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Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

Factors Determining Prenatal HIV Testing for Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV in Mpumalanga, South Africa

AIDS and Behavior. Karl Peltzer, Gladys Mlambo and Khanyisa Phaweni. Published online: 5 January 2010.

This study assessed factors associated with participation in HIV counselling and testing and reported reasons for not taking part in Voluntary HIV Counselling and Testing among 930 pregnant women attending clinics for antenatal care in South Africa. Results indicate that from 930 clients interviewed 87% had agreed to participate in individual pre-test HIV counselling and 81.2% had received their test results in post-test counselling. Fear for taking the test, lack of confidentiality and knowing one's HIV status were the main reasons why women refused to test. In multivariable analysis, trust of HCT provider was associated with participation in HIV pre-test counselling and no risky drinking was associated with participation in HIV post-test counselling. These findings suggest mistrust towards HCT providers should be reduced and screening and brief intervention for alcohol problems provided. ... [Read More »](#)

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AIDS Denialism and Public Health Practice

Pride Chigwedere and M. Essex. Harvard School of Public Health AIDS Initiative and Department of Immunology and Infectious Diseases, Harvard School of Public Health. AIDS Behav. Published: 8 Jan 2010.

In this paper, we respond to AIDS denialist arguments that HIV does not cause AIDS, that antiretroviral

drugs are not useful, and that there is no evidence of large-scale deaths from AIDS, and discuss the key implications of the relationship between AIDS denialism and public health practice. We provide a brief history of how the cause of AIDS was investigated, of how HIV fulfills Koch's postulates and Sir Bradford Hill's criteria for causation, and of the inconsistencies in alternatives offered by denialists. We highlight clinical trials as the standard for assessing efficacy of drugs, rather than anecdotal cases or discussions of mechanism of action, and show the unanimous data demonstrating antiretroviral drug efficacy. ...[Read More »](#)

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The adequacy of policy responses to the treatment needs of South Africans living with HIV (1999-2008): a case study

Jeff A Gow. J Int AIDS Soc. 2009; 12: 37. Published: 2009 December 14.

National antiretroviral therapy (ART) policy is examined over the period of 1999 to 2008, which coincided with the government of President Thabo Mbeki and his Minister of Health, Dr Manto Tshabalala-Msimang. The movement towards a national ART programme in South Africa was an ambitious undertaking, the likes of which had not been contemplated before in public health in Africa. ...[Read More »](#)

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The Health Impact Fund: incentives for improving access to medicines

Amitava Banerjee, Aidan Hollis, Thomas Pogge. The Lancet, Volume 375, Issue 9709, Pages 166 - 169. Published: 9 January 2010.

Access to essential drugs has been recognised as a determinant and consequence of inequalities in health, income and development. However, present market forces and intellectual property rights provide little incentive for innovation in the diseases of low-income countries, such as diarrhoeal disease, lower respiratory tract infections, perinatal infections, Burkitt's lymphoma, and other cancers prevalent in poor countries. We propose the creation of the Health Impact Fund (HIF) as an enduring reform that would give pharmaceutical innovators stable financial incentives to develop new medicines that have large effects on global health, and to sell them worldwide at no more than the lowest feasible cost of production and distribution ...[Read More »](#)

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The Global Health System: Strengthening National Health Systems as the Next Step for Global Progress

Julio Frenk. PLoS Med 7(1). Published: 12 January 2010.

The first part of this Policy Forum examines some common misconceptions about health systems. Part two explains a framework to better understand this complex field. Finally, I offer a list of suggestions on how to improve national health system performance and what role global actors can play ...[Read More »](#)

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Using Organizational Development Approaches to Strengthen Health Information Systems

Rosensweig, Fred, Jim Setzer, Dan Edwards, Zoey Breslar, and John Novak. HS20/20. Published: 5 December 2009.

This concept paper summarizes an approach based on the principles of organizational development that is aimed at complementing health information systems (HIS) strengthening efforts to make them more effective. The approach is squarely aimed at effectively moving from the development of a strategic HIS plan by technical experts to effective implementation of the plan. ...[Read More »](#)

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The prevalence and functional impact of musculoskeletal conditions amongst clients of a primary health care facility in an under-resourced area of Cape Town

Romy Parker and Jennifer Jelsma. *BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders* 2010, 11:2. Published: 4 January 2010.

The extent of disease burden of musculoskeletal conditions (MSC) not due to injury has not been well determined in sub-Saharan Africa. The 1999 Global Burden of Disease study estimated the prevalence of osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis to be 150/100,000 compared to 1,500/100,000 in Europe. The objective of the study was to determine the prevalence of MSC and the functional implications in a sample of people attending community health centres in Cape Town, South Africa ...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2474/11/2> [Accessed: 19 January 2010]

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Recent News

The 26th International Pediatric Association

Congress of Pediatrics 2010 (IPA) Johannesburg, South Africa | August 4-9, 2010

One month left to submit your abstract. Abstract submission for IPA 2010 is still open. Participants wishing to propose papers for oral or poster presentations are invited to submit their abstracts via the Congress website. All abstracts must be submitted online by Wednesday, February 10, 2010. ...[More Information »](#)

Source: www.ipa-world.org/ipacongress [Accessed: 19 January 2010]

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Gene map of anti-malaria plant could boost supply

Doreen Walton. BBC News. Published: 14 January 2010.

Global supply of a key, plant-based, anti-malaria drug is set to be boosted by a genetic study, scientists say. Researchers have mapped the genes of *Artemisia annua* to allow selection of high-yield varieties. The study, published in the journal *Science*, aims to make growing the plant more profitable for farmers ...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8454721.stm> [Accessed: 19 January 2010]

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Foreigners fare better on HIV treatment than citizens

Plus News. Published: 14 January 2010.

A study finding that foreigners are about half as likely to fail antiretroviral (ARV) treatment as South African citizens attending the same Johannesburg clinic has challenged widely held assumptions about migrants' ability to adhere to HIV/AIDS drug regimens ...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.plusnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=87734> [Accessed: 19 January 2010]

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New technology could revolutionise TB diagnosis

Plus News. Published: 31 December 2009.

A new technology being pioneered in South Africa may make screening for tuberculosis (TB) faster, cheaper and more reliable – and it's all based on technology found on a typical trip through airport security ...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.plusnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=87607> [Accessed: 19 January 2010]

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Task-shifting, new technology crucial to ending mother-to-child transmission

Plus News. Published: 11 January 2010.

Unconventional health workers and new technologies will be a vital part of the ongoing effort to "virtually eliminate" mother-to-child transmission of HIV, says Michél Sidibé, executive director of UNAIDS ...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.plusnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=87694> [Accessed: 19 January 2010]

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Conferences

4th Africa Conference on Sexual Health and Rights 2010

8-15 February 2010. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The 4th African Conference on Sexual Health and Rights is part of a long-term process of building and fostering regional dialogue on sexual rights and health that leads to concrete action to influence policy particularly that of the African Union and its bodies.

More information can be found at <http://www.africalsexuality.org/>

Any queries/request for additional information should be sent to: 4srhconference@ippfaro.org

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2nd Tuberculosis Conference

1-4 June 2010. ICC Durban, South Africa.

The 2nd SA TB Conference in Durban, South Africa from 1 to 4 June 2010 will focus on partnerships and how solidarity among the state, private sector and civil society at all levels and structures can increase access to services and prevent people dying from a curable disease. Forging Strategic Partnerships to Fight TB and HIV is the theme for this Conference, which will build on the awareness and commitment made by 1657 people that contributed to the success of the 1st SA TB Conference in 2008. The organisers invite abstract submissions for the 2010 Conference in the following three tracks:

Track 1: Basic Science

Track 2: Clinical, Epidemiological and Operational Research

Track 3: Patient and Civil Society Mobilisation and Advocacy

Abstract submission and early registration closes on 21 January 2010.

More information can be found at <http://www.tbconference.co.za>

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The 26th International Paediatric Association Congress of Paediatrics 2010

4-9 August 2010. Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa.

Three leading paediatric associations, IPA, SAPA, and UNASPA, are uniting to host the 26th International Paediatric Association Congress of Paediatrics.

More than 5,000 participants are expected to attend this landmark event, the first IPA Congress to be held in Sub-Saharan Africa. Just five years before the due date of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), IPA 2010 will unite paediatricians and health professionals working towards the MDGs target to reduce child mortality by two thirds before 2015. [Registration Details](#) »

Source: <http://www.kenes.com/ipa/mailshot/ms3.htm?ref3=db1> [Accessed: 13 October 2009]

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MedInfo 13th World Congress on Medical and Health Informatics 2010

12-15 September 2010. Cape Town, South Africa.

This will be the first time MEDINFO is held in Africa. It promises to boost exposure to grassroots healthcare delivery and the underpinning health information systems. This will open the door to new academic partnerships into the future and help to nurture a new breed of health informaticians. [Registration Details](#) »

Source: www.medinfo2010.org [Accessed: 13 October 2009]

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Training and Resources

SUPPORT Tools for evidence-informed health Policymaking (STP)

Edited by Andy Oxman and Stephen Hanneley. Health Research Policy and Systems. Published: 16 December 2009.

A comprehensive review of evidence-informed health policymaking was recently launched in BioMed Central's journal *Health Research Policy and Systems*. This free supplement, entitled "SUPPORT tools for evidence-informed health policymaking" provides an essential reference and set of tools that can be used by those involved in finding and using research evidence to support evidence-informed health policymaking. The series addresses four broad areas, including: supporting evidence-informed policymaking; identifying needs for research evidence; finding and assessing research evidence; and, going from research evidence to decisions ...[More Information](#) »

Source: <http://www.health-policy-systems.com/supplements/7/S1> [Accessed: 19 January 2010]

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Job Opportunities

AHP - African Health Placements

We are a not-for-profit project that aims to support the recruitment and retention of healthcare workers in South Africa. AHP is focused on assisting healthcare professionals make the right choice for their future in South Africa:

- Supporting S.A. NGOs with a focus on HIV/AIDS and TB Clinics as well as rural and urban Government Hospitals with all recruitment needs.

No placement fees are charged. Please view the website for more details <http://www.ahp.org.za> or contact on 011 328 1300

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Junior researcher/facilitator/Intern

Women and HIV/AIDS Gauge, Health Systems Trust.

Closing date: 29 January 2010

The Women and HIV/AIDS Gauge is seeking an individual to support the implementation of the Operational Plan for Comprehensive Care and Management of HIV and AIDS in South Africa and the National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS and STIs with specific attention to the feminized HIV/AIDS epidemic. [...More Information »](#)

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