

TERM THREE

# AfriPEN Newsletter

September 2020



## AfriPEN Membership Committee Plan

## The Virtual Africa Interdisciplinary Health Conference (AfIHC)

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Notice!

AfriPEN and SAAHE sig event webinar

22 October 2020

16:00– 17:00

Details on the webinar to be published soon.

The committee brainstormed the following ideas for expanding engagement for further discussion:

- AfriPEN to become the go-to organisation for interprofessional education and collaborative practice resources in Africa.
- Monthly webinars to be initiated as a benefit for all members and non-members.
- Newsletter to be quarterly issues showcasing AfriPEN activities with the possibility of distributing it to health professions students as well.
- The conference discount for AfriPEN members.
- Making of a marketing tool for AfriPEN in the form of a flier to be easily distributed.
- Students who become members may enjoy specific events and activities for free. Planning on students to become more actively involved in AfriPEN to be discussed further.
- Strengthen our partnership and engage in partnership agreements thus, making AfriPEN a parallel to partnering organization and platforms.
- Mapping of institutions and regions representations- deliberately identifying individuals and their leads for engagement (strategic reaching out)
- Mapping of organisations for strategic partnership
- Enhance the current fees payment strategy to consider regional payment instead of individual institutions

The team agreed to allow these ideas to percolate until the next meeting. In the next meeting the plan to unpack each idea to have a more tailored strategy to engage on each point.



AfIHC ([www.afihc.org](http://www.afihc.org)) inspires hope, contributes to education and healthcare and has a vision to promote strong collaboration among stakeholders delivering evidence-based healthcare in Africa.

The purpose of AfIHC is to create a platform for various healthcare providers in clinical and academic/research settings to discuss research findings. The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Africa Interdisciplinary Health Conference, offered as a virtual conference from 19 – 21 August 2020, (AfIHC 2020) was held in collaboration with Africa Interprofessional Education Network (AfriPEN). The intersection between AfIHC and AfriPEN pivots on AfriPEN's vision of interprofessional education and collaborative practice as an integral part of training the health workforce and in the effective functioning of health systems in Africa. ([www.afripen.org](http://www.afripen.org))

As unfortunate as the pandemic outbreak is, it presented AfIHC 2020 with the unprecedented opportunity to discuss innovative ways to prevent or handle pandemics such as COVID-19 using an interdisciplinary and interprofessional approach.

The first day of AfIHC 2020 was dedicated to COVID-19 related panel discussions. Participants agreed that as a continent we must ensure that the lessons learned from this crisis provide us with plans for public and global health emergency preparedness to handle any future pandemic. Day two focused on interdisciplinary approaches to Universal Health Coverage and technology and the last day was mostly dedicated to nurses' and midwives' contribution. The variety of oral and posters presentations from nurses and midwives highlighted how this fraternity secures evidence-based practices in Africa.

More than 100 participants from over 15 countries (Africa, USA, UK and Australia) registered to participate in AfIHC 2020. Delegates took advantage of the Zoom meeting platform to engage with our esteemed keynote speakers, Professors Wonkam and Malata, panelists and each other and to build networks. Feedback from delegates, that despite the virtual nature of AfIHC 2020 it was like a physical face-to-face conference, underscored the interactive nature of engagement between presenters and delegates.

While the experience of AfIHC 2020 was similar to a face-to-face conference, inevitably there are distinct differences in organising, preparations related to presenters and logistics of a virtual event. Through excellent teamwork glitches were overcome. However, a gap was identified regarding the need to empower presenters and attendees regarding preparation for and participation in online events. Ultimately, it was clear that virtual conferences provide access to the desire for global scientific engagement.

**Compiled by: Elize Pietersen**

### Reflecting on the AfIHC conference from an AfriPEN perspective

3rd Annual **AFRICA INTERDISCIPLINARY HEALTH CONFERENCE**  
Advancing Universal Health Coverage  
through Interdisciplinary Evidence-Based  
Practice and Collaboration

**19-21 AUGUST  
2020**

I think when the conference organizing team started planning the AfIHC 2020 conference, they had no idea how refreshing and innovative the conference would turn out to be. I know that Dr Elize Pietersen and Dr Jerry Nutor and their team worked extremely hard behind the scenes to set up the online conference platform, and to manage it throughout the three days. It is easy to say: "Let's go online", but to actually do it successfully takes courage and commitment.

**Panel: Session 2 - Thursday, 20 August 2020 (10:20-11:10 GMT)**  
Interdisciplinary education and training of healthcare workers in Africa to advance UHC optimally



**Mariana Pietersen, PhD**  
Medical Sociologist,  
Health Education and Research,  
South Africa

**Champion N. Nyoni, BSc (Hons) Nursing,  
MScSc (Nursing), MPH, PhD**  
Senior Lecturer (Units), School of Nursing, University  
of the Free State, South Africa and Champion  
of Africa Interprofessional Education (AfriPEN)

**Geoffrey Anyegwu, MD**  
Founder and Executive Director,  
Kigali Healthcare Foundation,  
Uganda

Congratulations on achieving this. It was wonderful to meet people from all around the globe while sitting in your own home. The topics discussed were relevant and important, with many presenters highlighting critical issues in health care in Africa. AfriPEN was also well presented with members acting as sessions chairs, presenters and panel members.

### **Panel: Session 2 - Friday, 21 August 2020 (10:20-11:20 GMT)**

Nurse and midwives as interdisciplinary partners in UHC



**Address Mwaikowa Malata**  
MScN, PhD, FAcN  
Professor and Vice-Chancellor,  
Malawi University of Science  
and Technology, Malawi



**Judy N. Khanyola**  
RNCH, BSN, MSc,  
Chair, Centre for Nursing and  
Midwifery, University of Global  
Health Equity Awards



**Robert Kaba Alhassan**  
PhD, RN  
Lecturer and Acting Director of  
International Program, University of  
Health and Allied Sciences, Ghana



**Edwin Boyan**  
MScN, BSc, RN  
MidMEd Coordinator,  
Mother Teresa College of  
Health Sciences, Liberia

Online interaction occurred naturally with lots of discussions taking place, even some dancing (with Elize demonstrating the Jerusalem dance in her study!). From an interprofessional perspective, different professions were presented, of which Nursing was the most prominent. I do wish to encourage other health

### **Panel: Session 3 - Friday, 21 August 2020 (14:00-15:00 GMT)**

Topic 1: Interdisciplinary response to emerging infectious disease in Africa  
Topic 2: Interdisciplinary research framework for south-south and north-south research collaboration



**Chukwudi Nnaji, MBBS, MPH, PhD(c)**  
Public Health Physician and Epidemiologist,  
School of Public Health and Family Medicine,  
University of Cape Town, South Africa



**Emmanuel Openg, PhD**  
Regional Director, WASH and  
Capacity Building, World Vision  
International, Eswatini



**Maria Openhouse, MS, CMM**  
Director of Midwifery, Global Action in Nursing,  
University of California, San Francisco  
Institute for Global Health Sciences, USA



**Gerda Reitsma, PhD**  
Professor, North-West University, South Africa  
and Secretariat and Treasurer of  
Africa Interprofessional Education (AfriPEN)

professions to also reach out and become involved in conferences like these to enable a truly interprofessional approach to addressing Africa's health issues.

**Gerda Reitsma — AfriPEN, CHPE, NWU**  
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### General Information

All queries regarding AfriPEN should be forwarded to [interprofessional.africa15@gmail.com](mailto:interprofessional.africa15@gmail.com). Future projects, conferences, workshops and networking information will be provided. Institutions are welcomed to show cast their work in IPE through the AfriPEN newsletters. All photographs and written works can be forwarded to the AfriPEN e-mail address. Four issues will be published per year, one for each term, thus, submissions should be done early at the beginning of every term (three month period).

**Next issue due: Dec 2020.**

### Visit AfriPEN on:

Website: <https://afripen.org/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/IPEAfrica>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AfriPEN/>

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