

HST Bulletin_2 September 2022

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CATEGORIES

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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Food security reduces multiple HIV infection risks for high-vulnerability adolescent mothers and non-mothers in South Africa: a cross-sectional study

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 25 August 2022

Lucie Cluver, William E Rudgard, Elona Toska, Mark Orkin, Mona Ibrahim, et al.

In Southern and Eastern Africa, adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) are more than twice as likely to acquire HIV than their male peers, and around 20% become pregnant before turning 20. AGYW who are pregnant or mothers experience significantly higher risk of HIV infection than their peers. Additionally, although antenatal care commonly serves as a critical entry point for HIV testing, low rates of disclosure to partners and use of maternal anti-retroviral therapy (ART) is a risk for onwards HIV transmission to children and future sexual partners.

Update on the omicron sub-variants BA.4 and BA.5

Reviews in Medical Virology | 26 August 2022

Trina Tallei, Saad Alhumaid, Zainab AlMusa, Diah Kusumawaty, Ahlam Alynbiawi, et al.

Several nations have recently begun to relax their public health protocols, particularly regarding the use of face masks when engaging in outdoor activities. This is because there has been a general trend towards fewer cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). However, new Omicron sub-variants (designated BA.4 and BA.5) have recently emerged. These two subvariants are thought to be the cause of an increase in COVID-19 cases in South Africa, the United States, and Europe. They have also begun to spread throughout Asia. They evolved from the Omicron lineage with characteristics that make them even more contagious and which allow them to circumvent immunity from a previous infection or vaccination. This article reviews a number of scientific considerations about these new variants, including their apparently reduced clinical severity.

HIV prevention programme with young women who sell sex in Mombasa, Kenya: learnings for scale-up

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 26 August 2022

Parinita Bhattacharjee, Abednego Musau, Griffins Manguro, Patricia Ongwen, Jane Mutegi, et al.

In 2018, the National AIDS and sexually transmitted infection (STI) Control Programme developed a national guideline to facilitate the inclusion of young women who sell sex (YWSS) in the HIV prevention response in Kenya. Following that, a 1-year pilot intervention, where a package of structural, behavioural and biomedical services was provided to 1376 cisgender YWSS to address their HIV-related risk and vulnerability, was implemented.

Virological failure and treatment switch after ART initiation among people living with HIV with and without routine viral load monitoring in Asia

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 26 August 2022

Sirinya Teeraananchai, Matthew Law, David Boettiger, Nicole De La Mata, Nikhil Gupte, et al.

Viral load (VL) testing is still challenging to monitor treatment responses of antiretroviral therapy (ART) for HIV treatment programme in Asia. We assessed the association between routine VL testing and virological failure (VF) and determine factors associated with switching to second-line regimen.

Leveraging lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic for HIV

Communications Medicine (Nature) | 29 August 2022

Thomas Calder, Tina Tong, Dale J Hu, Jerome H Kim, Karen L. Kotloff, et al.

The rapid development of COVID-19 vaccines and their deployment in less than a year is an unprecedented scientific, medical, and public health achievement. This rapid development leveraged knowledge from decades of HIV/AIDS research and advances. However, the search for an HIV vaccine that would contribute to a durable end to the HIV pandemic remains elusive. Here, we draw from the US government experience and highlight lessons learned from COVID-19 vaccine development, which include the importance of public-private partnerships, equitable inclusion of populations impacted by the infectious pathogen, and continued investment in basic research. We summarize key considerations for an accelerated and re-energized framework for developing a safe and efficacious HIV vaccine.

A systematic review and qualitative analysis of geriatric models of care for rural and remote populations

Remote and Rural Health | 30 August 2022

Introduction: Much is known about the healthcare needs of rural and remote communities; however, understanding how to best deliver geriatric models of care in these settings has received less attention. The purpose of this systematic review was to identify necessary key components of existing models of geriatric care serving rural or remote populations.

Methods: A systematic literature review was conducted using MEDLINE, CINAHL and EMBASE databases to identify articles that described models of geriatric care serving rural or remote populations. A qualitative case study and key component analysis approach was used to identify necessary model components.

Results: Eight articles were included. We identified eight distinct components that may improve the successful delivery of models of geriatric care serving rural or remote populations. Environmental assessments were done in six of eight models. Model integration with the local healthcare system, local provider leadership, and local provider education in geriatrics were present in five of eight models. Three of eight models used high-risk screening principles and included geriatrician consultation. One model described active community engagement, and one used telemedicine.

Conclusion: Future geriatric care delivery models designed to serve rural or remote populations are encouraged to use an evidence-based framework based on eight distinct model characteristics found in the literature that aim to support the ideal provision of effective and accessible geriatric medical care.

A Community mobilisation intervention to improve engagement in HIV testing, linkage to care, and retention in care in South Africa: a cluster randomised controlled trial

The Lancet HIV | September 2022

Sheri A Lippman, Audrey Pettifor, Mi-Suk Kang Dufour, Chodziwadziwa Whiteson Kabudula, Rhian Twine, et al.

Community mobilisation, engaging communities in a process to collectively enact change, could improve HIV testing and care engagement. In South Africa, current rates fall below those needed for epidemic control. We assessed whether community mobilisation increased HIV testing, linkage to care, and retention in care over time in intervention relative to control communities.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Misinformation is a common thread between the COVID-19 and HIV/AIDS pandemics – with deadly consequences

The Conversation | 24 August 2022

Since health officials confirmed the first COVID-19 cases, misinformation has spread just as quickly as the virus. Social media may have made the amount, variety and speed of misinformation seem unprecedented, but COVID-19 isn't the first pandemic where false and harmful information has set back public health. Misinformation altered how people trusted their governments and doctors during the 1918 influenza pandemic. It fueled the 19th century smallpox anti-vaccine movements through some of the same arguments as those currently used against the COVID-19 vaccine. What sets the COVID-19 pandemic apart, however, is the sheer magnitude of damaging disinformation put in circulation around the world. Data shows that regions and countries where disinformation thrived experienced more lethal pandemic waves despite vaccine availability.

Heat from a changing climate poses a significant risk to mothers and babies

Mail & Guardian | 25 August 2022

Covid, HIV, Sars and Mers are all a result of humanity's unhealthy relationship with nature. Now, one of the most relentless consequences of that toxic relationship – the climate crisis – is posing serious new health risks in Africa. Severe droughts, like the one currently driving millions of people from their homes in the Horn of Africa, is only one example. The climate catastrophe will also make a mockery of existing infrastructure which is not designed to withstand mounting climate-related disasters. Floods, for example, which will probably increase in regularity and intensity, will destroy buildings, roads and bridges. This will lead to increased demand for medicine tailored specifically for disasters and will have far-reaching implications for temperature-sensitive pathogens. Malaria, for instance, will probably migrate to higher altitudes.

Foreigners, including pregnant women, turned away from Gauteng hospitals: Doctors Without Borders

IOL | 26 August 2022

International humanitarian medical group, Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières or MSF) says several foreign nationals have been turned away from public hospitals in Tshwane by activists in what the non-governmental organisation called an intensifying xenophobic climate and politicisation of health care. MSF said ongoing “xenophobic protests” outside the Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital were preventing patients, including migrants, from accessing the facility. “These actions must be rejected and should trigger urgent action by health authorities and leaders to protect access to healthcare for all,” MSF in South Africa said.

How maternal fat metabolism very early in pregnancy and fetal abdominal growth influence toddler weight

Science Daily | 25 August 2022

A new study identifies, as early as the 5th month of pregnancy, patterns of fetal abdominal growth associated with maternal lipid metabolites that track newborn growth, adiposity and development into childhood. These fetal growth patterns are also associated with blood flow and nutrient transfer by the placenta, demonstrating a complex interaction between maternal and fetal nutrition early in pregnancy that influences postnatal weight and eventually adult health.

Resistance to recognizing airborne transmission of SARS-CoV-2 may be rooted in historical error

News Medical Life Science | 25 August 2022

In a recent study published in **Indoor Air**, researchers extensively searched for the origins of the resistance to recognizing airborne transmission during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic by major public health organizations, including the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United States Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (US-CDC). Earlier acceptance of the evidence

of airborne transmission of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) would have reduced the effort, time, and money wasted on adhering to the use of interventions, such as surface disinfection and lateral plexiglass barriers, which were ineffective in containing COVID-19. Subsequently, the general public would have focused on ventilation, filtration, and mask use, with better fit and filters, even indoors where social distancing was feasible. Partly, the WHO and CDC were hesitant to adopt the airborne transmission of SARS-CoV-2 even in the face of evidence due to a conceptual error that occurred over a century ago and became embedded in the public health, epidemiology, and infection prevention fields.

Regional initiative to speed up progress on ending preventable maternal and newborn deaths in East and Southern Africa

Reliefweb | 26 August 2022

Women in East and Southern Africa still die during pregnancy and childbirth due to preventable causes, said Dr. Brian Chirombo, WHO Rwanda Representative, at a high-level meeting to track progress on ending preventable maternal and newborn deaths. High-impact interventions are needed “to ensure the provision of quality maternal and newborn health care, from pre-pregnancy, antenatal, labour and delivery, as well as postpartum and neonatal periods,” he said. Significant progress has been made in improving the survival and health of pregnant women and newborns in the East and Southern Africa region. For instance, the maternal mortality ratio (MMR, or number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births) dropped by 49 per cent between 2000 and 2017. However, the MMR remains well above the global average, and the current pace of reduction is not enough to achieve the SDG targets by 2030.

How nurses recruited from Zimbabwe are being caught in UK 'bonded labour' schemes

Telegraph | 28 August 2022

Zimbabwean care workers are being tricked into coming to the UK by unscrupulous middlemen who withhold up to half their wages and force them to live in squalor. The scam, which plays on the acute shortages of nursing and care staff across Britain's hospitals and care homes, has echoes of the debt bondage schemes recently revealed to be impacting Indonesian farmers. Zimbabwe is in economic crisis and thousands of trained care professionals are seeking employment abroad. However agencies – often run by Zimbabweans in the UK and unregulated – are exploiting them, a Telegraph investigation has found. “When you are working for an agency [in the UK], they pay you 50 per cent of your total salary,” said Jim Moyo*, who moved to the UK from Harare in November 2018 to work in a care home in Margate. “You are getting paid £14 per hour, but then these guys will pay you £7.”

Traditional healers urged to join new health structures

IOL | 29 August 2022

The Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) said traditional health practitioners (THP) committees are being established in recognition of the contributions and the significant role played by THPs in the health and lives of many South Africans. “With these committees, the department aims to mobilise, organise, and institutionalise THP structures in Gauteng. These committees will ensure better co-ordination of the sector and improve communication with the department and within the traditional health practitioners themselves,” said GDoH spokesperson Motalatale Modiba.

HPCSA busts bogus health practitioners for selling meds to Mpumalanga residents

IOL | 29 August 2022

Two people have been nabbed for administering medication to Mpumalanga residents. Priscilla Sekhonyana, spokesperson for the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA), said the pair were arrested during a joint operation between the SA Health Products Regulatory Authority (Sahpra) and SAPS in the town of Kabokweni. She said Sonto Zikalala was running the Mphilo Health Shop. “She was found selling medication and providing medical services to members of the public while not registered with the HPCSA,” Sekhonyana said.

Purple menace – South African teens embrace codeine-fuelled DIY high

Daily Maverick | 29 August 2022

South Africa's teenagers are enchanted by 'lean', an intoxicating drink made by mixing easily accessible and cheap codeine-containing medicine with soft drinks. Kieran Gordon* woke up dazed and freezing. He

was in his underwear, lying on the floor at a friend's house in Johannesburg. Someone was fumbling with keys at the front door. A few of the other passed-out party guests stirred. Gordon, then 14, says he couldn't remember what had happened the night before, but he recalls seeing chip packets and about 20 empty two-litre bottles of Sprite strewn on the floor. Patting around him looking for his clothes, the only thing he found was a half-full polystyrene cup – and there wasn't time to look any further. “What's going on here?” an angry female voice demanded. Gordon's friend's parents were back home. “What's this purple stuff?” his friend's mother wanted to know. Gordon sat up and scanned the room. His vision was blurry, he recalls, but on the kitchen counter, next to some Sprite, he saw about 10 empty bottles of cough syrup.

A mutated virus, anti-vaxxers and a vulnerable population: how polio returned to the US

The Guardian | 29 August 2022

In July, a young man in the New York area was diagnosed with polio – how did a disease America snuffed out in the 70s rebound? This June, a young man from Rockland county, New York, went to the emergency room. He'd been feverish for five days and was suffering from a stiff neck, pain in his back and abdomen, and constipation. Even more concerning, for two days his legs had been abnormally weak. Doctors suspected the man had acute flaccid myelitis – muscle weakness caused by inflammation of the spinal cord, typically stemming from a viral infection. Lab tests revealed a shocking diagnosis: the culprit was the poliovirus. Throughout the first half of the 20th century, thousands of children died or were paralyzed due to polio; there were 20,000 cases of polio-induced paralysis in 1952 alone. Polio's eradication from the US in 1979 thanks to vaccines is one of the greatest achievements of modern medicine. In the 21st century, there had been just three known instances of polio in the US – all thought to be imported – affecting a total of 10 people, with only one involving community spread.

Healthcare workers trained to avoid stigmatising HIV patients

News24 | 29 August 2022

Healthcare workers in the public sector's HIV/Aids response unit are usually the first people patients see. To reduce stigma and to encourage patients to take their HIV treatment - antiretroviral therapy (ART) - the national health department is training healthcare workers as part of its Welcome Back Campaign. Speaking during the Treatment Action Campaign's 7th Congress on Monday in Johannesburg, Health Minister Dr Joe Phaahla said the country had made strides in the fight against HIV/Aids. He said the department started the campaign to support the re-engagement and retention of people living with HIV who were diagnosed but never initiated on ART or those whose treatment was interrupted.

Snatching away Mandela's gift of health and the return of medical apartheid

Daily Maverick Editorial | 30 August 2022

Dishonourable ministers and MECs, we know the health system is under great strain and we support and sympathise with the health workers who person the frontlines of care in very difficult circumstances. We don't deny that clinics and hospitals are overcrowded and understaffed and that in some areas many of the people needing healthcare are migrants. But migrants and refugees are not the problem. In May 1994, after becoming president of South Africa, one of the first steps Nelson Mandela took was to use his first State of the Nation Address to proclaim free access to healthcare for all pregnant women and children under six through the public health service. Mandela did so because, he said: “Health remains a fundamental building block of the humane society we are determined to create through the implementation of the Reconstruction and Development Programme.”

South Africa unveils latest data on HIV epidemic

News Ghana | 30 August 2022

South Africa's health minister Joe Phaahla said here on Monday that the country has an HIV epidemic with more than 8 million people, and certain segments of the population are disproportionately affected by HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The national HIV prevalence is estimated at 53 percent among female sex workers, 25.7 percent among men who have sex with men, 21 percent among People who inject drugs (PWID),” he said at a Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) congress in Johannesburg. Phaahla said that the government was working to ensure no one was left out of treatment.” We have prioritized the expansion of our package of combination prevention tools to include recent evidence-based long-acting HIV prevention technologies,” he said. In transgender populations, HIV positivity is as high as 49 percent, according to programmatic data.

Lessons for the National Health Insurance from the Bulungula Incubator health point in the Eastern Cape

Mail & Guardian | 30 August 2022

The Bulungula Incubator and the provincial government opened the facility a decade ago after Xhora Mouth administrative area community members explained to them how hard it was to get to faraway state facilities to collect their HIV treatment or to get tested for the virus.

Exodus of medical professionals in South Africa – leaving hospitals understaffed

BusinessTech | 30 August 2022

The South African medical fraternity is suffering from an exodus of nurses and doctors, leaving public hospitals in particular understaffed.

UCT awarded two new SAMRC extramural units

UCT News | 30 August 2022

Two of four newly launched South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) Extramural Research Units (EMUs) to develop critical health research have been awarded to the University of Cape Town (UCT). The units, led by top African researchers, will strengthen the country's health systems and counter diseases and pandemics such as COVID-19.

Half of health care facilities globally lack basic hygiene services – WHO, UNICEF

WHO | 30 August 2022

Half of health care facilities worldwide lack basic hygiene services with water and soap or alcohol-based hand rub where patients receive care and at toilets in these facilities, according to the latest Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) [report](#) by WHO and UNICEF. Around 3.85 billion people use these facilities, putting them at greater risk of infection, including 688 million people who receive care at facilities with no hygiene services at all.

SSP: Contraceptive stockouts taking its toll across SA

Health-e News | 31 August 2022

Active pharmaceutical ingredient shortages, production delays, and quality control issues are some of the reasons for a shortage of contraceptives between April and June this year. The Health Department revealed this in its response to the release of the latest Stop Stockouts Project (SSP) survey.

The latest SSP survey in public health facilities found that female **contraceptives**, especially injectables, were most often unavailable.

Successfully expanding the rollout of PrEP in Indonesia

UNAIDS | 1 September 2022

While the number of new HIV infections in Indonesia decreased by 3.6% in 2021 to around 27 000, the country remains one of the countries with the highest number of new infections in the Asia and the Pacific region. Pre-exposure prophylaxis or PrEP is a medication that is highly effective at preventing HIV infection so making it available to groups of people most vulnerable is a key priority. "In the past, I independently searched for information about PrEP because a client asked about it. I am glad there is a PrEP training that allows me to receive comprehensive information that I can then share with other people," said Temmy a community outreach worker who participated in a training course in Bekasi.

Migrants in South Africa have access to healthcare: why it's kicking up a storm

Health-e News | 1 September 2022

According to South Africa's **National Health Act**, **primary healthcare facilities** run by the state must provide free care to everyone, except for people covered by private medical aid schemes.

The country's **Refugee Act of 1998** stipulates that refugees are entitled to the same access to treatment and "basic healthcare services" as citizens in public healthcare facilities. This also applies to undocumented migrants who are citizens of any country in the **Southern Africa Development Community**. For higher levels of care, refugees and migrants must pass a means test. In some situations, irregular migrants must pay the whole cost of medical services.

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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 2022 | Call for Abstracts

South Africa's health systems strengthening efforts in pursuit of universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals have been greatly hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic. As first responders to the country's epidemic, healthcare workers found themselves facing a wide-range of challenges that had a negative impact on both their ability to provide care and their mental health and well-being. Access to health care for chronic conditions, services for sexual and reproductive health, as well as testing, starting treatment, and continuity of care for HIV and TB, have all been compromised. As South Africa rebuilds its health system and transitions from the pandemic response to recovery, it is necessary to consider how to leverage our response to COVID-19 towards strengthening the health system for future pandemic preparedness.

The editorial team of the South African Health Review (SAHR) 2022 invites the submission of abstracts describing promising examples of response, mitigation, recovery and health systems strengthening strategies to rebuild the health system in wake of the country's COVID-19 response.

Closing Date: Monday, 15 August 2022

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.

Seventh Replenishment Investment Case

Over the past 20 years, our unique partnership has invested more than US\$53 billion, saving 44 million lives and reducing the combined death rate from HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria by more than half in the countries in which the Global Fund invests. For the Seventh Replenishment, the Global Fund needs at least US\$18 billion. This is the minimum required to get the world back on track toward ending HIV, TB and malaria, to build resilient and sustainable systems for health and strengthen pandemic preparedness, making the world more equitable and safer from future threats.

Third episode of UNAIDS podcast series 'Against the Odds' released

UNAIDS | 1 September 2022

This week we are talking to the extraordinary DeLovie Kwagala, award winning photographer, artist and fighter for social justice. Identifying as non-binary, DeLovie grew up in Uganda, where they suffered an abusive childhood and learned about survival the very hard way. DeLovie was kidnapped from school at 7 years old, and grew up in isolation, ignored, rejected and sexually abused. But as they grew up and struggled to find their identity, DeLovie found a voice through the camera lens, as well as a means of supporting their young child. After several high-profile assignments, DeLovie was awarded the East African Photography Award in 2021. Fleeing discrimination in Uganda and narrowly escaping war in South Sudan, DeLovie's story is truly one of survival 'against the odds' but also one that is surprisingly full of joy and creativity.

The Ending the HIV Epidemic in the United States (EHE) initiative

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The Ending the HIV Epidemic in the United States (EHE) initiative aims to reduce new HIV infections by 90% by 2030. The initiative includes four pillars: DIAGNOSE, TREAT, PREVENT, and RESPOND. For each pillar, the EHE initiative scales up science-based strategies that can end the epidemic.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

International Pre-Conference on Primary Health Care

Date: 7 & 8 September 2022

The International Institute for Primary Health Care (IPHC-E) in collaboration with the Ethiopian Ministry of Health (MoH-E) and supported by the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health is organizing the very first International Conference on Primary Health Care in the wake of the Astana Global Conference on Primary Health Care held by the World Health Organization and partners on October 2018. Preceding the main conference in 2023, IPHC-E plans on organizing a virtual pre-conference event on September 7-8, 2022. The pre-conference is an integral part of the bigger conference as it will offer a glimpse of the main conference's offerings, jumpstart discussions, and launch a longer-term networking platform.

PHASA (Public Health Association of South Africa) 17th annual public health conference

Date: 11 – 14 September

Location: Durban

Late Registration: 16 July – 26 Aug 2022

The Public Health Association of South (PHASA) invites you to attend their annual conference in Durban (eThekweni), on the east coast of South Africa. PHASA hosts an annual conferences, with the aim of engaging public health practitioners and interested people from around the country and world to share their experiences and research, discuss topical public health issues, and mentor public health students and young researchers. Hosting the national PHASA conference in Durban aims to add stimulus to the local economy, and contribute to enhanced awareness and widespread advocacy, for health, the social determinants of health, and healthcare in the region.

World Health Organization | Consultation on the global oral health action plan

Date: 12 August – 16 September 2022

Web-based consultation

The resolution on oral health WHA74.5 requested WHO to translate the Global Strategy on Oral Health A75/10 Add.1 into an action plan for public oral health by 2023 and in consultation with Member States, including a framework for tracking progress with clear measurable targets of oral health to be achieved by 2030. In addition to the Global Strategy on Oral Health, the action plan will be aligned with the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases 2013–2030 and pillars 1 and 3 of WHO's Thirteenth General Programme of Work.

World Health Organization | Storytelling for Infodemic Management Workshop Application

16 August – 12 September 2022

Through building storytelling skills, infodemic managers can become more effective communicators and explain to others the power of narratives that can mislead and cause harm online, talk about their infodemic management work and how stories can be used as a force for promoting public health. This is a free training for successful applicants who have been working in and responding to health misinformation, worked in the COVID-19 pandemic, and understand how information informs people's personal health decisions. Successful applicants will be invited to the workshop and encouraged to share and record their stories of how health misinformation and information overload have affected their lives either professionally or personally during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their stories will be featured in a community storytelling project of the WHO infodemic manager community.

World Health Organization | World Patient Safety Day

Date: 17 September 2022

Medications are the most widely utilized interventions in health care, and medication-related harm constitutes the greatest proportion of the total preventable harm due to unsafe care, let alone the economic and psychological burden imposed by such harm. Acknowledging this substantial burden and recognizing the complexity of medication-related harm prevention and reduction, the theme of World Patient Safety Day 2022 is "Medication Safety". The campaign is envisaged to provide the needed impetus to consolidate the efforts of the existing WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge: Medication Without Harm, emphasizing the need to adopt a systems approach and promote safe medication practices to prevent medication errors and reduce medication-related harm. Special consideration will be given to areas where most harm occurs. The key action areas are high-risk situations, transitions of care, and polypharmacy.

Pathways Forward to End HIV: How HIV Cure Research is Helping to Advance HIV Vaccine Research

Date: 20 September 2022

Time: 2:00pm-3:30pm EST (11:00am-12:30pm PST)

HIV vaccine research and cure research are both critically needed to end HIV. Research involving broadly neutralizing antibodies (bnAbs) is helping pave the way towards a possible HIV vaccine as shown in the AMP Study. However, new trials designs and concepts using bnAbs must be developed. As such, the HIV Vaccine Trials Network is currently conducting a study with AMP participants who acquired HIV that includes an analytical treatment interruption (ATI), a well-known cure research method. The study is assessing whether receipt of a bnAb may promote control of HIV when antiretroviral therapy is interrupted, and will gather information that can potentially assist the development of bnAbs and vaccines for both HIV prevention and cure. Please join Treatment Action Group, Dr. Shelly Karuna, and Dr. Karine Dubé for a webinar on the next generation of bnAbs trial design and ethics related to ATIs in HIV vaccine and cure research.

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

HSS Cervical Cancer Prevention, Access and Control (CCPAC) Project Patient Navigators (x4)

Closing Date: 2022-09-12

Information System Support Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist (HSS)

Closing Date: 2022-09-12

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