Aqil Jeenah
aqiljeenah@gmail.com
University of Pretoria

Aqil Jeenah is an undergraduate student pursuing his veterinary science degree at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. Born to a medical doctor and an agriculturist, from early in his studies he was able to connect these two fields. The One Health concept, which was near its beginning took a firm interest within him. Sitting at a dinner table would allow him to view and contribute thoughts on both fields that his parents work in.

Coming from Africa, with a mother working in the primary human health care systems, allowed him to view the multiple issues that exist. The lack of a strong surveillance system for infectious and zoonotic diseases, and a small health force stretched to its limit showed the fatal flaws in having a one-dimensional view to health. Currently Aqil works with local communities, running pilot projects on having a untied health force of veterinary science and medical students providing free primary health care.

Aqil has now become a leading veterinary student in the One Health field and regularly gives lectures and workshops on a wide ranging topics from climate change to inter-professional education. He views his final job as working in rural communities across the developing world, working with communities to create a better health system for humans, animals and the environment.