

7 CAPACITY BUILDING

a The 7th African Field Epidemiology Network Scientific Conference

The 7th African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET) Scientific Conference, was held from 12 - 16 November 2018 in Maputo, Mozambique. The Mozambique Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (MZ-FELTP) together with the National Institute of Health (INS) under the Mozambique Ministry of Health jointly organised this year's conference. The theme of the conference was 'Building resilient and sustainable public health systems in Africa through Field Epidemiology Training'. It provided FE(L)TP residents and graduates from all over the continent an opportunity to network and advance public health through sharing their field experiences and research.

The South African Field Epidemiology Training Programme (SAFETP) is one of 31 member programmes affiliated to AFENET, which received a total of 699 abstracts for review, of which 413 were accepted for either oral, oral/poster or poster presentation. SAFETP had seven oral presentations (Table 2), and staff moderated and evaluated a number of sessions

at the conference. At the closing ceremony of the conference, SAFETP second year resident Poncho Bapela was awarded the 2nd best oral presenter for her presentation titled 'Investigation of clusters of malaria cases in Gauteng Province, South Africa – September to October 2017'. At the same ceremony, AFENET officially inaugurated the AFENET Corps of Disease Detectives (ACoDD) for Southern Africa. This initiative aims to strengthen public health emergency response and other public health emergencies in Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Fhatuwani Gavhi (2018 Cohort), Emelda Ramutshila (2017 Cohort), Khuliso Ravhuhali and Jackie Kleynhans (2016 Cohort), and Dr. Lazarus Kuonza (SAFETP) Senior Medical Epidemiologist were 'decorated' (conferred membership of the ACoDD) during the inauguration.

Source: South African Field Epidemiology Training Programme, NICD-NHLS; carlr@nicd.ac.za

Table 2. Oral presentations by SAFETP residents and graduates at the 7th AFENET Conference, Maputo, Mozambique, November 2018

Name of resident	Cohort	Presentation Title
Andronica M. Shonhiwa	2012	An outbreak of necrotising enterocolitis of unknown aetiology in newborns admitted to a neonatal unit in Gauteng Province, South Africa, March–August 2018
Emelda Ramutshila	2017	Group A streptococcus outbreak in a long-term care facility, Johannesburg, South Africa, 1 September 2017 to 31 October 2017
Mpho Sikhosana	2017	Epidemiology of laboratory-confirmed mumps infections in South Africa, 2012-2017
Poncho Bapela	2017	Investigation of clusters of malaria cases in Gauteng Province, South Africa, September to October 2017
		Food history interviews to identify the source of a large food-borne listeriosis outbreak in South Africa, 2017-2018
Tracy Arendse	2017	Gastrointestinal illness outbreak investigation at a training facility in Johannesburg, South Africa, July 2017
Tebogo Matjokotja	2018	High risk of HIV infection among youth: who are their sexual partners?

b Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network

The Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) is a multidisciplinary network of technical and operational resources from over 200 global, regional and national public health institutions, specialist public health networks in epidemiology, infection control and biomedical sciences, networks of laboratories, many United Nations organizations and international non-governmental organizations. GOARN harnesses international resources at the request of affected WHO Member States to augment their re-

sponse to ongoing or potential public health emergencies. This is achieved by the use of the Guiding Principles of International Outbreak Alert and Response, which aims to improve the coordination of international assistance in support of local efforts.

Since its inception in 2000, GOARN has conducted over 120 deployments in 85 countries and deployed more than 2 300 experts in the field to assist Member States to characterise and control disease out-