Ambassador to Zambia, Mr Ryuta Mizuuchi, and the University of Zambia Vice-Chancellor, Prof Luke Mumba who was represented by Prof Enala Tembo-Mwase.

The symposium brought eminent researchers and scientists together to discuss and present key findings of their researches. Worth of note, was Professor Emeritus from Hokkaido University in Japan, Hiroshi Kida, who was instrumental in establishing the Hokkaido University Research Centre at the University of Zambia. The Centre has been receiving support from the Hokkaido University Research Centre for Zoonosis Control in Japan.

Additionally, the symposium was graced by Prof Victor Mukonka, Director of Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI) which is a Government institution under the Ministry of Health mandated to deal with infectious diseases affecting both humans and animals as well as all public health concerns.

At this point, it is important to indicate the ACEIDHA has signed memorandum of understanding to form a strategic partnership with ZNPHI and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife in the Ministry of Tourism and Arts in order to form the One Health Consortium.

Below are the broad thematic areas of research findings which were presented:

1. Establishment of the Model for Controlling Leprosy and Sleeping Sickness based on the Development of Rapid Diagnostic Methods and Risk Analysis by
2. Developmental Strategy of the International Collaboration Research for Zoonosis Control
3. The Project for the Epidemiology of Zoonotic Virus Infection in Africa
4. Africa Centre of Excellence for Infectious Diseases of Humans and Animals.

This symposium was very strategic and timely, as at the time, the world was grappling with the novel coronavirus, COVID-19 outbreak.



**Japanese Ambassador, Mr Ryuta Mizuuchi, speaking while former Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof Enala Tembo-Mwase (middle) and Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine, Prof King Nalubamba (right) listen during the symposium.**



**Professor Emeritus Hiroshi Kida, Hokkaido University**



**Prof Victor Mukonka, Director of ZNPHI.**



## JOINT SYMPOSIUM PHOTO FOCUS



*Staff from ACEIDHA and Hokkaido University Research Centre for Zoonosis*



*Participant asking questions during presentations.*



*ACEIDHA Centre Leader, Prof Bernard Hang'ombe.*



*Networking during tea break.*



*Part of the audience during symposium.*



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## BRIEF PROFILE

The Africa Centre of Excellence of Infectious Diseases of Humans and Animal (ACEIDHA) was launched on 25th April 2018 by Minister of Higher Education, in order to increase capacity to tackle increasing challenges of emerging infectious diseases affecting both humans and animals. This was formed through the World Bank loan to the Republic of Zambia. The Centre is anchored at the University of Zambia in the School of Veterinary Medicine.

## MAIN OBJECTIVE

ACEIDHA's main objective is to develop research capacity and improve training of academic staff and students with the focus centred on research into infectious diseases which affect both humans and animals, such as bird flu, Ebola, tapeworms, Brucellosis, Anthrax and others.



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**ACEIDHA — Excellence in Research & Training**