

# SU-Africa Global & Public Health Student Network Initiative



6 March 2024

Division of Health Systems and Public Health  
Department of Global Health  
Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences  
Student-focused learning and sharing webinar

# Programme

- Introduction to the Initiative
- Introduce the core team
- Why global health?

# Initiative overview

- What is the purpose of the SU-Africa Global and Public Health student network?
  - To build an African global and public health network (community of practice) that is student and youth-focused aimed at enhancing *knowledge, practice and skills* regarding priority current and future global and public health issues relevant to the African continent.
  - Transform students into change-agents and leaders.
  - *Co-create* the project with students and build networks into Africa and share learnings and experiences

# Initiative overview

- Why the need for SU-Africa Global and Public Health student network?
  - COVID-19 has shown that despite inherent challenges and global power asymmetries, Africa has the capability to respond to global and public health crises.
  - Current leaders and practitioners should commit to capacitating and inspiring the next generation.
  - Requests from multiple students within the Faculty in recent years.

# Initiative overview

- What is the context for this initiative?
  - African Union and Africa CDC prioritised public health on the continent.
  - A New Public Health Order for Africa seeks to "address deeper structural public health deficiencies at national, regional and global levels"

Source: <https://africacdc.org/news-item/the-new-public-health-order-africas-health-security-agenda/>

# WHAT WILL WE DO?



## Launch



Introducing Global Health: African perspectives webinar series  
(starts 6 March)



Social media communication and “challenges” to stimulate dialogue and critical thinking regarding important GPH topics



Learning or capacity building Sessions  
(e.g. social innovation; design thinking)



Field visit(s) - to stimulate dialogue on local GPH issues

# Core team



Prof René English

*Acting Head of Global Health, Head of Division of Health Systems and Public Health*



Vanessa Dede Ogum Annan

*MBChB VI*



Hlakanipha Tshalanga

*MBChB V*



Toluwani Adeboye

*MBChB III*

# Core team



Stacey Blows

*PhD student, Coordinator  
Division of Health Systems  
and Public Health*



Welile Dube

*PhD student  
Division of Molecular  
Biology and Human  
Genetics*



Dr Juliet Nyasulu

*Senior Lecturer  
Division of Health  
Systems and Public Health*



Dr Lynn Hendricks

*Lecturer  
Division of Health  
Systems and Public Health*



# Why global health?

|                            | Global health  | International health   | Public health   |
|----------------------------|--|--|---|
| Geographical reach         | Focuses on issues that directly or indirectly affect health but that can transcend national boundaries | Focuses on health issues of countries other than one's own, especially those of low-income and middle-income | Focuses on issues that affect the health of the population of a particular community or country       |
| Level of cooperation       | Development and implementation of solutions often requires global cooperation                          | Development and implementation of solutions usually requires binational cooperation                          | Development and implementation of solutions does not usually require global cooperation               |
| Individuals or populations | Embraces both prevention in populations and clinical care of individuals                               | Embraces both prevention in populations and clinical care of individuals                                     | Mainly focused on prevention programmes for populations   |
| Access to health           | Health equity among nations and for all people is a major objective                                    | Seeks to help people of other nations  | Health equity within a nation or community is a major objective                                       |
| Range of disciplines       | Highly interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary within and beyond health sciences                       | Embraces a few disciplines but has not emphasised multidisciplinary  | Encourages multidisciplinary approaches, particularly within health sciences and with social sciences |

Table: Comparison of global, international, and public health

## What is Global Health?

As defined by Koplan et. al. 2009 – “Global health is an area for study, research, and practice that places a priority on improving health and achieving **equity** in health for all people worldwide. Global health emphasizes **transnational** health issues, **determinants**, and solutions; involves many disciplines within and beyond the health sciences and promotes **interdisciplinary** collaboration; and is a **synthesis** of population-based prevention with individual-level clinical care.”

Source: Koplan et al. Lancet 2009



**BIRTH OF WHO – APRIL 1948**  
The United Nations Conference in San Francisco, USA, unanimously approves the establishment of a new, autonomous international health organization.

**Establishment of World Health Organization**  
**1948**



International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo helped achieving achieved consensus on: Universal education, Reduction of infant and child mortality, Reduction of maternal mortality, Access to reproductive and sexual health services including family planning

**ICPD in Cairo**  
**1994**



The 17SDGs are all interconnected, and in order to leave no one behind, it is important that we achieve them all by 2030. Click on any specific Goal below to learn more about each issue.

**Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**  
**2015**



**I.f Global Health Landmarks**



**Globalization**

**1978**  
**Alma-Ata Declaration**

Alma-Ata Declaration identified primary health care as the key to the attainment of the goal of Health for All.



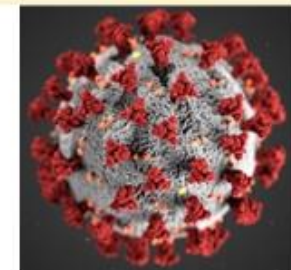
**2000**  
**UN Millennium Declaration**

In this declaration world leaders committed to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women under eight Millennium Development Goals.



**2020**  
**COVID-19 Pandemic**

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic on 11 March 2020.



Facilitate colonial expansion in tropics, making it more habitable for settlers

**Colonial Medicine**

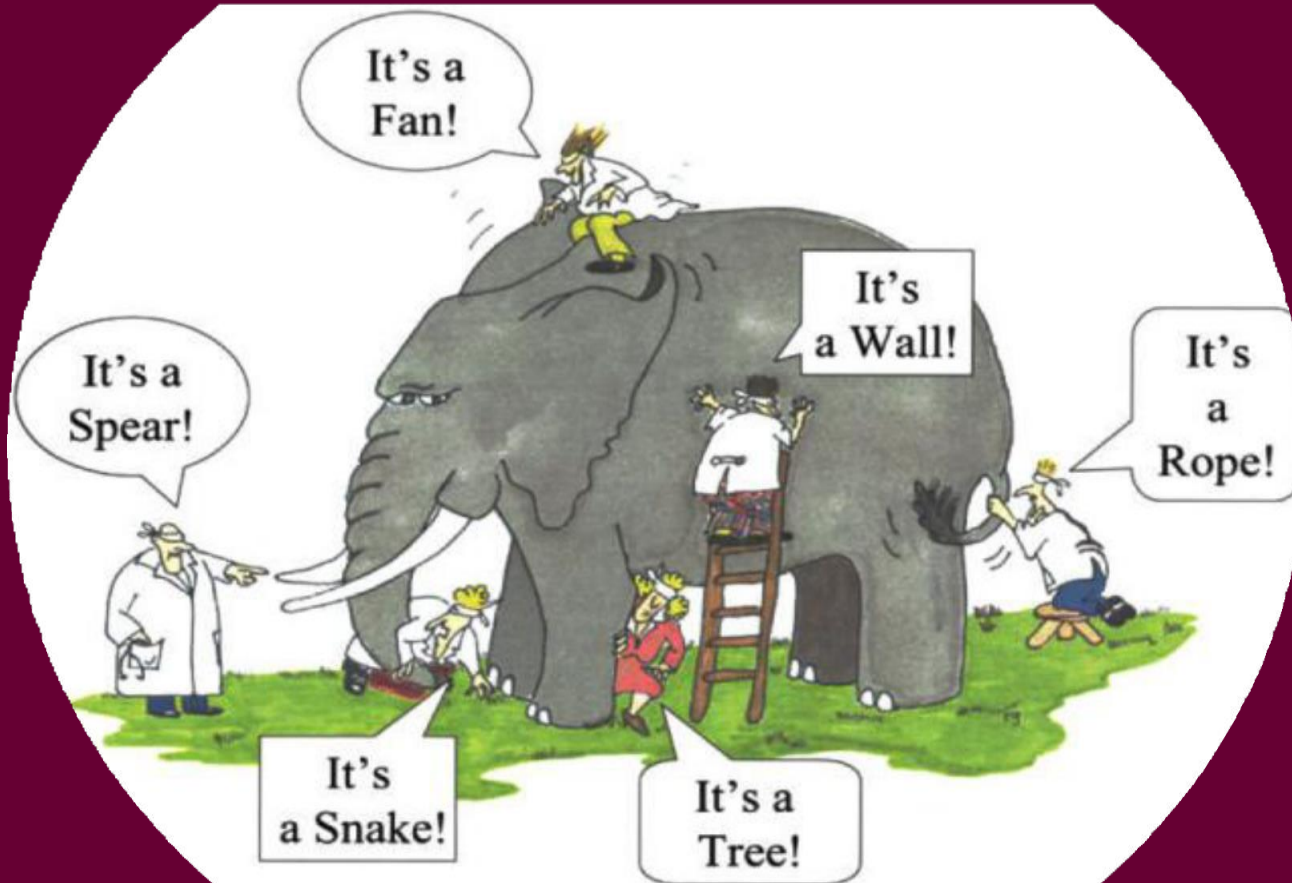
**International Health**

1900  
Fending off Cholera & Plague which interrupted trade & travel

Acknowledgement (slides): Prof Usuf Chikte and Ritika Tiwari



# Global health research method is multidisciplinary



It is beyond

- Medicine
- Health Sciences

And includes many other disciplines such as

- Political economy, history
- Science, Sociology, Anthropology
- Engineering
- Cultural & Critical Studies
- Agriculture

*....and many more*



# Webinar outline



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## SU-Africa Global & Public Health Student Network

**REGISTER TODAY**

- Session 1**  
Defining Global Health
- Session 2**  
Equity & Global Health: An African Perspective + Trends in inequalities and opportunities in South Africa and beyond.
- Session 3**  
Global health Actors: An African perspective
- Session 4**  
Global health trade + policy: implications for africa
- Session 5**  
Pan- Africa Student Presentations
- Session 6**  
Global Health security and protection

**Aim of the initiative:** To build a community of practice that is focused on enhancing knowledge, practice, and skills required to approach current and future priority public health issues relevant to the African continent.

### Dates

March 6, 20  
April 3, 17  
May 8, 22

5-7 PM (SAST)  
4-6 PM (WAT)



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