

Aqil Jeenah
One Health Commission Board
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“A practical solution to changing the face of health”

Globalization and the movement of people have resulted in a dramatic increase in the spread of diseases through the world and the shortcomings of how we respond to diseases have been exposed. The recent outbreak of Ebola has changed the way the world thinks about global health security, in August 2014 the WHO declared it an “international public health emergency”. Ebola is deadliest zoonotic disease of the 21st century, where it has killed an estimate 60% of all those effected.

The initial outbreak occurred in West Africa, where it is believed the first infection of a human was through the eating of bush meat. Fruit bats are said to be the natural reservoir of EVD where it shows no effects of the virus. However once the virus crosses over to humans the Ebola virus disease (EVD) is transmitted by humans through various body fluids and can enter by any open area of the body including the mouth and nose.

About 60% of human disease and 75% of all emerging infectious diseases are of zoonotic origin. With this great threat to the health of humans coming from animals the need for inter-professional collaboration that is called for by the One Health concept has increased proportionally. The dissemination of information to community at large on diseases, food safety etc is set to play a pivotal role in creating a healthier world for the future generation.

Due to the heightened awareness of the devastation caused by zoonotic disease in the crises in West Africa and the publics’ new desire for information concerning infectious disease a window has been opened to create an awareness of the one health concept.

The new generation of students both within the veterinarian and human health sphere provide a powerful vehicle to get this message across. The creation of large student led campaigns concerning other infectious disease such as TB, malaria and influenza that are found in abundance in Africa would help raise awareness. A number of community projects in rural areas have developed good working relationships with the communities and have built trust. The use of existing community project can be used to disseminate the information to those that are most vulnerable in contracting zoonotic diseases. With the assistance of schools, information targeted at students can be created as was done The recent “Stop TB Campaign” initiated by three student organization (IVSA, IFMSA, IPSF) can be used as a springboard as well as a to further enhance the effectiveness of a one health campaign

Today we as students are the future of the One Health movement, and we constitute one of the largest pools of possible “One Healthians”. The ability to

tap into this reservoir could possibly create the conditions and resources to create a healthier future for all.

EDUCATION

Pretoria Boys High School Full Colors Academic Pretoria, South Africa
Matric Certificate 2011 Full Colors Culture 2007 - 2011
Elected: Chairperson Chess, Vice-Chairperson Community outreach
Member: Chess, Community Outreach, Business Club, Debating club

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA Pretoria, South Africa
BvSC, Veterinary Science 2012 - present
Elected: Class representative
Member: OPVSC, VETSCO

EXPERIENCE

INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY STUDENT ASSOCIATION Copenhagen, Denmark
Official global veterinary student organization 2014 - present

Project Manager, Standing Committee on One Health

- Initiated a global campaign raising awareness amongst student about antimicrobial resistance with International Pharmaceutical Student Federation (IPSF).
- Hosted a One Health workshop to medical student at the International Federation of Medical Student Association Congress.
- Attended the World Health Organization: Executive Board Meeting in Geneva being the first veterinary student.
- Attended the Federation Of Veterinary In Europe conference on One Health and Natural Disasters

INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY STUDENT ASSOCIATION Pretoria, South Africa
– RSA 2013 - present

Member organization of the global association

President

- Held various position including Exchange Officer and Vice President.
- Initiated a veterinary – medical student primary health care community engagement project
- Created links with the South African Medical Student Association to promote inter-organization events
- Assisted international veterinary students in finding internships in South Africa

VOLUNTEER WORK

- Led educational program for youth (250 scholars) about animals
- Led an outreach program handing out food parcels to the poor
- Participate in a free animal clinic for the poor (CVC)
- Participate in programs with elderly and sick people in old age homes and hospice

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Interests: Enjoy running, scuba diving, football, chess, traveling

Languages: Afrikaans, English