

Advancing global health in Africa and beyond



# DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL HEALTH Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Stellenbosch University

Over the past few weeks staff in the Department has been responding to the pandemic in many different ways: modifications and enhancements to teaching and learning to continue our academic offering, ongoing mentorship and support for postgraduate research, new research to inform the COVID-19 response, promoting the use research evidence, media responses, case and contact tracing, and developing and driving practice guidance.

The information in this presentation is just a snapshot of ongoing activities.

Date: 8 May 2020









COVID-19

Response

Prof René English Division of Health Systems and Public Health Development of research protocols for COVID-19 research Provide input and oversight to medical students regarding Daily Research Summaries for ICU at Tygerberg Hospital.

Colleges of Public Health Medicine COVID-19 Task Team Working Group – Colleges of Medicine of SA Supporting protocol development – Clinicians at Tygerberg Hospital

Development of online materials for under-and postgraduate teaching and learning as per the Faculty COVID-19 response

Assisting with Case and Contact tracing.



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Prof Kathryn Chu, Centre for Global Surgery

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As a board member, informing MSF on new operations during COVID in South Africa

Volunteer at the provincial disaster management COVID19 call centre

call improve surgical care in LMICs Implementation of a cospective multi-centre international study on

Interview on COVID

preparedness in South Africa to

LifeBox, an NGO to

prospective multi-centre international study on COVID19 positive patients undergoing surgery (COVID-SURG)











Dr Lungiswa Nkonki, Division Health Systems & Public Health



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Collaborating with Dept. Economics on the Coronavirus Rapid Mobile Survey (CRAM)

Paper on SA's health workforce & infrastructural preparedness in response to COVID-19 pandemic Decisive and strong leadership and intersectoral action from South Africa in response to the COVID-19 virus, SAMJ. 2020;110(5):. DOI:<u>10.7196/SAMJ.2020.v1</u> 10i5.14739

SA FM morning show (radio); Sunday Times (newspaper), Health24.com



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Profs Mark Tomlinson and Sarah Skeen, Institute for Life Course Health Research Collaborating with Dept. Economics on the Coronavirus Rapid Mobile Survey (CRAM)

> As part of 'Parenting for Lifelong Health' producing\* <u>simple, evidence-based</u> <u>messages for parents with</u> <u>children of all ages.</u>

Coordinating development of resources on protecting adolescent mental health during the pandemic for WHO/UNICEF

> \*Collaboration between Parenting for Lifelong Health, WHO, UNICEF, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Internet of Good Things, USAID and the End Violence Partnership.



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Dr Kerrin Begg, Division Health Systems & Public Health



Assisting the Provincial Outbreak Response Team with Case and Contact tracing.

> Responded to 55 media queries: 12 live TV interviews, 8 radio interviews and various written pieces.

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Member of College of

Public Health Medicine

guidance task team

developing guidance for

decision makers

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Prof Gubela Mji Centre for Disability and Rehabilitation Studies (CDRS) Dissemination of COVID-19 information to disability stakeholders

Postgraduate programs of CDRS: Staff cont. with online post graduate programs. Research: Staff of the CDRS continue supporting postgraduate students and staff continue writing publications

Undergraduate programs Planning MBCHB prog. in the light of COVID-19.











Dr Jack Meintjies and Dr Sydney Carstens, Division Health Systems & Public Health

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Occupational medicine Tygerberg Hospital

MBChB module online module development: Dr as Change agent

> Developing occupational medicine guidance e.g. Guidelines on managing risk for COVID-19 in potentially exposed health workers

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PG Diploma

Occupational

Medicine online

module

development







Prof Ian Couper & team, Ukwanda Centre for Rural Health



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4 Ukwanda staff supporting Coivd-19 case and contact tracing by Tygerberg pod. Possibility of opening Worcester pod being discussed.

Research Forum: Q&A on Covid-19 for staff

Adjusting programmes & supporting students in the Rural Clinical School, particularly MBChB (Worcester, LIM, Upington)

As part of SUNSTRIPE, successfully piloted a new COVID-19 module to be offered to health workers in Africa through AFREHealth, to rural health workers in SA and to students. Provision of ongoing service at the Avian Park Service learning Centre

Dr Amy Slogrove. with 2 NRF interns and Moleen Zunza. is supporting Angela Dramowski in conducting a rapid review of COVID19 infection and mortality risk in healthcare workers



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Completed guidance document for medical treatment of supernumerary Registrars in relation to COVID-19

Working with Occ Health team to complete a document on risk assessment and risk classification of health care workers for COVID-19 in relation to exposure and risk Completed synopsis for Circular instructions for compensation of COVID-19

-Amendments/additions to Provincial PPE plan according to feedback and queries -Support for ongoing revision of Provincial Service Preparedness plan

Contact tracing and data management with COVID-19 response





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Dr Frederick Weinand, Dr Martin Muller, Dr Inneke Laenen and Dr Masudah Paleker Registrars: Division of Health Systems and Public Health









Dr Birhanu Ayele, Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics Contributed to COVID-19 research protocol with team from ICU, Tygerberg Hospital

> MSc Biostatistics online module development

Exploring transition of data collection from paper to electronic in order to minimize data collectors risk to COVID-19













Dr Guin Lourens, Ukwanda Centre for Rural Health As board member of Paarl hospital provided mental health workbook and other interventions for hospital staff to care for carers during Corona crisis

As member of Cape Winelands district Council provided support for opening of the CoVID-19 testing centre at Paarl Hospital Designed CoVID-19 information booklet for distribution amongst carers, security staff and general workers

Collaboration with the frail care industry providing multiple policies on dealing with Corona virus risk management in care centres, occupational health for all staff and frail care students, wheelchair and assisted devices, telephonic support model to the elderly by lay volunteers, emergency planning, etc.



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Dr Nasreen Jessani, Centre for Evidence-based Health Care Invited by Instill Education to speak on webinar for teachers preparing for COVID-19

Invited by US state department to round table discussions on what to expect for the South African Health system. Invited by the Aga Khan Council for South Africa to serve as a panellist on the health impacts of COVID-19

Leading a collation of research, syntheses, rapid reviews and their links to COVID-19 relevant decisions in Africa. <u>https://aenwebsite.azurewebsites.net/en/e</u> <u>idm-during-covid-19</u>



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Prof Xikombiso Mbhenyane, **Division of Human Nutrition** 

Undergraduate activities: Preparation of modules for online tuition, weekly meetings of UG Committee chaired by Dr van Niekerk using online, KNO report on modifications to the BSc Diet submitted

PG: All our modules continuing. June Examination could be adjusted at the request of the Facilitators

> Service: Four staff have permits to working TBH or BLCHC during the lockdown

Research

Continues inline with and Student

> NICUS – Radio (RSG, Radio Pretoria) on COVID Immunity and Diet ; Lay publications in e.g. Weekend Argus, Huisgenoot





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University embargo and between Study Leader





Evidence synthesis on preexposure prophylaxis for health care workers

MPhil (Cancer Science) Students assisted in the provision of Daily Research Summaries for ICU at Tygerberg Hospital.

Providing guidance to private sector health care providers in respect of evidence interpretation

Transition of modules to hybrid models to continue learning and teaching activities to postgraduate students Provision of information and resources on impact of COVID 19 on cancer patients



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Prof Vikash Sewram, African Cancer Institute







Prof L du Plessis, Dr L Daniels, Ms T Dhlamini, Mrs R Beukes, Mrs C Owens, Mrs I Gierdien, Mrs L Koornhof, Division of Human Nutrition Supported the Western Cape DoH: Nutrition Programme with documentation and evidence on feeding during emergencies

Supported NGO's on request about outreach activities relating to the contents of food parcels and economical meals







# COVID-19 Response



Linking with global evidence synthesis groups to streamline response https://www.mcmasterfor um.org/networks/coviden

With Anel Schoonees and McMaster colleagues conducted a rapid review of evidence on interventions to reduce risk of spread in public transport http://www.samj.org.za/index.ph p/samj/article/view/12943

> Mobilizing teams to conduct rapid reviews

Offered training on making sense of research to students preparing daily COVID research briefs to clinicians

> With Cochrane Africa & Global **Evidence Synthesis Initiative** conducted LMIC survey to gather information on ongoing and planned **COVID** research http://www.cebhc.co.za/researchkey-outputs/cochrane-africa/

**Oversight for** development and implementation of under-and post-graduate online teaching and learning in Epidemiology and biostatistics

Sharing COVID research evidence and resources with DoH



https://www.dailymav

erick.co.za/article/202

0-05-15-behavioural-

science-and-its-

potential-to-guide-

our-response-to-

covid-19/



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**Prof Taryn Young** 

# **CEBHC Research summary**

Team member	Торіс	Progress
Michael McCaul (co-author)	Rapid review methods even more challenging during COVID- 19: Commentary	In peer review – Journal Clinical Epidemiology
Tonya Esterhuizen (co- author)	Primary health care nurses' preparedness for COVID-19 & its influence on primary health care services, Western Cape	Ethics approval obtained
Peter Nyasulu, Birhanu Ayele, Rene English	Implications of Severe COVID-19 at Tygerberg Hospital, Cape Town, South Africa	Ethics approval obtained
Michael McCaul, Amanda Brand	Conducting rapid reviews to inform National DoH guidance	Rapid review completed
Celeste Naude, Anel Schoonees	Obesity as an independent risk factor for COVID-19 severity	Rapid review in progress
Moleen Zunza	South African healthcare workers and COVID-19: A shared responsibility to protect a precious and limited resource	http://www.samj.org.za/index.ph p/samj/article/view/12977/9279
Anel, Schoonees, Taryn Young	COVID-19 and diabetes, hypertension, asthma, occupational lung diseases, coronary heart disease, heart failure & stroke	Rapid review in progress
Amanda Brand, Marianne Visser, Anel Schoonees	Community-level interventions to increase access to food in LMICs	Cochrane review, in peer review
Anel Schoonees, Taryn Young	Interventions to reduce risk of spread in public transport	http://www.samj.org.za/index.ph p/samj/article/view/12943





The Department of Global Health <u>http://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/healthsciences/global-health/Pages/default.aspx</u> collaborates across disciplines and sectors to address complex health problems. This presentation shares a snapshot of ongoing activities in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Heartfelt appreciation to everyone for their efforts during this difficult time. A special recognition for all staff in health care services.

8/05/2020



