

# HST Bulletin



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## ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

### **The National Health Insurance, the decentralised clinical training platform, and specialist outreach**

*The South African Medical Journal* | Published: 21 December 2016.

*R I Caldwell, C Aldous*

According to the Constitution of South Africa (SA), citizens living in remote areas are entitled to the same level of healthcare as those with access to tertiary hospitals. Specialist outreach has been shown to achieve this. When SA's National Health Services Commission convened (1942 - 1944), Gluckman summarised: 'Where the need is greatest the supply of hospitals is least.' Primary healthcare (PHC) characterised the Kark's Pholela Health Centre and was highly regarded. Although PHC underpins National Health Insurance (NHI) planning, both preventive and curative healthcare are needed. The KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) provincial Department of Health and the University of KZN College of Health Sciences' 5-year plan for a decentralised clinical teaching platform (DCTP) is ambitious, requiring optimum co-operation between health department and university. Reservations can be addressed through sustained specialist outreach. Above all, the patient must be the chief beneficiary. The NHI and DCTP overlap with specialist outreach, but cannot do without it.

### **Transmission of Extensively Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis in South Africa**

*The New England Journal of Medicine* | Published: 19 January 2017.

*N. Sarita Shah, Sara C. Auld, James C.M. Brust, Barun Mathema, Nazir Ismail, Pravi Moodley, Koleka Mlisana, Salim Allana, et al.*

Drug-resistant tuberculosis threatens recent gains in the treatment of tuberculosis and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection worldwide. A widespread epidemic of extensively drug-resistant (XDR) tuberculosis is occurring in South Africa, where cases have increased substantially since 2002. The factors driving this rapid increase have not been fully elucidated, but such knowledge is needed to

guide public health interventions.

### **Immunisation coverage in the rural Eastern Cape – are we getting the basics of primary care right? Results from a longitudinal prospective cohort study**

*The South African Medical Journal | Published: 21 December 2016.*

*K le Roux, O Akin-Olugbade, L S Katzen, C Laurenzi, N Mercer, M Tomlinson, M J Rotheram-Borus*

Immunisations are one of the most cost-effective public health interventions available and South Africa (SA) has implemented a comprehensive immunisation schedule. However, there is disagreement about the level of immunisation coverage in the country and few studies document the immunisation coverage in rural areas. [This study] examines the successful and timely delivery of immunisations to children during the first 2 years of life in a deeply rural part of the Eastern Cape Province of SA.

### **Can trained lay providers perform HIV testing services? A review of national HIV testing policies**

*BioMed Central | Published: 4 January 2017.*

*David E. Flynn, Cheryl Johnson, Anita Sands, Vincent Wong, Carmen Figueroa and Rachel Baggaley*

Only an estimated 54% of people living with HIV are aware of their status. Despite progress scaling up HIV testing services (HTS), a testing gap remains. Delivery of HTS by lay providers may help close this testing gap, while also increasing uptake and acceptability of HIV testing among key populations and other priority groups.

### **Adapting global health aid in the face of climate change**

*The Lancet | Published: February 2017.*

*Vin Gupta, Alexandre Mason-Sharma, Stephanie N Caty, Vanessa Kerry*

WHO estimates an additional 250 000 mortalities between 2030 and 2050 will be attributable to climate-associated increases in malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea, respiratory disease, water inaccessibility, and heat stress. Spillover effects on state and regional security are inevitable. The World Economic Forum has identified climate change as the single greatest threat to global stability because of its considerable consequences on the health and stability of developing nations.

### **Tackling the climate targets set by the Paris Agreement (COP 21): Green leadership empowers public hospitals to overcome obstacles and challenges in a resource-constrained environment**

*The South African Medical Journal | Published: 21 December 2016.*

*E Weimann, B Patel*

The healthcare sector itself contributes to climate change, the creation of hazardous waste, use of toxic metals such as mercury, and water and air pollution. To mitigate the effect of healthcare provision on the deteriorating environment and avoid creating further challenges for already burdened health systems, Global Green Hospitals was formed as a global network. Groote Schuur Hospital (GSH), as the leading academic hospital in Africa, joined the network in 2014. Since then, several projects have been initiated to reduce the amount of general waste, energy consumption and food waste, and create an environmentally friendlier and more sustainable hospital in a resource-constrained public healthcare setting.

### **Barriers to care and 1-year mortality among newly-diagnosed HIV-infected people in Durban, South Africa.**

*JAIDS | Published: January 2017.*

*Ingrid V Bassett, Sharon M Coleman, Janet Giddy, Laura M Bogart, Christine E Chaisson, Douglas Ross, Moses J.E. Flash, Tessa Govender, et al.*

Prompt entry into HIV care is often hindered by personal and structural barriers. Our objective was to evaluate the impact of self-perceived barriers to healthcare on 1-year mortality among newly diagnosed HIV-infected individuals in Durban, South Africa.

### **Outcomes of HIV-positive Patients Lost to Follow-up in African Treatment Programs**

*Tropical Medicine & International Health | Published: 19 January 2017.*

*Kathrin Zürcher, Anne Mooser, Nanina Anderegg, Olga Tymejczyk, Margaret J. Couvillon, Denis Nash, Matthias Egger, The leDEA and MESH consortia*

The retention of patients on antiretroviral therapy (ART) is key to achieving global targets in response to the HIV epidemic. Loss to follow-up (LTFU) can be substantial, with unknown outcomes for patients lost to ART programs. We examined changes in outcomes of patients LTFU over calendar time, assessed associations with other studies and program characteristics, and investigated the relative success of different tracing methods.

### **Sexual and reproductive health services utilization by female sex workers is context-specific: results from a cross-sectional survey in India, Kenya, Mozambique and South Africa.**

*BioMed Central | Published: 19 January 2017.*

*Yves Lafort, Ross Greener, Anuradha Roy, Letitia Greener, Wilkister Ombidi, Faustino Lessitala, Jolene Skordis-Worrall et al.*

Female sex workers (FSWs) are extremely vulnerable to adverse sexual and reproductive health (SRH) outcomes. To mitigate these risks, they require access to services covering not only HIV prevention but also contraception, cervical cancer screening and sexual violence. To develop context-specific intervention packages to improve uptake, we identified gaps in service utilization in four different cities.

### **South Africa's salt reduction strategy: Are we on track, and what lies ahead?**

*The South African Medical Journal | Published: 21 December 2016.*

*J Webster, C Crickmore, K Charlton, K Steyn, E Wentzel-Viljoen, P Naidoo*

On 2 September 2016, 25 local and international participants from various sectors met in Cape Town to take stock of South Africa (SA)'s progress in salt reduction and develop a roadmap for action. SA is centre stage on salt reduction globally, being the first country to mandate salt reduction across a wide range of processed foods. Excessive salt intake contributed by processed foods and discretionary sources motivated SA to implement a public awareness campaign in parallel with legislation to reduce salt intake to the World Health Organization target of 5 g per day. Five priority areas were identified for continued action on salt reduction, including obtaining research funds for continued monitoring and compliance of salt reduction targets.

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## **RECENT NEWS**

### **Emerging Health Practitioner Award 2017**

*Health Systems Trust | 10 January 2017.*

The South African Health Review's Emerging Public Health Practitioner Award (EPHPA) is open to young public health practitioners or student researchers in the fields health sciences, medicine or public health who are currently studying for their Masters or Honours degree, or are in the final year of their Bachelor's degree. Individuals seeking to publish a paper dealing with public health policy development or implementation in a respected and widely read South African peer-reviewed journal are encouraged to apply.

### **DIY test for HIV comes to a pharmacy near you**

*Health-E News | 16 January 2017.*

It's as simple and easy as a home pregnancy test, and should be treated similarly, argues Health-e News writer Amy Green who went through the process of self-testing for HIV.

### **Is it dangerous to test yourself for HIV?**

*Bhekisisa | 21 January 2017.*

Two years of HIV self-testing in Malawi have shown no cases of suicide, intimate partner violence or

self-harm.

### **How social factors drive up suicide rates among pregnant women**

*The Conversation* | 20 January 2017.

Pregnant women in South Africa who live in poor communities are more likely to consider or attempt suicide than the general population. That's a key finding from a recent study we undertook at Hanover Park.

### **Miscarriage and stillbirth risk increases in smokers with HIV**

*Medical Brief* | 18 January 2017.

Smoking 'dramatically' increases the risk of pregnancy loss in HIV-positive women, US investigators report.

### **As if HIV treatment never happened and time stood still**

*Bhekisisa* | 18 January 2017.

In SA, HIV infection is no longer a death sentence but in countries like the Democratic Republic Congo, it's as if treatment never happened.

### **ADVANCE HIV study set to save SA billions**

*Health-E News* | 17 January.

A new HIV drug combination could save SA billions of rands – plus it would be easier and safer for patients to take.

### **The Medicines Patent Pool Announces First License for Tuberculosis Treatment**

*Medicines Patent Pool* | 25 January 2017.

In an effort to improve the international response to combatting multidrug-resistant TB, MPP and Johns Hopkins University sign licensing agreement for investigational treatment sutezolid.

### **Vaccines for three deadly viruses fast-tracked**

*BBC* | 18 January 2017.

Scientists have named three relatively little-known diseases they think could cause the next global health emergency.

### **Bird flu outbreak in Uganda: some key facts about the virus**

*The Conversation* | 22 January 2017.

An outbreak of bird flu has been reported in Uganda, where hundreds of wild birds were found dead on the shores of Lake Victoria. Ugandan authorities have not confirmed which strain of the avian flu caused the birds' death. But the country along with neighbouring Kenya has put their countries on high health alert. The Conversation Africa's health and medicine editor Candice Bailey asked Dr Sibongile Walaza to explain the deadly virus.

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## **TRAINING AND RESOURCES**

### **Training of Trainers: Peer Education Program for Inmates and Staff to Reduce Tuberculosis and HIV Risk in Tanzania Prisons**

*US Aid* | Published: 30 December 2016.

In 2014, USAID/Tanzania awarded the Tanzania Strengthening Police and Prison Comprehensive HIV Services (SPPCHS) project as an initiative under the AIDSFree project. The SPPCHS project worked with the Ministry of Home Affairs to design a peer education program for prisons to provide knowledge, skills, and tools to prevent and respond to tuberculosis (TB) and HIV in prisons. AIDSFree held two training of trainers (TOT) in Dodoma to train 55 prison officers from 26 prison facilities to train prison staff and inmates on the new peer education program. This report presents the findings from these

evaluations, suggests some recommendations for future TOTs of this kind, and summarizes the sessions delivered.

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## **PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS**

### **Advancing the right to health: the vital role of law**

WHO | *Published: 16 January 2017.*

This report aims to raise awareness about the role that the reform of public health laws can play in advancing the right to health and in creating the conditions for people to live healthy lives. By encouraging a better understanding of how public health law can be used to improve the health of the population, the report aims to encourage and assist governments to reform their public health laws in order to advance the right to health.

### **For Every Child, End AIDS: Seventh Stocktaking Report, 2016**

UNICEF | *Published: December 2016.*

Despite remarkable achievements in the prevention and treatment of HIV, this report finds that progress has been uneven globally. In 2015, more than half of the world's new infections (1.1 million out of 2.1 million) were among women, children and adolescents, and nearly 2 million adolescents aged 10–19 were living with HIV. In sub-Saharan Africa, the region most impacted by HIV, three in four new infections in 15–19-year-olds were among girls. The report proposes strategies for preventing HIV among women, children and adolescents who have been left behind, and treating those who are living with HIV.

### **Harnessing the Power of Data for Girls: Taking stock and looking ahead to 2030**

UNICEF | *Published: 7 October 2016.*

This brochure includes the first global estimates on the time girls spend doing household chores such as cooking, cleaning, caring for family members and collecting water and firewood. The data show that the disproportionate burden of domestic work begins early, with girls between 5 and 9 years old spending 30 per cent more time, or 40 million more hours a day, on household chores than boys their age. The disparities grow as girls get older, with 10 to 14 year olds spending 50 per cent more time, or 120 million more hours each day.

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## **CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

### **Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2017)**

13 - 16 February 2017

Washington State Convention Centre, Seattle, Washington, USA

### **6th Annual Hospital Build and Healthcare Africa Conference**

15 -16 February 2017

Indaba Hotel, Fourways, Johannesburg, South Africa

### **31st International Papillomavirus Conference (HPV 2017)**

28 - 4 March 2017

Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa

### **47th National Congress of the Ophthalmological Society of South Africa (OSSA 2017)**

16 - 19 March 2017

Boardwalk Hotel, Port Elizabeth, South Africa

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## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

### Health Systems Trust: ePHC IMPLEMENTATION MANAGER

Closing Date: Monday, 6 February 2017

### Health Systems Trust: NURSE CLINICIANS

Closing Date: Wednesday, 8 February 2017

### Health Systems Trust: DRIVER MOBILISER

Closing Date: Wednesday, 8 February 2017

### Health Systems Trust: DATA CAPTURERS

Closing Date: Wednesday, 8 February 2017

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