



## Higher Education PS Urges ISAB To Find Additional Sources of Funding For ACEs



**Ministry of Higher Education Director of Science and Technology, Mrs Jane Chinkusu (middle), the University of Zambia Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof Enala Tembo-Mwase (left) and ISAB Chairperson, Prof Julie FitzPatrick (right) following the presentations during the ISAB Meeting in Livingstone, Zambia.**

**By Damaseke Chibale**

on Thursday, 12th December 2019.

Ministry of Higher Education Permanent Secretary, Mrs Kayula Siame, has called upon the International Scientific Advisory Board to assist the Africa Centre of Excellence for Infectious Diseases of Humans and Animals (ACEIDHA) at the University of Zambia and Southern Africa Centre of Infectious Diseases Surveillance (SACIDS) at Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania to find other alternative sources of funding in view of the Centres' critical role they are playing in management of infectious diseases that affect animals and humans.

The Permanent Secretary, Mrs Siame, said this during the International Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) meeting in Livingstone at Chrismar Hotel

Mrs Siame, who was represented by Director of Science and Technology, Mrs Jane Chinkusu, said that the funding modalities for Africa Centres of Excellence (ACEs) was linked to the achievement of specific targets. She said that in the recent past, it was clear that the World Bank-funded ACEs had been facing financial challenges due to the target achievement linked kind of funding.

Mrs Siame assured the ISAB members of Government support and commitment in implementing the solutions of their meeting in Livingstone, Zambia.

And the Acting University of Zambia (UNZA) Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Enala Tembo-Mwase, informed the ISAB

members of the University's commitment in supporting the postgraduate programmes and research activities that ACEIDHA had embarked on.

Prof Mwase said that the success of ACEIDHA was of importance to UNZA Management and pledged unwavering support to the Centre's mandate to build capacity in infectious diseases through training and cutting edge research.

ISAB is a professional body of internationally renowned scholars and researchers in infectious diseases that affect both humans and animals such as Ebola, bird flu, tapeworms, Brucellosis, Anthrax, and others zoonotic viruses. The Board has scheduled meetings from 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019 in Livingstone.

## ACEIDHA & SACIDS CO-HOST ISAB MEETING



*International Scientific Advisory Board members pose for a group photo on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019 in Livingstone, Zambia.*

*By Damaseke Chibale*

The Africa Centre of Excellence for Infectious Diseases of Humans and Animals (ACEIDHA) at the University of Zambia (UNZA) and the Southern African Centre of Infectious Diseases Surveillance (SACIDS) co-hosted the International Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) meeting from 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019 in Livingstone, Zambia.

This is in line with the World Bank guidelines which encourage strategic partnerships among Africa Centres of Excellence (ACEs) with common interest to improve skills and knowledge transfers as well as best practices. ACEIDHA and SACIDS share common interest in infectious diseases affecting both humans and Animals.

The ISAB Meeting considered the following issues besides those reviewed behind closed meetings:

1. Centre Overview and Implementation Progress Review: ACE @ UNZA
2. Training @ UNZA: MSc Programmes; PhD Programmes and Accreditation/benchmarking - national; regional; international
3. Centre Overview and Implementation Progress Review: ACE @ SUA
4. Training @ SUA-MUHAS: MSc Programmes; PhD Programmes and Accreditation - national; regional; international
5. Community of Practice on Bacterial Diseases and antimicrobial resistance
6. Community of Practice on Neglected tropical and vector borne diseases
7. Community of Practice on Emerging and re-emerging viral diseases
8. Questions and Answers
9. One Health Poultry Hub - a Global Challenge Multi-disciplinary Research Centre; a new opportunity for RVC-SACIDS Collaboration
10. Key Agenda Item
11. ISAB Group work: Defining a new Scientific Niche for the SACIDS Foundation for One Health to meet the challenges of the 2nd decade of SACIDS - An Impact/Outcome Driven Research Programme; an enabling organisational structure and potential sources of funding

Additionally, PhD students from both ACEIDHA and SACIDS made presentations of their research theses to the ISAB meeting on the first day of the meeting.

ISAB is a professional body of internationally renowned scholars and researchers in infectious diseases that affect both humans and animals such as Ebola, bird flu, tapeworms, Brucellosis, Anthrax, and other zoonotic viruses. ISAB supports the efforts of ACEIDHA and SACIDS in their efforts to detect, identify and monitor infectious disease of humans, animals and plants through research and training.

## SACIDS HOLDS MEMORIAL SEMINAR FOR LATE ACEIDHA CENTRE LEADER, PROF AARON MWEENE

*By Damaseke Chibale*

The Southern Africa Centre of Infectious Diseases Surveillance (SACIDS) Foundation for One Health Board members has held a memorial seminar for the late Prof. Aaron Mweene in recognition of his massive contributions to its formation at Chrismar Hotel in Livingstone, Zambia, on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019. This seminar was organised by SACIDS and Africa Centre of Excellence for Infectious Diseases of Humans and Animals (ACEIDHA) at the University of Zambia (UNZA).

SACIDS Governing Board Chairperson, who is also Vice-Chancellor of Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania, Prof Raphael Chibunda, described the late Prof. Mweene as an impactful scientist as could be seen from his assistance he rendered to Government ministries Health and Fisheries & Livestock in developing strategies to manage infectious diseases.

And Acting UNZA Vice-Chancellor, Prof Enala Tembo-Mwase, said that the late Prof Mweene was a delightful man who was always in a joyful mood. Prof Mwase said that his hardworking and huge contributions to the nation made him receive a Presidential Award in 2017.

Meanwhile, Executive Director of SACIDS Foundation for One Health, Prof. Mark Rweyemamu, fondly remembered his first meeting with Prof Mweene during a check on Avian Influenza preparedness. He said that Prof Mweene was an inspiration and his laughter was infectious. In emulation of Prof Mweene, Prof Rweyemamu indicated that young scientists and researchers should not be suppressed but supported as innovative brains in order to generate and discover new information. He concluded by saying that Mweene was global scientist and researcher of high calibre.

At the same function, Veterinary Services in the Ministry of Health representative, Dr George Dautu, said that the late Prof Mweene was considered as an “employee” of the Ministry because of the time he spent assisting Government efforts in managing infectious diseases that affect both humans and animals. He said that Prof Mweene was indispensable member of the Multi-sectoral National Task Force which advises Committee of Ministerial Permanent Secretaries.

At the same function, Assistant Dean - Postgraduate, School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Zambia, Dr Edgar Simulundu, in his presentation entitled, “Aaron Mweene: Our Inspiration for a research Career in Animal Virology”, said that Prof. Mweene played a key role in developing the Ebola quick Test kit which is currently being used in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. *To Next Page*



*Late Prof Aaron Mweene*



*Prof Raphael Chibunda*



*Prof Enala Tembo-Mwase*

## SACIDS HOLDS MEMORIAL SEMINAR FOR LATE ACEIDHA CENTRE LEADER, PROF AARON MWEENE

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And Acting ACEIDHA Centre Leader, Dr Martin Simmunza, said that Prof Mweene's visionary leadership led to the winning of the World Bank grant to establish the Africa Centre of Excellence at UNZA in the School of Veterinary. In his presentation themed, "Aaron Mweene: The Inspiration for Epidemiology Driven Risk Management of Avian Influenza and other Trans-boundary Animal Diseases in Zambia", Dr Simmunza said that the late Prof Mweene supervised many Masters, PhD and Post-doctoral students. He said that his experience and skills benefited many people and institutions such as the Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock.

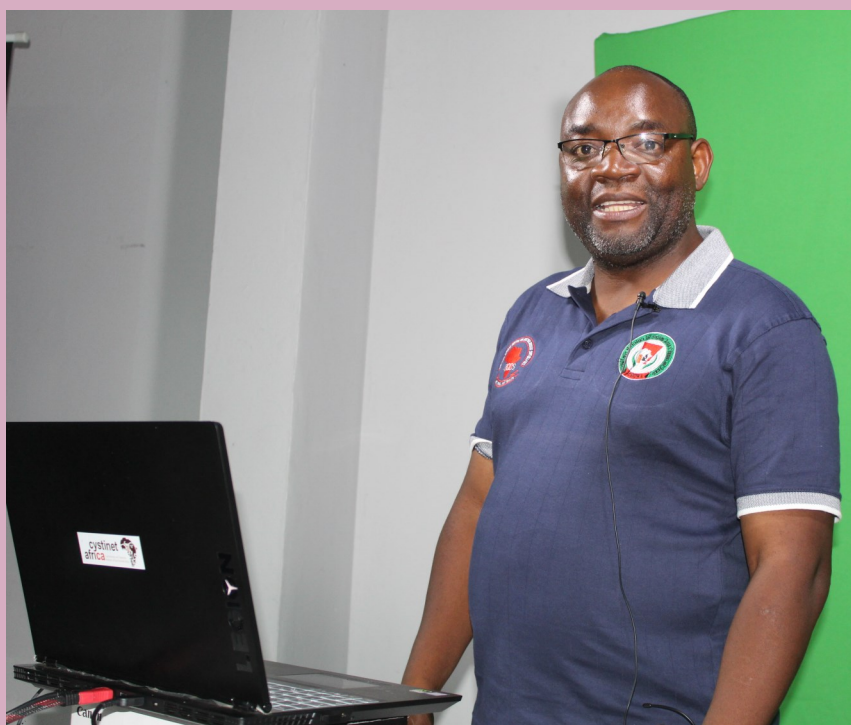
Prof. Aaron Mweene was a senior professor who taught Infectious Diseases of Livestock, Veterinary Microbiology and Immunology as well as Veterinary Public Health to both undergraduate and postgraduate students at the University of Zambia and he was involved in the supervision of many PhD and MSc students as well as mentorship of Postdoctoral fellows. Professor Mweene had been assisting the Ministries of Health, Fisheries and Livestock by carrying out diagnosis of highly dangerous infectious diseases such as Ebola virus disease and avian influenza. He died on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2019 after a short illness in Lusaka, Zambia.



*Prof. Mark Rweyemamu*



*Dr George Dautu*



*Dr Martin Simmunza*



*Dr Edgar Simulundu*

## ACEIDHA & FORTECASE Hold Training Workshop in Research Supervision & Research Writing Techniques

*By Damaseke Chibale*

In its efforts to offer quality internationalised postgraduate, Africa Centre of Excellence for Infectious Diseases of Humans and Animals (ACEIDHA) has partnered with Fostering Quality Graduate and Postgraduate Training and Research Through Enhanced Academic Collaboration and Mutual Student Exchange (FORTECASE) based at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences.

This strategic partnership aim at training supervisors in supervision skills and techniques as well as training postgraduate students in research such as data collection and analysis and research findings reports.

As a result, ACEIDHA and FORTECASE held a training workshop in Kabwe from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2019 to train postgraduate student supervisors in research supervision for three days. Thereafter, the PhD students sponsored by ACEIDHA were brought in to for training in quality research techniques.

The Training was characterised by presentations by experts such as FORTECASE Principal Investigator - Norway, Prof Eystein Skjerve, FORTECASE Principal Investigator – Zambia, Prof John Bwalya Muma and ACEIDHA Centre Leader, Prof Bernard Hang'ombe. Additionally, the training workshop was also spiced with group discussions. Moreover, the PhD students displayed research posters and made short PowerPoint presentations of their research.

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*Group Photo of postgraduate students' supervisors during the Research Supervision training workshop organised by ACEIDHA and FORTECASE in Kabwe from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019 .*



*ACEIDHA sponsored PhD students at the ACEIDHA and FORTECASE organised training workshop in Kabwe pose for a group Photo.*

## ACEIDHA & FORTECASE Hold Training Workshop in Research Supervision & Research Writing Techniques (Cont'd)



*Group discussions*

The objectives of the training workshop were as follows:

### **For Supervisors**

1. Bring together supervisors linked to the PhD students in FORTECASE/ACEDIAH students
2. Discuss supervision and role of supervisors in the PhD Project, including expectations and potential conflicts.
3. Get a better understanding of the different stages for students in the PhD process
4. Establish COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (CoP) of supervisors linked to the PhD research topics/themes.

### **Postgraduate Students**

1. Establishing research groups with students and supervisors as a platform to implement the research.
2. Get feedback on proposals.
3. Discuss skills needed to implement the research, based upon cases.
4. Discuss aspects of supervision, expectations from the students, potential conflicts.
5. Prepare for the fieldwork, lab work or desktop work based upon case studies developed from the research proposals.

During the ACEIDHA – FORTECASE training workshop, the following topics were considered for the benefit of both the supervisors and PhD students:

**For research supervisors**, the following core concepts were covered: Introduction to Postgraduate Students Supervision, the role of supervisory team (Supervisors), Supervisors and their Mentors—“the PhD curve”, the Research Process, Progress in the implementation of PhD Research, Outline of remaining activities (Publishing Demands, Cross-disciplinary work), Research supervision & mentorship, and Establishing CoPs among supervisors.

**For PhD students**, the following topics were covered:

Supervision, expectations, “the PhD curve”, Establishing CoPs of students linked to their research topics, Research system at UNZA & EXPECTATIONS of PhD students, Gender perspectives in Research, Preparing for Research (cases from research proposals): Field Application, Preparing for research: Lab Application, Preparing for research: Desktop Application, Theoretical skills: Research Ethics, Theoretical skills: Philosophy of Science and Causality, Theoretical skills: Bias and confounding

The training programme was conducted successfully and all the participants took active part in all the three days of the training. FORTECASE Principal Investigator - Norway, Prof Eystein Skjerve, FORTECASE Principal Investigator – Zambia, Prof John Bwalya Muma and ACEIDHA Centre Leader, Prof Bernard Hang’ombe, closed the Training on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2019 and urged all participants to implement the skills acquired.



*Trainers preparing presentations*



*Student explaining his research poster*

## ACEIDHA & FORTECASE TRAINING PHOTOS



## ACEIDHA Retreats To Develop 2020 Work Plans

*By Damaseke Chibale*

ACEIDHA Centre Leader, Prof Bernard Hang'ombe, calls for team work and spirit of oneness during the official opening of the workshop for developing the 2020 Work Plan and Budget on Tuesday, 8th October 2019 at Manchinchi Bay Lodge in Siavonga.

Prof Hang'ombe urged members to deliberate issues objectively and streamline the activities to suit the budget. He made particular mention of travels which he said modalities should be devised regarding the number of people to attend training at each given time.

He reminded the members that they had been given a responsibility to manage the efficient utilisation of public funds for the benefits of the Zambian people.

And ACEIDHA Centre Scientific Coordinator, Dr Andrew Phiri, said that the other purpose of the workshop was to create opportunities for networking and interaction so that members get to know each other well.

Dr Phiri said as a team, we knew where we wanted to go but this workshop would help the team to understand how to get there through the development of the 2020 Workshop and Budget.

The workshop runs from 7th to 11th October 2019 at Manchinchi Bay Lodge in Siavonga.



*ACEIDHA team taking a group photo on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of the workshop*



*ACEIDHA team taking a group photo on last Day of the workshop*



*Dr Andrew Phiri giving a recap of the previous day's presentations*



## SIAVONGA ANNUAL WORK PLAN WORKSHOP PHOTOS



## ACEIDHA & SACIDS ISAB MEETING PHOTOS

