

HST Bulletin



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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

The Management Problem of Military Tuberculosis in the Service of Pneumothisiology at the National References University Teaching Hospital of N'Djamena (Chad): About 103 Cases

Journal of Tuberculosis Research | September 2022

Mahamat Ali Bolti, Rangar Ngakoutou, Abdoulaye Ahmet, Mad-Toingue Joseph, Dluida Dieudonné, et al.

Miliary tuberculosis (TM) or granulia is the diffusion of one or more point(s) of the organs especially in the lungs. Nowadays, the term “granulia” has been abandoned in favor of that of “miliary tuberculosis”. Several studies have shown that black people and Americans native are the most vulnerable to this form of tuberculosis (TB). The granulations can reach and affect all the viscera including meninges, retina, brain, liver, spleen, kidney, digestive tract and the bone marrow. On the pleura, which often contains an effusion, the granulations form slightly raised yellowish or grayish dots, more numerous on the diaphragmatic pleura and in the fissures. It is a rare form of TB, defined by its haematogenous or lymphatic dissemination of the tubercle bacillus from a pulmonary or extra-pulmonary focus, which can be life-threatening, it is a diagnostic and therapeutic emergency. It is a relatively infrequent condition, representing less than 2% of TB according to the literature and about 8% of extra-pulmonary TB. Factors favoring the occurrence of TM include overwork; undernourishment; immunosuppression; poverty, pregnancy, childbirth; lack of BCG vaccination; chronic alcoholism; long-term corticosteroid therapy; diabetes, haematological malignancies, and accidental or surgical trauma.

Investments for effective functionality of health systems towards Universal Health Coverage in Africa: A scoping review

Plos Global Public Health | 22 September 2022

Humphrey Karamagi, Ali Charif, Solyana Kidane, Tewelde Yohanes, David Kariuki, et al.

The health challenges in Africa underscore the importance of effectively investing in health systems. Unfortunately, there is no information on systems investments adequate for an effective functional health system. We aimed to address this by conducting a scoping review of existing evidence following the Joanna Briggs Institute Manual for Evidence Synthesis and preregistered with the Open Science Framework (<https://osf.io/bvg4z>). We included any empirical research describing interventions that

contributed to the functionality of health systems in Africa or any low-income or lower-middle-income regions. We searched Web of Science, MEDLINE, Embase, PsycINFO, Cochrane Library, CINAHL, and ERIC from their inception, and hand-searched other relevant sources. We summarized data using a narrative approach involving thematic syntheses and descriptive statistics. We identified 554 unique reports describing 575 interventions, of which 495 reported evidence of effectiveness. Most interventions were undertaken in Africa (80.9%), covered multiple elements of health systems (median: 3), and focused on service delivery (77.4%) and health workforce (65.6%). Effective interventions contributed to improving single (35.6%) or multiple (64.4%) capacities of health systems: access to essential services (75.6%), quality of care (70.5%), demand for essential services (38.6%), or health systems resilience (13.5%).

Same-day test and treat for infants with HIV infection: finally within reach

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 22 September 2022

Lara Vojnov, Diane Havlir, Landon Myer, Elaine Abrams and Ilesh Jani

In 2021, there were more than 150,000 new HIV infections among children; however, only 52% of children living with HIV were on antiretroviral treatment (ART). Untreated infants and young children are at high risk for rapid disease progression and death; early diagnosis and rapid treatment can prevent these outcomes. In 2021, however, less than 65% of HIV-exposed infants received an infant test within the first 2 months of age. The median time between sample collection to the results being received at the clinic was over 40 days in a recent systematic review of laboratory-based, standard-of-care infant testing in low- and middle-income countries. Further, 15% of infants were known to have died during the prolonged lag time between testing and ART initiation.

Safety and efficacy of pharmacotherapy containing INSTIs and chemotherapy drugs in people living with HIV and concomitant colorectal cancer

AIDS Research and Therapy | 23 September 2022

Jing Yang, Guo Wei, Fuqiang Gui, Yong Zhao, Tingyu Chen, et al.

Previous clinical data have shown that raltegravir-based antiretroviral therapy (ART) with fewer drug-drug interactions (DDIs) and adverse events (AEs) is a good regimen in patients with HIV infection who need cancer chemotherapy. There are currently few data on ART regimens that include Integrase inhibitors (INSTIs) other than RAL among this patient subgroup.

Nightcrawling

The Lancet Child and Adolescent Health | 23 September 2022

Kelley Swain

“When I began writing Nightcrawling,” writes Leila Mottley in the book's Author's Note, “I was seventeen and contemplating what it meant to be vulnerable, unprotected, and unseen. Like many black girls, I was often told growing up to tend to and shield my brother, my dad, the black men around me: their safety, their bodies, their dreams. In this, I learned that my own safety, body, and dreams were secondary, that there was no one and nothing that could or would protect me.”

HIV prevention for the next decade: Appropriate, person-centred, prioritised, effective, combination prevention

Plos Medicine | 26 September 2022

Peter Godfrey-Faussett, Luisa Frescura, Quarraisha Abdool-Karim, Michaela Clayton and Peter Ghys

A major course correction is needed to maximise the chance of reaching the targets already established for 2030 in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which includes “Ending the epidemic of AIDS by 2030”. UNAIDS and partners from a diverse range of stakeholders have worked to elaborate a new set of guiding principles and to establish a new set of intermediate targets for 2025 taking into account recent advances in biomedical, social, and epidemiological sciences. These deliberations and the targets that emerged from them are described in more detail in several papers in this Collection and are central to the current UNAIDS Global strategy. This policy forum lays out the overarching prevention target, the principles for guiding prevention programmes, and highlights the ways in which these principles are incorporated into the mathematical models of the potential impact of implementing the 2025 global targets for the HIV response.

Effectiveness of interventions to improve health behaviours of health professionals: a systematic review

BMJ Open | 26 September 2022

Julie Hobby, Jennifer Crowley, Katelyn Barnes, Lana Mitchell, Joy Parkinson, et al.

Health professionals are essential components of health services that provide support for individuals, communities and society. Health professionals' personal health directly impacts their ability to provide safe and effective health services. Health professionals are at higher risk of experiencing chronic health conditions and progression of disease and are at increased risk of unhealthy coping mechanisms when compared with community members. Initiatives that support healthy lifestyle behaviours of health professionals are clearly warranted. The work environment of health professionals is increasingly demanding, with pressure to work longer hours and provide efficient and effective care. Health professionals who directly interact with patients experience significant work-related psychological pressures and emotional exhaustion, placing them at risk of negative health outcomes. The cumulative toll of these demands on health professionals is evident in their physical health, high rates of absenteeism, burnout, reduced clinical hours and staff turnover. The true financial cost of poor lifestyle behaviours on health professionals is poorly understood but estimates from the USA indicate that the loss of clinical hours and turnover alone costs US\$7600 per employed physician per year. The COVID-19 epidemic has placed additional strain on healthcare systems and emphasised the importance of effective approaches to prevent health professional becoming secondary victims of this increased burden. Efforts to support health professionals to improve their health can reduce these costs and enhance the quality of care.

Estimation of COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine Effectiveness Against Medically Attended COVID-19 in Pregnancy During Periods of Delta and Omicron Variant Predominance in the United States

JAMA Network Open | 26 September 2022

Stephanie Schrag, Jennifer Verani, Brian Dixon, Jessica Page, Kristen Butterfield, et al.

SARS-CoV-2 infection during pregnancy is associated with increased risk of hospitalization, intensive care admission, preterm delivery, and stillbirth. Although pregnancy was an exclusion criterion in pivotal trials of COVID-19 mRNA vaccines, recommendations for COVID-19 vaccination include pregnant people. Current guidance from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends that all pregnant people receive a primary series and booster dose, with a preference for mRNA vaccines. Despite this, COVID-19 vaccine coverage among pregnant people remains low compared with similarly aged nonpregnant individuals. Evidence of the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination may increase confidence in vaccination among pregnant people. Moreover, because mRNA vaccines are a new class of vaccines with limited human use before the COVID-19 pandemic, postlicensure effectiveness assessments among pregnant people can shed light on whether immune changes associated with pregnancy affect mRNA vaccine performance.

Fighting insecticide resistance in malaria control

The Lancet Infectious Diseases | 26 September 2022

Kate Zinszer and Ambrose Ottau Talisuna

Insecticide treated nets and indoor residual spraying are two vector control interventions recommended by WHO. However, insecticide resistance is a growing and complex challenge that threatens to derail gains in malaria control.

Care cascade of tuberculosis infection treatment for people living with HIV in the era of antiretroviral therapy scale-up

Nature (Scientific Reports) | 27 September 2022

Kuan-Yin Lin, Chia-Jui Yang, Hsin-Yun Sun, Yuan-Ti Lee, Bo-Huang Liou, et al.

Testing and treatment of tuberculosis infection (TBI) are recommended for people living with HIV (PLWH). We aimed to evaluate the care cascade of TBI treatment among PLWH in the era of antiretroviral therapy (ART) scale-up. This retrospective study included adult PLWH undergoing interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA)-based TBI screening during 2019–2021. PLWH testing IGRA-positive were advised to receive directly-observed therapy for TBI after active TB disease was excluded. The care cascade was evaluated to identify barriers to TBI management. Among 7951 PLWH with a median age of 38 years and CD4 count of 616 cells/mm³, 420 (5.3%) tested positive and 38 (0.5%) indeterminate for IGRA. The TBI treatment initiation rate was 73.6% (309/420) and the completion rate was 91.9% (284/309). More than 80% of PLWH concurrently received short-course rifapentine-based regimens and integrase strand transfer inhibitor (InSTI)-containing ART. The main barrier to treatment initiation was physicians' concerns

and patients' refusal (85.6%).

Trends and risk of lung cancer among people living with HIV in the USA: a population-based registry linkage study

The Lancet HIV | 1 October 2022

Cameron Haas, Eric Engels, Marie-Josèphe Horner, Neal D Freedman, Qianlai Luo, et al.

Lung cancer is a common cancer in people living with HIV, but the risk of cancer in this group has not been investigated for over a decade. We investigated trends in relative and absolute risk of lung cancer among people living with HIV of various age groups in the USA.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Merck restarts islatravir HIV treatment studies, but abandons monthly PrEP

nam aidsmap | 23 September 2022

Merck plans to start new clinical trials of HIV treatment using a lower dose of its experimental antiretroviral islatravir, which has been on hold since late last year due to safety concerns, the company **announced this week**. Studies of islatravir for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) will be discontinued, and there was no announcement about the development of implants or injections.

African Teen Pregnancies Skyrocketed During COVID Lockdowns – But Prevention is Possible

Health Policy Watch | 23 September 2022

South Africa has one of the highest rates of HIV in the world, and young women bear the brunt of this statistic. Meanwhile, the country's battle against teen pregnancy was severely undermined by COVID-19 lockdowns and school closures – with spikes in teen pregnancies experienced throughout the continent during the pandemic lockdowns in 2020 and 2021. Nkosi told her story at a webinar convened by Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) and Health Systems Trust to discuss how to address teen pregnancy in South Africa. Describing most teenage pregnancies as “abuse”, CHAI country director Dr Yogan Pillay said that young people in southern Africa had a much higher chance of getting HIV and other sexually transmitted infections as well as mental health problems if they started having sex at an early age.

HIV treatment in South Africa: how to help people stay on ARVs when life gets in the way

The Conversation | 26 September 2022

Antiretroviral therapy (ART) has turned HIV into a manageable chronic condition. When ART is working effectively, HIV cannot be transmitted. This allows people with HIV to live fuller lives without the fear of infecting others. It's also led global HIV control efforts to focus on increasing ART coverage. The aim is to improve the health of people living with HIV, and to decrease and eventually halt the spread of the virus. UNAIDS set 90-90-90 targets to measure global progress by 2020: 90% of people with HIV know their status, 90% of those with a known status are on treatment, and 90% of those on treatment are virally suppressed (a blood test result that means ART is working effectively). These targets have now been increased to 95-95-95, to be reached by 2030.

On World Contraception Day, we're debunking 5 myths about birth control pills

Health Shots | 26 September 2022

When it comes to health-related issues, there is no shortage of myths flying around, posing as medical facts. People often fail to distinguish between a myth and the actual truth. One of the areas surrounded by myths is birth control measures, particularly contraceptive pills. Some of these myths are passed on by well-read and experienced family members, friends and agony aunts. These myths call into question the efficiency and safety of birth control pills, unjustly influencing your decisions regarding your family planning, fertility and overall well-being. So, here is a list of some of the most commonly heard myths about contraceptive pills and the facts that contradict them.

WHO releases a public health taxonomy for social listening on monkeypox conversations

WHO | 26 September 2022

The World Health Organization (WHO) has developed a public health taxonomy to support infodemic monitoring and insights generation of monkeypox conversations. The technical document provides an overview of how social listening can be applied to monkeypox conversations which can be used to generate infodemic insights for public health response. Taxonomies are used to better organize and frame analytics, especially when integrating data sources of varying types and quality. This approach was first used during COVID-19, when WHO developed a to integrate multiple online and offline data sources to generate weekly recommendations for action. At the start of the multi-country outbreak of monkeypox in 2022, this same approach was quickly applied and adapted to social listening activities. This technical document was codeveloped in collaboration with field epidemiologists and several country health authorities.

The youth has power and influence to deal with HIV/AIDS – Parliament

IOL | 26 September 2022

The National Assembly House chairperson for committees, oversight and ICT, Cedric Frolick, says the power and influence that young people have in being advocates for change regarding lifestyle choices and dealing with HIV and Aids must not be underestimated. Frolick was speaking at an intergenerational dialogue facilitated by UNAIDS, in collaboration with the Department of Basic Education and supported by the South African National AIDS Council.

Ending AIDS in Children by 2030

POZ | 26 September 2022

Here's a heartbreaking disparity in the AIDS response: Globally, only half (52%) of children living with HIV are on lifesaving meds, compared with 76% of adults. This means that nearly 1.2 million children and adolescents ages 0 to 19 have untreated HIV. To address this issue, several international AIDS organizations have joined a new effort to provide HIV care and treatment for children. Specifically, they launched the Global Alliance for Ending AIDS in Children by 2030.

New tool assesses which countries need COVID-19 vaccines the most

Medical Xpress | 26 September 2022

A new scoring tool that helps to "transparently" prioritize which countries are in greatest need of COVID-19 vaccines, has been developed by a UCL-led team of researchers. The researchers say the tool considers a far wider range of factors than the current global COVAX facility, which has been criticized by some countries, particularly poorer nations for insufficient access and a lack of flexibility to respond to local rapid rises in infections. The study, published in *BMC Public Health*, asked 28 experts from 13 different countries, what they thought were the most important factors for assessing countries' needs for vaccines.

Discover how AI is being used to detect tuberculosis

World Economic Forum | 26 September 2022

Tuberculosis (TB) is the second deadliest infectious killer, after COVID-19, which claimed 1.5 million lives in 2020 but is now largely under control. Meanwhile, multi-drug-resistant TB remains a public health crisis and a health security threat. The World Health Organization confirms that the COVID-19 pandemic could start to unravel years of progress in the fight against tuberculosis. This is largely a result of disruption to access to TB services and a drop in resources, which has led to a fall in the detection of new cases. Due to restricted access to diagnostics and lockdowns imposed to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, 4.1 million cases went undiagnosed. India was the worst (41%) with Indonesia (14%) and the Philippines (12%) following next. Viewed against the milestone of a 35% reduction in TB deaths by 2020, detailed in The End TB Strategy the global reduction in the corresponding time period has only been 9.2%.

Covid-19 Associated With 72% Greater Risk Of Type 1 Diabetes Among Children, Study Shows

Forbes | 26 September 2022

Still think that getting Covid-19 is no big deal for children? Well, there's been growing evidence that Covid-19 could hit you right in the pancreas. And a study just published as a research letter in JAMA Network furthered the possibility that Covid-19 may somehow lead to type 1 diabetes. Since type 1 diabetes results when the beta islet cells in your pancreas can't produce enough insulin, this research letter is kind of a

beta mail, so to speak. It adds to growing concern that the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) or your immune system's response to the virus may potentially affect beta islet cells. Now insulin is a pretty darn important hormone that helps regulate your blood sugar levels. Lack of enough insulin production can result in too high blood sugar levels and, in turn, damage to your heart, blood vessels, nerves, eyes, and kidneys. These not-too-sweet complications can be severely disabling and even life-threatening.

SA clinics' shortage of injection contraceptive putting girls, women's at risk of unwanted pregnancy

Drum | 26 September 2022

Today, the risk of maternal deaths and disability, newborn mortality and morbidity, and other unintended pregnancy risks is lower than it was just over two generations ago, thanks to The Pill. When the contraceptive pill was invented 60 years ago, it changed the lives of many women and people of child-bearing age for the better. "It liberated women sexually and socially and finally gave women the freedom to choose control," says Nicole Jennings of Pharma Dynamics. "For the first time, women were free to pursue tertiary education and a career – no longer stymied by untimely motherhood." "The pill gave women the freedom to choose when they wanted to have children, which changed the course of their lives forever," says the spokeswoman for the pharmaceutical company specialising in women's health. Yet, while the use of contraception among South African women is high (64%), quality contraceptive service delivery, equitable access and women's ability to correctly and consistently use contraceptive methods of their choice are huge hurdles – especially among young and rural women.

Pregnancy-specific anxiety associated with shorter gestation times and earlier births

News Medical Life Science | 26 September 2022

A new UCLA study has found anxiety specific to pregnancy and childbirth is associated with shorter gestation times and earlier births. One screening tool administered in the first trimester could reliably predict early birth. Screening for depression in pregnancy and postpartum is now a common part of maternal care; the authors suggest that adding an evaluation for anxiety in early pregnancy and for a more specific form of anxiety called pregnancy anxiety during pregnancy could identify women who might need interventions for healthier pregnancies and babies. The research is published in the journal, Health Psychology.

Longer-lasting HIV antibody treatments could offer a one-shot alternative to maintenance therapies

Medical Xpress | 26 September 2022

Antiretroviral therapy has had an enormous impact on treating HIV infections around the world. The millions of people currently taking these treatments under medical supervision can reasonably expect to reduce their viral loads to undetectable levels, eliminate the risk of transmission and live a normal life span. However, antiretroviral therapy is not without shortcomings. People need to take these medications regularly for life, and low compliance can lead to drug resistance. There is a promising new option on the horizon. I am a researcher who studies AIDS treatments, and I believe that monoclonal antibodies could become game-changers for the treatment of HIV infections.

COVID raises risk of long-term brain injury, large U.S. study finds

SABC News | 26 September 2022

People who had COVID-19 are at higher risk for a host of brain injuries a year later compared with people who were never infected by the coronavirus, a finding that could affect millions of Americans, U.S. researchers reported on Thursday. The year-long study, published in Nature Medicine, assessed brain health across 44 different disorders using medical records without patient identifiers from millions of U.S. veterans. Brain and other neurological disorders occurred in 7% more of those who had been infected with COVID compared with a similar group of veterans who had never been infected. That translates into roughly 6.6 million Americans who had brain impairments linked with their COVID infections, the team said.

First real-world study shows the effectiveness of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines during pregnancy

News Medical Life Science | 26 September 2022

The first large, real-world study of the effectiveness of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines during pregnancy found these vaccines, especially two initial doses followed by a booster, are effective in protecting against serious disease in expectant mothers whether the shots are administered before or during pregnancy. Pregnant women were excluded from COVID-19 mRNA vaccine clinical trials, so this new study fills a significant knowledge gap, providing strong evidence that vaccinating women who are or might become pregnant protects against hospitalization for the disease during pregnancy.

Five things about covid we still don't understand at our peril

The Washington Post | 26 September 2022

Since a new coronavirus launched the global pandemic that has now killed more than 6.5 million people — 16 percent of them in the United States alone — scientists in record numbers have devoted themselves full time to unraveling its mysteries. In less than three years, researchers have published more than 200,000 studies about the virus and covid-19. That is four times the number of scientific papers written on influenza in the past century and more than 10 times the number written on measles. Still, the virus has kept many of its secrets, from how it mutates so rapidly to why it kills some while leaving others largely unscathed — mysteries that if solved might arm the world's scientists with new strategies to curb its spread and guard against the next pandemic. Here are some of the most pressing questions they are trying to answer.

First data on Pfizer-BioNTech's Omicron BA.4/5 combination vaccine

News Medical Life Science | 27 September 2022

In a recent study posted to the bioRxiv* preprint server, researchers from Germany and the United States analyzed the association between exposure to severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) Omicron BA.4/BA.5 spike glycoprotein and pan-Omicron neutralization. Since its initial emergence in November 2021, the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant and its sublineages have significantly influenced the epidemiological landscape of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The first Omicron variant, BA.1, was capable of partially evading previously established SARS-CoV-2 wild-type strain (Wuhan-Hu-1)-based immunity due to significant changes in the spike (S) glycoprotein that resulted in the loss of many neutralizing antibody epitopes.

New COVID-Like Virus in Russian Bats Shows Resistance to Vaccine Antibodies

Science Alert | 27 September 2022

A novel coronavirus found in Russian bats has scientists calling for an urgent effort in generalized vaccine development. Otherwise, they caution, another pandemic might be triggered by a deadly animal virus spilling over to humans. Similar to SARS-CoV-2, the new respiratory virus discovered among bats, known as Khosta-2, is covered in spike proteins that can infect human cells using the same entryways. Even more problematic is its apparent resistance to monoclonal antibodies and serum induced in recipients of the COVID-19 vaccine.

The Connection Between Tuberculosis and Poverty

Borgen Magazine | 27 September 2022

In 2019, tuberculosis (TB) stood as one of the “top 10 causes of death” in low and lower-middle-income countries and is one of the top three life-threatening infectious diseases in 2021, ranking even higher than HIV. Tuberculosis is a bacterial infection primarily impacting the lungs, but it can spread to other organs and cause a multitude of health complications. Dr. Heinke Kunst is a leading specialist in tuberculosis and has published extensive research on the disease. She is also a senior lecturer at Queen Mary University in the U.K. and a consultant in respiratory medicine. In an interview with The Borgen Project, Kunst provides more insight into tuberculosis and poverty.

Researchers uncover a new way the immune system detects coronavirus infection

News Medical Life Science | 27 September 2022

In a recent study posted to bioRxiv*, researchers in the United States demonstrated that the main protease (Mpro) of coronaviruses (CoVs) activates host inflammasome responses. Effector-triggered immunity (ETI) is a defense strategy of hosts wherein innate sensors recognize pathogens, and a subset of ETI sensors in eukaryotes form inflammasomes. Inflammasomes are large immune complexes inside cells that activate pro-inflammatory caspases, mainly caspase 1 (CASP1), to trigger inflammatory

signaling and pyroptotic cell death. In humans, inflammasome-forming sensors such as caspase recruitment domain family member 8 (CARD8) sense the activity of viral proteases. CARD8 contains a disordered N-terminus and a C-terminal function-to-find domain (FIIND) and CARD. Self-cleavage of FIIND results in a bipartite sensor, where the N-terminus acts as a tripwire for viral proteases.

This metal is destroying children's brains - SA has no plans to remove it

News24 | 27 September 2022

Lead poisoning - a condition linked to violent behaviour, declining IQs, and heart disorders - is pervasive in several communities in South Africa, yet doctors reported only three cases to the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) between 2017 and 2022, according to Susan Nzenze-Chinyoka, the head of the NICD's notifiable medical conditions team. Because lead poisoning is a notifiable medical condition in the country, it's a crime for health workers not to flag instances of the condition to the NICD.

HIV treatment in South Africa: How to help people stay on ARVs when life gets in the way

263 chat | 27 September 2022

Modelling and programme data suggest that the number of people re-initiating ART is as high as, or higher than, the number of people starting treatment for the first time.

“We take the fish out of the water”: Three myths about vasectomies – busted

Bhekisisa | 28 September 2022

- Vasectomy is a permanent contraceptive method. During this surgical procedure, the tubes that take sperm from the testicles to the glands that make semen are cut — in about the time of a lunch break.
- Men's views on vasectomies are influenced by what friends and family say about the procedure, which often causes untruths about the procedure to spread.
- Many men wonder how much it hurts to get a vasectomy, whether it can be undone later and whether it will ruin their sex life. Three medical experts and a man who has been through it tell it like it is.

U=U IT'S FOR BOTH OF YOU

Engage Men's Health | 28 September 2022

U=U is an international campaign to raise awareness about the benefits of ARVs and to educate people about how effective they are at treating HIV. U=U is an abbreviation for “Undetectable = Untransmittable”. U=U means that a person living with HIV who sticks to their HIV treatment can reach a point where they can no longer transmit the virus. Here's how it works: With any virus, the likelihood of transmitting it depends on the amount of virus in your body (called “viral load”). HIV drugs called antiretrovirals (ARVs) prevent the virus from reproducing (making copies of itself).

WHO and ILO call for new measures to tackle mental health issues at work

World Health Organization | 28 September 2022

New global WHO guidelines on mental health at work are reinforced by practical strategies outlined in a joint WHO/ILO policy brief.

WHO and the International Labour Organization (ILO) have called for concrete actions to address mental health concerns in the working population. An estimated 12 billion workdays are lost annually due to depression and anxiety costing the global economy nearly US\$ 1 trillion. Two new publications which aim to address this issue are published today - WHO Guidelines on mental health at work and a derivative WHO/ILO policy brief. WHO's global guidelines on mental health at work recommend actions to tackle risks to mental health such as heavy workloads, negative behaviours, and other factors that create distress at work. For the first time WHO recommends manager training, to build their capacity to prevent stressful work environments and respond to workers in distress.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust Bulletin

The Health Systems Trust (HST) produces a weekly bulletin on Fridays focusing on key public health news, peer-reviewed journal articles and other important primary healthcare resources.

Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust 60percent

HST produces a weekly online publication, 60percent, which keeps subscribers abreast with the latest news and developments pertaining to HIV-related maternal, adolescent, child and youth health. The name 60percent signifies that southern Africa is responding to a feminised HIV/AIDS epidemic, with at least 60% of those living with HIV being women. Subscribe to 60percent by simply visiting HST's website (<https://www.hst.org.za>), scroll to the bottom of the page, hit the SUBSCRIBE button, and follow the prompts. Let's keep you posted!

HSTi offers accredited and non-accredited short courses and full programmes

The Health Systems Training Institute (HSTi) is the training arm of the Health Systems Trust (HST), a leading force in the South African public health sector. HST was established in 1992, on the brink of democracy in South Africa, and has since played a significant role in strengthening the national primary health system through health research, informatics, clinical support, capacity-building and training.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

South African Health Review 2021

Health Systems Trust | 2021

When it comes to service delivery and access in both the public and private health sectors, COVID-19 has put everything to the test. It has demonstrated how central public health security is to health and livelihoods, and how pandemic health emergencies expose the weaknesses and vulnerabilities of health systems, costing lives and causing immeasurable damage to economies. Few could have imagined the impact of COVID-19 when this pandemic reached our shores in March 2020.

This edition considers the government's and broader health sector's response to COVID-19, explores the current challenges facing the health system at this unprecedented time, and reflects on lessons learnt for future for public health emergencies. The chapters offer information on, inter alia, the challenges of balancing lives with livelihoods, and the impact of COVID-19 on different cadres of healthcare workers, especially Community Health Workers who found themselves at the forefront of our COVID-19 response. Other areas covered include the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations like children, persons with disabilities, farmworkers, migrants, and the poorest in our society.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Operational Research on Neglected Tropical Diseases (COR-NTD) – Annual Meeting

World Health Organization

4 – 5 October 2022

The Coalition for Operational Research on Neglected Tropical Diseases (COR-NTD) convenes coalition members annually to facilitate conversations between researchers, the World Health Organization, country programme managers, implementers and donors. Working groups comprised of NTD experts from across the coalition lead conversations and identify key research priorities at COR-NTD meetings called Research Links throughout the year. These conversations, which culminate at the Annual Meeting, play an important role in establishing the NTD research agenda.

2022 Africa Health Exhibition

Live in-person: 26 – 28 October 2022

Online: 11 October – 11 November 2022

After a 2-year hiatus, Africa's healthcare community will once again gather under one roof over three days. The 11th annual Africa Health Congress will once again bring together healthcare professionals from multiple disciplines to promote discussion and thought leadership on the advancement of healthcare in the region. This congress will address the needs of African healthcare professionals, share strategies that are transforming the future of medicine, and examine the latest disruptions in healthcare driving the transformation of the continent.

Primary Health Care Interest Group ten-part seminar series

Supporting collaboration and learning on Primary health care (PHC) to inform the global policy agenda, the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (#LSHTM) is organizing a ten-part seminar series "Primary Health Care (#PHC). The first Wednesday of each month throughout the 2022/23 academic year.

Free & open to all

The Conference on Public Health in Africa is back & in person!

Goals of #CPHIA2022:

- 👉 build more resilient #healthsystems
- 👉 better prepare for & manage emerging health threats within Africa

More info: <https://cphia2022.com>

UNICEF will be there, #ForEveryChild

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Health System Strengthening Unit (HSS): Psychosocial Advisor

Closing Date: 2022-10-05

Health System Strengthening Unit (HSS): Facility Team Leaders (2)

Closing Date: 2022-10-10

Health System Strengthening Unit (HSS): Facility Team Leaders (3)

Closing Date: 2022-10-10

Digital Health Systems Support: Technicians

Closing Date: 2022-10-03

Digital Health Systems Support: Team Leads

Closing Date: 2022-10-03

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