AEN welcomes Dr Rhona Mijumbi as acting AEN chairperson

The current chairperson of the Africa Evidence Network – Professor Ruth Stewart – will be taking a four month hiatus from heading the Africa Evidence Network. Stepping into her role will be Dr Rhona Mijumbi-Deve, a health policy analyst and specialist in knowledge translation based at Makerere University’s Africa Centre for Knowledge Translation in Uganda. She is a medical doctor by training, although her career has led her to develop her interest in how best to build the capacity needed to strengthen health systems in low- and middle-income countries. In addition to her temporary role as AEN chairperson, she also currently acts as one of the three Evidence 2018 co-chairs. We look forward to an exciting four months under the guidance of her as the AEN chairperson.

Evidence events


Announcements

- The AEN annual member survey is up and running and will be open until 30 April 2018.
- Call for proposals: International Initiative for Impact Evaluations (3ie); deadline 27 March.
- Evidence 2018: call for abstracts and bursary applications now open.
- Early career academic grants available from the Association of Commonwealth Universities.

Dr Patrick Mbah Okwen shares in this month’s blog the development of clinical guidelines for Africa, by Africa. View all blog posts online and use the Network to share your view – submit your AEN blog here.

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www.africaevidencenetwork.org
INTERNATIONAL EVIDENCE

The International Initiative for Impact Evaluations (3ie) has recently published a mixed-method evidence synthesis that measures whether community-driven development does indeed drive social cohesion or infrastructure. Focused on low- and middle-income countries, the review draws on evidence presented in 25 impact evaluations. Success or failure factors are also presented.

In a recent London School of Economics and Political Sciences blog post, authors Christina Boswell and Katherine Smith critique the often overly-simple call from funders for ‘impact pathways’ in funding proposals. The authors consider four approaches to understanding how knowledge and policy relate to one another, and question how these might influence how research impact is incentivized and measured in future research.

On the back of the immensely successful 2017 campaign, March for Science is convening again on 14 April 2018. The initiative is encouraging ‘science supporters’ to attend or register satellite events in their areas in a global movement that aims to hold elected officials accountable to basing their decisions on evidence. So far, three events have been registered in Africa – in Nigeria, Ghana, and Uganda.

Evidence from academia

Doocy and Tappis: ‘The effectiveness and efficiency of cash-based approaches in emergencies’

Dun et al: ‘Mediating the science-policy interface: Insights from the urban water sector in Melbourne, Australia’

Pilankas et al: ‘Measuring collaboration and communication to increase implementation of evidence-based practices: the cultural exchange inventory’

Rau et al: ‘From invisibility to impact: Recognising the scientific and societal relevance of interdisciplinary sustainability research’

In celebration of International Women’s Day on 8 March 2018, Policy Press is offering free access to articles that focus on women and gender until 31 March 2018. Included is a paper from Evidence & Policy exploring feminist theory’s potential contribution to policy implementation challenges.