



CATEGORIES

[Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles](#)

[Recent Public Health News](#)

[Training and Resources](#)

[Publications and Reports](#)

[Conferences and Events](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Mind the gap – Managing tuberculosis across the disease spectrum

eBioMedicine | 23 March 2022

Hanif Esmail, Liana Macpherson, Anna Coussens, Rein Houben

We currently have a binomial approach to managing tuberculosis. Those with active disease, ideally confirmed microbiologically, are treated with a standard 6-month, multi-drug regimen and those with latent infection and no evidence of disease with shorter, one or two drug regimens. Clinicians frequently encounter patients that fall between these two management pathways with some but not all features of disease and this will occur more often with the increasing emphasis on chest X-ray-based systematic screening. The view of tuberculosis as a spectrum of disease states is being increasingly recognised and is leading to new diagnostic approaches for early disease. However, the 6-month regimen for treating disease was driven by the duration required to treat the most extensive forms of pulmonary TB and shorter durations appear sufficient for less extensive disease. It is time undertake clinical trials to better define the optimal treatment for tuberculosis across the disease spectrum.

Reimagining the status quo: How close are we to rapid sputum-free tuberculosis diagnostics for all?

eBioMedicine | 23 March 2022

Ruvandhi Nathavitharana, Alberto Garcia-Basteiro, Morten Ruhwald, Frank Cobelens, Grant Theron

Rapid, accurate, sputum-free tests for tuberculosis (TB) triage and confirmation are urgently needed to close the widening diagnostic gap. We summarise key technologies and review programmatic, systems, and resource issues that could affect the impact of diagnostics. Mid-to-early-stage technologies like artificial intelligence-based automated digital chest X-radiography and capillary blood point-of-care assays are particularly promising. Pitfalls in the diagnostic pipeline, included a lack of community-based tools. We outline how these technologies may complement one another within the context of the TB care cascade, help overturn current paradigms (eg, reducing syndromic triage reliance, permitting subclinical TB to be diagnosed), and expand options for extra-pulmonary TB. We review challenges such as the difficulty of detecting paucibacillary TB and the limitations of current reference standards, and discuss how researchers and developers can better design and evaluate assays to optimise programmatic uptake. Finally, we outline how leveraging the urgency and innovation applied to COVID-19 is critical to improving TB patients' diagnostic quality-of-care.

Self-management of gout using a mobile app

The Lancet Rheumatology | 24 March 2022

Lisa Stamp, Angelo Gaffo

Gout is the most common form of inflammatory arthritis worldwide. The cardinal clinical manifestations are gout flares and subcutaneous tophi, which both cause significant pain, disability, reduction in quality of life, and contribute to hospital admissions. A sustained reduction in serum urate of less than 0.36 mmol/L has been shown, with time, to lead to a reduction and cessation of flares and resorption of tophi, and this treat-to-target urate approach is recommended by rheumatology societies. Despite effective urate lowering therapies, many people with gout do not reach target serum urate levels. Current successful strategies used in clinical trials for initiating urate lowering therapy, escalating therapy to reach target urate, and ensuring persistence with therapy to maintain target urate, such as nurse-led interventions, carry a substantial burden for the individual and health-care providers, and translation into routine clinical care has been problematic. Thus, attention has turned towards developing alternative strategies to improve uptake and persistence with urate lowering therapy.

Burden of non-communicable diseases among adolescents aged 10–24 years in the EU, 1990–2019: a systematic analysis of the Global Burden of Diseases Study 2019

The Lancet Adolescent and Child Health

Benedetta Armocida, Lorenzo Monasta, Prof Susan Sawyer, Flavia Bustreo, Giulia Segafredo

Disability and mortality burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) have risen worldwide; however, the NCD burden among adolescents remains poorly described in the EU.

NCD Countdown 2030: efficient pathways and strategic investments to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goal target 3.4 in low-income and middle-income countries

The Lancet | 26 March 2022

NCD Countdown 2030 collaborators

Most countries have made little progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 3.4, which calls for a reduction in premature mortality from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by a third from 2015 to 2030. In this Health Policy paper, we synthesise the evidence related to interventions that can reduce premature mortality from the major NCDs over the next decade and that are feasible to implement in countries at all levels of income. Our recommendations are intended as generic guidance to help 123 low-income and middle-income countries meet SDG target 3.4; country-level applications require additional analyses and consideration of the local implementation and utilisation context. Protecting current investments and scaling up these interventions is especially crucial in the context of COVID-19-related health system disruptions. We show how cost-effectiveness data and other information can be used to define locally tailored packages of interventions to accelerate rates of decline in NCD mortality.

The role of health facility and individual level characteristics on medication adherence among PLHIV on second-line antiretroviral therapy in Northeast Ethiopia: use of multi-level model

AIDS Research and Therapy | 26 March 2022

Shambel Wedajo, Getu Degu, Amare Deribew and Fentie Ambaw

Medication adherence plays a pivotal role in achieving the desired treatment outcomes. The proportion of HIV patients on second-line antiretroviral therapy is becoming a growing public health concern. However, to date, little attention has been given to second-line antiretroviral medication adherence. Moreover, the association between health facility characteristics and medication adherence has yet not been tested. Thus, this research was conducted to determine the magnitude of medication adherence and examine the role of facility-level determinants among HIV patients on second-line ART.

Police abuse and care engagement of people with HIV who inject drugs in Ukraine

Samantha Schoenberger, Bulat Idrisov, Yuliia Sereda, Tetiana Kiriazova and Olena Makarenko

Taylor Francis Online | 28 March 2022

Police abuse affects people who inject drugs (PWID), including those with HIV, and negatively impacts care engagement. This cross-sectional study evaluated police abuse among PWID receiving MOUD (medication for opioid use disorder) living with HIV and associations with HIV treatment adherence and

receipt of NGO services.

Acceptability of unsupervised peer-based distribution of HIV oral self-testing for the hard-to-reach in rural KwaZulu Natal, South Africa: Results from a demonstration study

Plos One | 30 March 2022

Marcel Kitenge, Chinmay Laxmeshwar, Elkin Aza, Effie Ford-Kamara, Gilles Van Cusem, et al.

In 2019, more than two-thirds of people living with HIV (PLHIV) were in Africa. Worldwide, 19% of PLHIV did not know their status in 2019, while in South Africa this figure was 8%. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) has set the ambitious 95-95-95 goals with the aim to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic by 2030-stating that 95% of PLHIV should know their HIV status, among whom 95% should be on ART, and of those 95% should achieve viral suppression. HIV self-testing (HIVST) has been recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) as an additional testing method along with conventional healthcare worker-driven HIV testing. Growing evidence suggests that HIVST can overcome barriers (long waiting times, lack of confidentiality) associated with conventional HIV testing approaches, leading to increased uptake. Provision of HIVST may also help reach those who have never tested or are unwilling to visit a health facility.

Drug resistance and use of long-acting ART

The Lancet HIV | 28 March 2022

The approval, in 2021, of long-acting cabotegravir plus rilpivirine as the first long-term antiretroviral therapy (ART) has engendered enthusiasm for its use among patients with adherence challenges, given its potential to address stigma and other challenges associated with daily pill intake. Several factors could prevent the implementation of long-acting cabotegravir plus rilpivirine in resource-poor settings, such as cold chain requirement; inactivity of long-acting cabotegravir plus rilpivirine against hepatitis B; and the requirement for dosing once a month or every 2 months, which conflicts with differentiated service delivery models that allow patients to attend clinics every 6 months. However, the greatest challenge to implementation of long-acting cabotegravir plus rilpivirine in sub-Saharan Africa involves its efficacy in the face of widespread non-nucleoside reverse-transcriptase inhibitor resistance (NNRTI).

A focus on disability is necessary to achieve HIV epidemic control

The Lancet HIV | April 2022

Hannah Kuper, Phyllis Heydt, Calum Davey

Provision of inclusive services and reaching marginalised groups are crucial to achieving the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets by 2030. However, people with disabilities are often left behind. This gap in HIV care provision is important because more than 1 billion people worldwide have disabilities, including a quarter of people living with HIV. The association between HIV and disability is bidirectional: HIV can cause a range of physical, sensory, and cognitive impairments and people with disabilities are at higher risk of acquiring HIV. People with disabilities often have lower levels of access and adherence to HIV treatment due to barriers with regard to the provision of services (eg, inadequate knowledge among health-care workers and inaccessibility of facilities) and the demand for services (eg, absence of autonomy and awareness of people with disabilities of HIV care needs and service availability). Ultimately, these barriers arise from failures at the system level, including poor governance, leadership, financing, and paucity of data.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

'Test and treat' is being used to tackle HIV. Why not TB?

The Conversation | 23 March 2022

Worldwide, tuberculosis (TB) remains a significant cause of disease and deaths. Around 9.9 million people had the disease in 2020. The burden is higher in low- and middle-income countries. Africa accounts for 25% of TB cases. TB is caused by a bacterium called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. Not everyone who gets infected with the bacterium will get sick. Once infected, a person has a 5%-15% lifetime risk of developing active TB disease. Risk factors that contribute to people's susceptibility to getting ill with TB include HIV infection, diabetes mellitus, malnutrition, alcoholism and rheumatoid

arthritis. Based on my experience of researching and being involved in TB programmes in Africa over the past two decades I would argue that TB control should take a leaf out of the approach adopted for HIV. In the HIV care field, the current UNAIDS strategy is to “test and treat”. This approach involves widespread, community-based HIV testing. People testing positive for HIV are immediately placed on antiretroviral therapy.

No shoes allowed: Why it's best to go bare indoors

Bhekisisa | 23 March 2022

You probably clean your shoes if you step in something muddy or disgusting (please pick up after your dog!). But when you get home, do you always de-shoe at the door? Plenty of Australians don't. For many, what you drag in on the bottom of your shoes is the last thing on the mind as one gets home. We are environmental chemists who have spent a decade examining the indoor environment and the contaminants people are exposed to in their own homes. Although our examination of the indoor environment, via our DustSafe programme, is far from complete, on the question of whether to shoe or de-shoe in the home, the science leans toward the latter. It is best to leave your filth outside the door.

Tackling TB: Three lessons the COVID-19 pandemic taught us

Bhekisisa | 24 March 2022

Tuberculosis (TB) is a curable disease. Yet deaths are up – for the first time in a decade – despite cases being down. Why? Because the coronavirus threw a spanner in the works. The World Health Organisation (WHO) reports that in 2020 the number of TB deaths reached levels last seen in 2017 despite the number of cases falling by 1.3-million between 2019 and 2020. This, they say, means that the world is unlikely to reach its targets of reducing TB infections by 20% or ending TB deaths by 2030. The situation is yet more collateral damage from a pandemic we were unprepared for, seeing countries enforcing strict lockdowns and healthcare resources being diverted from established public healthcare programmes to urgently fight a new disease, which left many people unable to access TB testing or treatment.

Left to die: the fate of thousands of people living with HIV in Tigray

The Conversation | 24 March 2022

People with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) on regular treatment are now experiencing similar life expectancy to people without the virus. This is thanks to the innovation of antiretroviral therapy which can prevent the progression to AIDS. This is the late stage of HIV infection that occurs when the body's immune system is badly damaged because of the virus. Evidence shows that the survival period for HIV patients who progress to AIDS is usually less than two years in untreated patients. If patients do not have access to ART, the prognosis is poor, with an overall mortality rate of more than 90%. A key factor that limits access to antiretroviral therapy is conflict or war. For this reason, we are deeply concerned about people living with HIV in Ethiopia's Tigray region, an area that's been the focus of our work. Currently, there's a conflict between Ethiopia's central government and the regional Tigrayan government.

Analysis: Is SA on course to solve its TB diagnosis problem?

Spotlight | 24 March 2022

In February 2021, findings from South Africa's first National Tuberculosis Prevalence Survey were made public after delays of about a year. The survey confirmed something that has been suspected for some time – that large numbers of people who fall ill with TB in South Africa are not being diagnosed. This is firstly harmful to the health of the people who are not being diagnosed, but it is also a major obstacle to reducing the rate of new infections in the country since people who are not diagnosed and not on treatment remain infectious for much longer. According to Dr Norbert Ndjeka, Director of Drug-Resistant TB, TB, and HIV in the National Department of Health, just over 208 000 cases of TB were diagnosed in South Africa in 2020.

Reflecting on TREATS Project on World TB Day

Health Systems Trust | 24 March 2022

World Tuberculosis (TB) Day is commemorated every year on 24 March to raise awareness about TB and highlight efforts to fight to "End TB". This year's theme "Invest to End TB. Save lives." speaks to the urgency of mobilising additional resources towards achievement of global End TB targets. The COVID-19 pandemic has, unfortunately, jeopardised gains made in the fight towards these targets. Research, in particular, is an important tool in the fight to end TB. As the WHO's Director General Dr Tedros

Ghebreyesus, stated in the lead up to World TB Day: "Urgent investments are needed to develop and expand access to the most innovative services and tools to prevent, detect and treat TB." The TREATS (Tuberculosis Reduction through Expanded Antiretroviral Treatment and Screening for Active TB) Project aims to measure the success of a 'universal test and treat' project called PopART focused on reducing the prevalence and incidence of TB in 21 communities in South Africa and Zambia, whilst also raising awareness of TB and HIV through community engagement and linking anyone who tested positive for TB or HIV to immediate treatment. The project, which is funded by the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP), started in November 2017 and will end in April 2022. The Health Systems Trust is the implementing partner for the TREATS project in South Africa.

World TB Day: Drug-resistant patient grateful for new treatment

Health-E News | 24 March 2022

World TB Day is observed on 24 March each year. This year's theme 'Invest to End TB. Save Lives' was created with the urgent need to invest in resources to ramp up the fight against the disease. As the world marks World TB Day today, one of the few drug-resistant patients in South Africa has expressed relief at being able to be treated with the shorter oral regimen, BPaL, comprised of bedaquiline, pretomanid and linezolid. Instead of the usual 18 months, Bruno Da Silva can now be treated for drug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) in six months.

Career mums share their breastfeeding journeys

Health-E News | 24 March 2022

The World Health Organisation recently published a report on how the marketing of breast-milk substitutes impacts mothers' decisions when it comes to infant feeding. The multi-country study was conducted in eight countries – South Africa, Bangladesh, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Vietnam, and the United Kingdom. It found that formula companies use manipulative marketing tactics that distort science and medicine to legitimise their claims and push their products and ultimately, undermine parents' confidence in breastfeeding. Two new moms share their breastfeeding experiences with us.

Looking Beyond New TB Vaccines to Shorter Courses of Treatment

Health Policy Watch | 24 March 2022

The Government Chest Hospital in the city's Jericho neighborhood is regarded as one of the top hubs for TB testing, treatment and care in Nigeria. Even though health workers at the facility try to encourage TB patients to sustain their course of treatment until the very end, they often see patients are unwilling to do so. "We have those that do not want people around them to know they have TB, so it's difficult for them to meet all of their appointments. We also have those that live very far from here. They often start well but over time, as the symptoms clear, they default and drug resistance may arise," a nursing officer at the hospital told Health Policy Watch. So the World TB Day 2022 announcement of an updated WHO guideline recommending a shorter four-month treatment course for children with "non-severe" TB was a much-heralded development in the TB space as further highlighted the existing research gaps in TB. The latest recommendation relied heavily on the findings of the University College London's SHINE Study that was conducted in South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and India.

[PODCAST] The illegal cigarette business: How does it work?

Bhekisisa | 25 March 2022

In South Africa, tobacco companies big and small use all sorts of schemes to dodge the taxman. Our reporter, Joan van Dyk, got the details of exactly how these scams work from Johann van Loggerenberg, a former executive at the South African Revenue Service. "Sin spies", "travelex spies", "fixers" and their impact on South African society are all documented in Van Loggerenberg's 2019 book Tobacco Wars, along with other types of bad actors in industry, law enforcement, and the legal fraternity. This type of fraud has a human impact as well: Van Loggerenberg was the target of an organised smear campaign, and his family was spied on.

WHO establishes the Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in India

World Health Organization | 25 March 2022

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Government of India today signed an agreement to establish the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine. This global knowledge centre for traditional medicine, supported by an investment of USD 250 million from the Government of India, aims to harness

the potential of traditional medicine from across the world through modern science and technology to improve the health of people and the planet. Around 80% of the world's population is estimated to use traditional medicine. To date, 170 of the 194 WHO Member States have reported the use of traditional medicine, and their governments have asked for WHO's support in creating a body of reliable evidence and data on traditional medicine practices and products.

Exclusive breastfeeding: New mums in dire need of support, education

Health-E News | 25 March 2022

An expert believes that South Africa's low rate of exclusive breastfeeding (EBF) will remain a concern until new mothers are offered more support and education. Katinka Lategan, a certified lactation consultant, said mothers face several challenges because they are not educated enough and usually don't get assistance. "In general, I don't think there's enough support and education for moms that are breastfeeding. So very often, they experience challenges in the beginning, and they don't get enough assistance to rectify those problems," she said. Lategan added: "If these challenges aren't addressed, other problems may develop. For instance, low milk production, because the baby is not effectively removing milk. Or maybe, they are returning to work and the employer or the work setup doesn't allow sufficient time for pumping."

Commemorating World TB Day in uThukela

Health Systems Trust | 28 March 2022

The Health Systems Trust commemorated World TB Day, 24 March 2022, at a multisectoral event hosted by the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Office of the Premier at KwaMteyi Clinic in Mhlumayo, a remote community situated in the province's uThukela District. This was the official Provincial event, although many other events were held across the province and HST teams participated in all supported districts, providing services for community mobilisation, screening for TB, HIV testing and treatment initiation. The event in uThukela highlighted the marked impact of Mycobacterium tuberculosis (TB) on communities, where this host community alone has lost 115 of its residents to TB since January 2022.

HIV drugs may lower COVID risk; COVID and flu co-infection raises risk of severe illness, death

Reuters | 28 March 2022

The following is a summary of some recent studies on COVID-19. They include research that warrants further study to corroborate the findings and that has yet to be certified by peer review. HIV drugs may curb COVID-19 risk. Certain drugs used to treat HIV may have a role in preventing SARS-CoV-2 infections, according to preliminary data that may help explain why people living with the condition have not appeared to be at higher risk for serious COVID-19 despite being generally more vulnerable to infections. Doctors in France studied more than 500 people with HIV, a third of whom were receiving long-term treatment with protease inhibitor drugs as part of their antiviral therapy. Over the course of a year, SARS-CoV-2 infections were diagnosed in 12% of participants taking protease inhibitors and 22% of those not receiving these drugs. Four patients in the non-protease-inhibitor group were admitted to hospital with COVID-19.

Botswana Approves Corbevax Covid Vaccine, Plans Local Output

Bloomberg | 28 March 2022

Corbevax, a Covid-19 vaccine developed in Texas, has been approved for use in Botswana, according to U.S. biotech billionaire Patrick Soon-Shiong. Doses of the vaccine currently in production have been reserved for the country, he said at a ceremony on Monday in the southern African nation's capital, Gaborone. It will ultimately be made at a local factory called Pula Corbevax, Botswanan President Mokgweetsi Masisi said. Soon-Shiong is helping launch production and the facility may later make another inoculation produced by his ImmunityBio Inc. "It has now been given to 10 million young Indians safely," Soon-Shiong said. "We have now brought it to Botswana."

Despite COVID, It Is Still Possible to Reduce NCD Mortality by One-Third by 2030

Health Policy Watch | 28 March 2022

Despite the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on health systems worldwide, it is still possible for low and middle-income countries (LMICs) to reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by a third between 2015 and 2030. This is the optimistic message from a Lancet health policy

paper published on Friday, which stresses that a cost-effective package of NCD prevention and treatment interventions is “feasible to implement in countries at all levels of income”. “There's a widespread belief in the global health and development community that tackling NCDs is too expensive and that it isn't feasible in countries with very limited resources. Our report thoroughly debunks this idea,” says lead author Drt David Watkins from the Department of Global Health at the University of Washington's Hans Rosling Center for Population Health. The paper focuses on 21 interventions – both clinical and policy-based – to reduce NCD-related mortality, which is the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3.4.

[VIDEO] One, two, three, buy! Here's who is in charge of buying medications in SA

Bhekisisa | 28 March 2022

A new COVID-19 treatment called molnupiravir got regulatory approval in South Africa but it won't be rolled out by the government. Scientific experts in the country have advised that the pills would be too impractical to roll out on the ground. Buying a medication is a decision made by the national health department, which has voted against the tablets because they come with too many conditions.

Transgender sex workers face frequent abuse

UNAIDS | 29 March 2022

In every region of the world, there are key populations who are particularly vulnerable to HIV infection. One of the key populations is transgender women, who are at 34 times greater risk of acquiring HIV than other adults. Discrimination, abuse, harassment and violence are distressingly common experiences for transgender people. They often face, from a young age, stigma, discrimination and social rejection in their homes and communities for expressing their gender identity. Such discrimination, violence and criminalization prevent transgender people from getting the HIV services they need to stay healthy. Transgender women who also are involved in sex work are even more likely to be subjected to such treatment, as shown in a study from the Dominican Republic.

HIV prevention ring approved, but next steps unclear

Spotlight | 29 March 2022

In a decision widely welcomed by civil society organisations, the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) recently approved the use of the monthly dapivirine vaginal ring for women 18 years and older to reduce the risk of HIV infection. South Africa is one of the first countries on the continent to approve the ring, which is already recommended as an additional HIV prevention option by the World Health Organization. Other proven HIV prevention methods include the use of male and female condoms, HIV prevention pills, voluntary medical male circumcision, and a monthly HIV prevention injection (called long-acting cabotegravir or CAB LA).

What is impeding Africa's TB fight?

WHO Africa | 29 March 2022

Africa has made progress in the fight against tuberculosis (TB) in recent years, however several hurdles are curbing the efforts to end this preventable and curable disease and at the current pace, the global targets to eliminate the disease by 2030 look increasingly elusive. Dr Norbert Ndjeka, Chief Director of TB Control and Management in South Africa's National Department of health, assesses the challenges and how to accelerate progress.

What is the use of anti-HIV injections when those who need it most can't use it?

Bhekisisa | 30 March 2022

Who needs a pill or an injection that can prevent them from contracting HIV through sex the most? Those countries and parts of society with the most new HIV infections, because new infections among HIV-negative people are what such biomedical interventions (treatments and devices that make it harder for the virus to be transmitted) try to stop. In the case of HIV, countries in sub-Saharan Africa have the highest HIV infection rates, particularly among African teen girls and young women. And around the world female sex workers and men who have sex with men contract HIV at considerably higher rates than non-sex workers and heterosexual men.

It's World Bipolar Day

HST | 30 March 2022

People often joke about the weather being bipolar, without realising how offensive and hurtful this can be.

This is why the world observes World Bipolar Day on 30 March – Vincent van Gogh's birthday. The brilliant painter was posthumously diagnosed as having Bipolar Disorder. Bipolar Disorder was also previously called Manic Depression, but this term has not been in use medically in a long time. World Bipolar Day was initially an initiative by the International Society of Bipolar Disorder (ISBD), partnering with the International Bipolar Foundation (IBPF) and the Asian Network of Bipolar Disorder. The National Today contains the complete history of the initiative. Bipolar Disorder is not well understood and has a lot of stigma surrounding it, and World Bipolar Day is meant to break the stigma, educate and help people to understand this condition.

Training health-care workers in Indonesia to improve HIV services for young key populations

UNAIDS | 30 March 2022

“Young people here don't regularly access HIV services. I really want to invite my friends to get tested, but they are all so afraid. They don't have enough information or support from their families and are scared about finding out their status,” said Andika Bayu Aji, a young person from West Papua, Indonesia. The HIV epidemic among young people in Asia and the Pacific has largely been overlooked, even though about a quarter of new HIV infections in the region are among people aged 15–24 years. The vast majority of young people affected by HIV in the region are members of vulnerable populations—people living with HIV, gay men and other men who have sex with men, transgender people, sex workers and people who inject drugs. Like many countries in the region, Indonesia's HIV infections among young people, which make up almost half of new infections, are attributed to stigma and discrimination, poor educational awareness of HIV, lack of youth-friendly services and social taboos.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

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.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

NICD Communiqué

March 2022, Vol. 21 (3)

Scientific publications are publications consisting of research results and knowledge derived by scientists, shared and referenced by others across the world. They communicate research findings and data analysis and serve to generate dialogue between peers on topical scientific issues.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

World Health Organization | World Health Worker Week: Investing in competency-based education for UHC

Date: 4 April 2022

Time: 14:00 – 15:00 CET

Join us on 4 April 2022 to celebrate World Health Worker Week 2022 and the launch of the Global Competency and Outcomes Framework towards UHC.

The theme of World Health Worker Week 2022 is Build the Health Workforce Back Better. Progress towards universal health coverage (UHC) requires strong health systems and health workers who are educated and empowered to provide the health services that meet population health needs. Competency-based education is widely acknowledged as the benchmark for transforming education and training of the health workforce for improved population and health outcomes. However, it has the potential to improve the health of the community only in so far as it uses context-specific health issues to determine the desired outcomes. With this webinar, WHO launches its Global Competency and Outcomes Framework towards UHC. In so doing, WHO sets out its recommended approach to competency-based education of health workers, focusing on those competencies and other education outcomes for health workers in primary health care with a pre-service training pathway of 12-48 months. The Global Competency and Outcomes Framework for UHC is designed with a population health needs focus, therefore providing a powerful approach through which to align education strategies in relation to the context, health systems and population health needs.

Register: https://who.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eNotqZEfS76zOTI5UnwOkw

World Health Organization | Visions and voices of a healthy planet: A Healing Arts event for World Health Day 2022

Date: 5 April 2022

Time: 15:00 – 16:00 CET

In every crisis, it often seems that the first to arrive to help are healthcare workers and artists. This was most recently true during the pandemic, and it is increasingly true as the consequences of climate change become more apparent. Human caused climate change has created an existential threat to life on this planet and has dramatically altered our health and wellbeing as well as our conception of ourselves and our place in the world. It is in this spirit that we have called together care providers and artists across genres and geographies who recognize the relationship between planetary and human health. Health care providers are prescribing nature visits to increase vitality and reduce stress and anxiety. Artists are using the transformative power of the arts to promote awareness, dialogue, imaginative action, and a sense of reconnection. This conversation for Our Planet, Our Health brings us into a fuller, sensory immersion of the reciprocal relationship between care for our planet and ourselves.

Tune in on 5 April on the WHO YouTube channel.

Registration for the 2022 EIS Conference is open!

Date: 2-5 May 2022

The annual EIS conference is the nation's flagship applied epidemiology conference where EIS officers share their work in leading-edge investigations, scientific findings, and forward-thinking strategies to inform improvements in public health—all while gaining valuable presentation experience. EIS officers engage in professional networking sessions, recognition ceremonies and various learning opportunities. Free and open to the public, this conference draws a diverse attention each year from various public health sectors around the world—from epidemiology and laboratory science sleuths and public health organizations to EIS alumni, news media, and prospective applicants. Select sessions may be recorded and offered online in the months following the event.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING UNIT (HSS): District Monitoring and Evaluation Officer: Cervical Cancer Prevention, Access and Control (CCPAC) Project

Closing date: 5 April 2022

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING UNIT (HSS): FACILITY TEAM LEADERS (2) - Zululand District

Closing Date: 6 April 2022

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING UNIT (HSS): Area Co-ordinator - Zululand District

Closing Date: 6 April 2022

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING UNIT (HSS): Facility Team Leaders (3) - uMgungundlovu District

Closing Date: 6 April 2022

[\(Return to Top\)](#)



Copyright © 2019 HEALTH SYSTEMS TRUST, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

hst@hst.org.za

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)