General
The fourth World Heart Federation Emerging Leaders (WHFEL) think tank seminar was held on June 18 – 23, 2017 at the Hatter Institute for Cardiovascular Research in Africa at the University of Cape Town. Sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim and Novartis, the seminar was hosted by Dr. Karen Sliwa and included 25 Emerging Leaders (ELs) from 19 countries (Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, China, Fiji, France, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Portugal, Rwanda, South Africa, Syria, United Kingdom, United States of America) and 15 faculty from 6 countries (Canada, Mozambique, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States). The ELs came from diverse backgrounds, including working as cardiologists, internists, advanced practice nurses, epidemiologists, communication specialists, health systems researchers, activists and public health advocates. The seminar’s overarching theme was improving access to essential medicines and technology/care to help achieve the WHF’s goal of reducing the risk of premature (30 to 69 years) mortality from CVD by 25% by 2025.

Emerging Leaders (ELs)
The ELs were competitively selected by the WHFEL Selection Committee with approval from the WHFEL Steering Committee in March 2017 based on their leadership, communication, absolute and relative productivity, creativity, career goals, collaboration(s) with current stakeholders (including WHF member organizations), mentors, and local institutions.

Introductory conference calls were held with the ELs on April 19th to introduce the cohort, cover pre-seminar logistics, and discuss online training modules. ELs were strongly encouraged to complete online training modules in advance of the seminar.

Seminar
The seminar included a 1:1 mix of interactive lectures and small group activities (see Appendix 1 for agenda). The small group activities built on one another from research priority setting (pre-seminar work) to developing a shared research question to culminating in three research proposals (written and oral) related to essential medicines. Group projects were aligned with overall WHO 25 x 25 goal and specifically to indicators of achieving 80% access to essential medicines and technology at public and private facilities and 50% treatment of eligible individuals with medicines and behavioral counseling.

Implementation science team
A CLUB-based MEDication delivery Strategy for patients with hypertension in Nigeria (CLUBMEDS): A feasibility study
**Objective:** To evaluate whether the club-based drug delivery strategy is a feasible and acceptable method to bring anti-hypertensive medications closer to patients and thereby improve access.

**Health systems team**
Evaluating availability, price and affordability of essential CVD medicines and diagnostics in Mozambique and Fiji: The HAVE-CVD-MeDs (Highlighting Access to Vital and Essential CVD Medicines and Diagnostics) Study

**Objective:** To assess availability, prices and affordability of essential CVD medicines and diagnostics, including those relevant to women and children, in the public and private sector in Mozambique and Fiji.

**Health policy team**
The global status of availability of affordable essential medicines for treatment of cardiovascular disease

**Objective:** To synthesize existing national and subnational estimates of availability and affordability of essential medicines for CVD and to engage civil society, policymakers and other key stakeholders throughout the production and dissemination of the report for advocacy and policy purposes.

Written faculty feedback will be provided to each team by June 30; responses to reviewers will be due by July 14; and final funding decisions will be made by July 21. The link between seminar activities, grant development, and seed funding (CHF$25,000 per project) increases the likelihood of success in developing sustainable, global collaborative research projects to help achieve “25 x 25” beyond typical seminars. Additional activities during the seminar included: dinner hosted by Dr. Karen Sliwa at her home, a visit to the Heart of Cape Town Museum at the Groote Schuur Hospital, dinner at the Two Oceans Aquarium, and a stimulating plenary session attended by local stakeholders and WHF members, including representatives from government, industry, academia, and non-governmental organizations.

**Seminar Feedback**
Based on anonymous feedback about the think tank seminar from the ELs through an online survey, 93% rated the overall seminar experience as “excellent”, while the remaining 7% reported rated the seminar as “good”. A similar proportion (87%) rated the seminar’s relevance as “excellent”, and all (100%) rated the quality of information presented as “excellent” or “good”. Most (73%) ELs reported that the balance of lectures and small groups was “just right”, and all (100%) responded that the presentation level was “just right”. Figures summarizing key responses are included in Appendix 2. Written feedback suggests that groups would benefit from greater structure in the small group work and more lead time to complete the online seminar training.

This year’s program included: 1) special leadership dinner lecture from Dr. Keith Cloete Chief Director, Metro District Health Services, Western Cape government, 2)
hands-on communication training to help ELs create and practice their elevator pitches, and 3) a stirring story by Dr. Karen Sliwa about her path to success. The WHFEL program team has also received suggestions from ELs regarding additional topics and faculty to include in future seminars, which will be incorporated where feasible. The EL program also has the potential to link ELs from WHF member organizations to the WHF and its activities in a substantive, potentially sustainable, manner.

This year’s ELs were asked where they heard about the EL program. Sources include WHF faculty and staff, other heart organizations, colleagues/previous ELs, mentors, and the WHF website or social media. The WHFEL program will announce its 2018 dates on the WHFEL website and the WHF website. The WHFEL program team will follow a similar timeline to previous year’s application cycle:

- **August**
  - Announcement of Upcoming Application Cycle
- **September 1 – October 15**
  - Applications Open
- **October 16 – November 15**
  - Application Reviews
- **November 16 – November 30**
  - Steering Team Review
- **November 30**
  - Invitations and Results to Applicants

**Next Steps**

The WHFEL steering team will review the 2017 project proposals, with final decisions to the teams by July 21, 2016. Bi-annual conference calls and progress reports will be scheduled with the 2017 cohort in November 2017. The Operations Committee will also discuss strategies for Emerging Leader engagement beyond the seminar and resulting projects, including participation on the conference planning committee of the World Congress of Cardiology and Cardiovascular Health in Dubai, United Arab Emirates in December 2018 where the program will again host a meeting to discuss the past, present, and future of the Emerging Leaders program.

The WHFEL program team will also focus on recruiting local, regional, and international faculty to participate in the 2018 WHEF think tank seminar in consultation with the 2018 host. **The proposed host, based on her previously expressed interest and strong work with the program as an inaugural Emerging Leader, leader within her group, and member of the operations committee, is Dr. Lijing Yan from Duke Kunshan University outside of Shanghai, China.** Based on discussions with World Heart Federation team members, the decision for selecting a site will be made by July 2017.
Appendix 1. 2017 WHF Emerging Leaders Inaugural Think Tank Seminar agenda.

World Heart Federation Emerging Leaders Think Tank Seminar Agenda
Hatter Institute for Cardiovascular Research in Africa
Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town, South Africa

Pre-seminar reading

2. WHF Roadmaps:
   a) Secondary prevention: Glob Heart. 2015 Jun;10(2):99-110
   b) Raised blood pressure: Glob Heart. 2015 Jun;10(2):111-22
   c) Tobacco: Glob Heart. 2015 Jun;10(2):123-33
   f) Cholesterol: Glob Heart. 2017; in press


Sunday, June 18, 2017
President Hotel, Bantry Bay

6:00 pm  Welcome: Welcome and introductions
Karen Sliwa
University of Cape Town

Jean-Luc Eiselé
World Heart Federation

Dinner lecture: Strategies to halve premature global cardiovascular disease mortality
Salim Yusuf
McMaster University/World Heart Federation

Monday, June 19, 2017
Hatter Institute, University of Cape Town

Pre-reading


9:00 – 9:15 am  **Background**: Program and seminar overview  
*Mark Huffman*  
Northwestern University  

*Abigail Baldridge*  
Northwestern University

9:15 – 10:15 am  **Background**: World Heart Federation, Emerging Leaders, and Roadmaps for improving access to essential cardiovascular medicines (including framework on physical accessibility, affordability, acceptability)  
*David Wood*  
Imperial College  
World Heart Federation

*Pablo Perel*  
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine  
World Heart Federation

10:15 – 10:45 am  Tea/coffee

10:45 – 11:30 am  **Background**: Impact of socioeconomic status, ethnicity, and urbanization on risk factor profiles of cardiovascular disease in Africa: Implications for essential care and medicines  
*Karen Sliwa*  
University of Cape Town

11:30 – 12:15 pm  **Case studies**: Emerging Leaders work in essential care and essential medicines

12:15 – 1:15 pm  Lunch
1:15 – 2:15 pm  **Small group exercise:** Project development
*The purpose of this small group activity is to develop a project/proposal idea that will form the basis of their shared grant protocol/project for the seminar (using brainwriting format).*

2:30 – 3:30 pm  **Health policy:** Penicillin as an essential medicine for rheumatic heart disease primary and secondary prevention
*Bongani Mayosi*
*University of Cape Town*

3:30 – 3:45 pm  Tea/coffee break

3:45 – 5:00 pm  **Plenary:** Essential medicines and care for improving the cardiovascular health of all South Africans and for achieving the World Health Organization’s 25 x 25 goal
*Panel with government, non-governmental organizations, private industry, practitioners, and researchers*
*Moderators: Jean-Luc Eisélé, Karen Sliwa*

6:00 pm  **Dinner**
Dr. Karen Sliwa’s home

Dinner discussion: Leadership to improve health
*Keith Cloete*
*Western Cape government*

**Tuesday, June 20, 2017**
Hatter Institute for Cardiovascular Research in Africa, University of Cape Town

**Pre-reading:**
IFPMA Access Accelerated Program: http://www.accessaccelerated.org/

9:00 – 9:45 am  **Implementation science:** Translating point-of-care strategies to assess adherence to essential medicines from HIV to CVD
*Gary Maartens*
*University of Cape Town*

9:45 – 10:15 am  **Advocacy and activism:** Principles for advocacy to improve access to essential medicines
*Jeremiah Mwangi*
*World Heart Federation*
10:15 – 10:45 am  
**Tea/coffee**

10:45 – 12:15 am  
**Health policy:** Access to Medicines Initiative  
*Nathan Mulure*  
*Novartis*

12:15 – 1:15 pm  
**Lunch**

1:15 – 2:30 pm  
**Small group exercise:** Drafting written protocols/strategies  
*The purpose of this activity is for groups to start writing their protocol/strategies, including activities, roles, timelines, and process indicators.*

2:30 – 3:15 pm  
**Small group exercise:** Share and receive feedback on the initial proposal concepts with the larger group

3:15 – 3:45 pm  
**Tea/coffee and group picture**

3:45 – 4:15 pm  
**Small group exercise:** Respond to feedback  
*The purpose of this activity is for groups to start writing their protocol/strategies, including activities, roles, timelines, and process indicators.*

4:15 – 5:00 pm  
**Health policy:** Lancet Commission on Essential Medicines  
*Veronika Wirtz (via video conference)*  
*Boston University*

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**Wednesday, June 21, 2017**  
Hatter Institute for Cardiovascular Research in Africa, University of Cape Town

9:00 – 9:45 am  
**Health systems:** Evidence based medicine  
*Marc Blockman*  
*University of Cape Town*

9:45 – 10:15 am  
**Leadership:** My story in cardiovascular medicine  
*Karen Sliwa*  
*University of Cape Town*
10:15 – 10:45 am  Tea/coffee

10:45 – 11:30 pm  Research ethics  
Marc Blockman  
University of Cape Town

11:30 – 12:15 pm  Small group exercise: Drafting written protocols/strategies  
The purpose of this activity is for groups to work on their protocols/strategies.

12:15 – 1:15 pm  Lunch

1:15 – 2:30 pm  Small group exercise: Drafting written protocols/strategies  
The purpose of this activity is for groups to work on their protocols/strategies.

2:30 – 3:15 pm  Small group exercise: Share and receive feedback on proposal concepts with the larger group

3:15 – 3:45 pm  Tea/coffee break

3:45 – 5:00 pm  Communication: Hands-on media training  
Jeremiah Mwangi  
World Heart Federation

Thursday, June 22, 2017  
Hatter Institute for Cardiovascular Research in Africa, University of Cape Town

Pre-reading  

9:00 – 9:45 am  Polypill: rationale, evidence, and progress  
Mark Huffman  
Northwestern University

9:45 – 10:15 am  Small group exercise: Work of protocols/strategies  
The purpose of this activity is for groups to work on their protocols/strategies.
10:15 – 10:45 am  Tea/coffee

10:45 – 11:30 am  **Small group exercise:** Work of protocols/strategies
*The purpose of this activity is for groups to work on their protocols/strategies.*

11:30 – 12:15 pm  **Leadership:** Lancet Commission on NCDs and Poverty and the role of essential medicines
*Ana Mocumbi*
*Universidade Eduardo Mondlane*

12:15 – 1:15 pm  Lunch

1:15 – 3:00 pm  **Small group exercise:** Work of protocols/strategies
*The purpose of this activity is for groups to work on their protocols/strategies.*

3:00  Social activity

**Friday, June 23, 2017**
Hatter Institute for Cardiovascular Research in Africa, University of Cape Town

9:00 – 9:30 am  Presentation set-up

9:30 – 10:15 am  Presentation Group #1
*(20-minute presentation; 25-minute Q&A with feedback)*

10:15 – 10:45 am  Tea/coffee break

10:45 – 11:30 am  Presentation Group #2
*(20-minute presentation; 25-minute Q&A with feedback)*

11:30 – 12:15 pm  Presentation Group #3
*(20-minute presentation; 25-minute Q&A with feedback)*

12:15 – 1:15 pm  Valedictory lunch/graduation
1:15 – 2:30 pm  **Small group exercise:** Incorporating verbal feedback into written protocols/strategies

The purpose of this activity is to incorporate feedback during oral presentations into written protocols/strategies and proposals and to submit the final proposals before departure.

2:30 pm  Adjourn
Appendix 2. Figures summarizing key responses from Emerging Leader participants.