



**Conference Call to Support Health Education and Research in Zimbabwe  
Minutes  
Thursday, April 1, 2010**

9:00p	Online:	Dominic Muntanga	Dr. Jean Morrison	Hwinei Tavengwa
		Dr. Simona Zompi	Andy Muelenaer	Esau Mavindidze
		Dr. Richard Johnson	Escar Kusema	Dr. Ernest Simela
		Dolores Meldrum	Dr. Ruwa Chikosi	Dr. Godfrey Woelks
		Natsai Zhou	Deborah Roberts	

*Copies of the recording of the conference call and the minutes are available on the Council for Zimbabwe website:  
<http://www.zimcouncil.org/>*

**Dominic Muntanga:**

- Founder of Council for Zimbabwe.
- Stated purpose of call:
  - How can we play a constructive role to create a better future for Zimbabwe?
  - Bring together people in the Diaspora and at home to take advantage of this opportunity. There is a President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) grant for which Zimbabwe is eligible.
  - The National Institute of Health (NIH) is administering this grant.
- Stated the purpose of Council for Zimbabwe: We are a 501 (c)(3) non-profit, non-political organization established to stimulate collaboration and strategic alliances that can match resources and skills in response to opportunities and challenges facing Zimbabwe.
  - Deliberately non-political
  - Works to develop systems to ensure that resources are utilized in an efficient manner
- Set Agenda
  - Introductions – Can everyone state who they are, where they are from and what they do?
  - Information from Dr. Simona Zompi from University of California Berkley about the grant, what we need to do in order to apply and the timeline of when we need to apply for this.
  - Brainstorm session – Tools and resources we have or need to bring on board to facilitate this process.
  - Delegation of tasks amongst conference call attendees.
- Set structure of discussion. During this call, we need to;
  1. Figure out which institution/s can be the main participants and who can be a Principal Investigator.
  2. Identify institutions in Zimbabwe to partner with.
- **First Action Item:** Send an email to [info@zimcouncil.org](mailto:info@zimcouncil.org) with contacts of people you know who could or should be involved or may be interested.
- **Second Action Item:** Call Zimbabwe contacts – tell people about this effort and find out whether they are aware of anyone doing this. People should be ready to report to the group next week during our meeting.
  - If there are people already working on this then perhaps we can partner with them or supplement what they are doing.

- **Does anyone have an institution that could take this on?**
  - Dr. Jean Morrison at the University of Buffalo – They have a Memorandum of understanding in place for 6/7 years (clinical research side) with the University of Zimbabwe.
  - Chiedza Mapanga – good contact who has experience attaining letters of support from the Ministry of Health for this University of Buffalo - UZ partnership.
  - Council for Zimbabwe has also contacted Dr. Chitonga (Dean of UZ Medical School) and Blair Research Laboratories. They are aware of the grant. It is unclear if they're applying.
- **Things TO DO:-** Link Jean and Dr. Simona so they can exchange information on writing the letter of intent.
  - Link Dr. Simona and others with experience in the NIH process.
  - Link Andy Mueleanaer, Jabulani and Esau → Technological - savvy people.
  - Send out an evite for the next discussion
  - Contact Ministry of Higher Education through Senator Coltart. Also to contact a “gentleman at the world bank.”
- **Next Meeting: Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 9pm.**

### Dr. Simona Zompi:

- There is an NIH - based opportunity. Countries that already got The U.S President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) grant in the past are eligible for this grant.
- Goal is to strengthen medical capacities by training. Here are some of the stipulations:
  - Principal applicants have to come from higher education institutions.
  - One of the requirements is that there should be partnerships w/ institutions of higher education. We can also build a consortium with the institutions interested.
  - Other partners can be listed as sub-contracts
  - We also need to identify the principal investigator
- Details about the content of the grant:
  - Aim 1: Focus may be on clinical training thereby increasing training of both doctors and nurses.
  - Aim 2: Focus can be on research → perhaps clinical or lab-based or epidemiological.
- This mostly targets infectious disease but we can stretch to some non-communicable ones.
- Dr. Simona will put together a draft of the grant outlining the structure, the aims and so forth.
- We need to run an assessment of the needs in health and higher education in these institutions.
- Deadlines:
  - Letter of Intent is due by April 12<sup>th</sup> → One Page
    - Optional but encouraged.
    - State title of program, intent and participants.
    - Aims of key personnel to put in the grant.
    - One or more Principal Investigators, participating institutions.
    - Few lines on each aim e.g. strengthen training in medical training by sending several doctors to Zimbabwe annually or help review university curriculum.
    - Includes a budget and a CD with a biographical sketch of the Principal Investigators and key personnel.
    - Letter of approval from Ministry of Health in Zimbabwe.
    - Letter of approval from Ministry of Education in Zimbabwe.
  - The grant is due by May 12 but it needs to be ready one week before when it needs to be submitted to the administration of the main participating institution.
  - Preliminary Deadline to have everything together is May 5<sup>th</sup>.

### Dr. Jean Morrison:

- Through the programs that University of Buffalo and UZ have together, they have worked with David Cathsentine, Biomedical Research Training Institute (BRTI). People like Art Rheingold and Tom Campbell in Colorado were also involved in Fogarty grant. Mentioned that some people at the University College of London may be interested.

### **Other Highlights from the Conference Call:**

- Potential participating Institutions in the US
  - University of Buffalo
  - University of California Berkeley? – Dr. Simona will know by April 5th
  - Andy Muelenaer – maybe Baylor College in Houston, TX.
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech)
- Potential participating institutions or organization in Zimbabwe
  - University of Zimbabwe
  - Celebration Health
  - Zimbabwe Association of Church-Related Hospitals
- People Working on the Grant: Dr. Simona Zompi, Dr. Jean Morrison, Winnette Tavengwa and Escar Kusema.

### **Commitment to Contact:**

- Andy M. – has contacts in Zimbabwe and w/ the City of Hope International, Andrew Reed who is a physician and lecturer at UZ who probably Works with Celebration Health and, Jabulani Nyenwa who is the CEO of Celebration Health and was on the board of the World Bank.
- Dr. Simona Z. – Médecines du Monde – medical education in the field e.g. in Chipinge and now they are going to run a program in Harare.
- Dr. Richard J. – Contact Dr. Bakura and help with conducting the needs assessment from through the Medical Association in Harare.
- Dr. Ruwa C. – to ask Dr. Chidzonga for needs assessment. Also to contact Mapango.
- Natsai Z. - together with Dr. Farai Charasika – Celebration Health- health assessment.
- Dominic M. – Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education and Ministry of Health.