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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Acceptability of Community-Based Tuberculosis Preventive Treatment for People Living with HIV in Zimbabwe

MDPI | January 2022

Martin Msukwa, Munyaradzi Mapingure, Jennifer Zech, Tsitsi Masvawure, Joanne Mantell et al

As Zimbabwe expands tuberculosis preventive treatment (TPT) for people living with HIV (PLHIV), the Ministry of Health and Child Care is considering making TPT more accessible to PLHIV via less-intensive differentiated service delivery models such as Community ART Refill Groups (CARGs). We designed a study to assess the feasibility and acceptability of integrating TPT into CARGs among key stakeholders, including CARG members, in Zimbabwe. We conducted 45 key informant interviews (KII) with policy makers, implementers, and CARG leaders; 16 focus group discussions (FGD) with 136 PLHIV in CARGs; and structured observations of 8 CARG meetings. KII and FGD were conducted in English and Shona. CARG observations were conducted using a structured checklist and time-motion data capture. Ninety six percent of participants supported TPT integration into CARGs and preferred multi-month TPT dispensing aligned with ART dispensing schedules. Participants noted that the existing CARG support systems could be used for TB symptom screening and TPT adherence monitoring/support. Other perceived advantages included convenience for PLHIV and decreased health facility provider workloads. Participants expressed concerns about possible medication stockouts and limited knowledge about TPT among CARG leaders but were confident that CARGs could effectively provide community-based TPT education, adherence monitoring/support, and TB symptom screening provided that CARG leaders received appropriate training and supervision. These results are consistent with findings from pilot projects in other African countries that are scaling up both differentiated service delivery for HIV and TPT and suggest that designing contextually appropriate approaches to integrating TPT into less-intensive HIV treatment models is an effective way to reach people who are established on ART but who may have missed out on access to TPT.

Cyclical Engagement in HIV Care: A Qualitative Study of Clinic Transfers to Re-enter HIV Care in Cape Town, South Africa

AIDS and Behavior | 21 January 2022

Aly Beeman, Angela Bengtson, Alison Swartz, Christopher Colvin and Mark Lurie

Long-term patient engagement and retention in HIV care is an ongoing challenge in South Africa's

strained health system. However, some patients thought to be “lost to follow-up” (LTFU) may have “transferred” clinics to receive care elsewhere. Through semi-structured interviews, we explored the relationship between clinic transfer and long-term patient engagement among 19 treatment-experienced people living with HIV (PLWH) who self-identified as having engaged in a clinic transfer at least once since starting antiretroviral therapy (ART) in Gugulethu, Cape Town. Our findings suggest that patient engagement is often fluid, as PLWH cycle in and out of care multiple times during their lifetime. The linear nature of the HIV care cascade model poorly describes the lived realities of PLWH on established treatment. Further research is needed to explore strategies for reducing unplanned clinic transfers and offer more supportive care to new and returning patients.

Population sizes, HIV prevalence, and HIV prevention among men who paid for sex in sub-Saharan Africa (2000–2020): A meta-analysis of 87 population-based surveys

PLOS Medicine | 25 January 2022

Caroline Hodgins, James Stannah, Salome Kuchukidze, Lycias Zembe, Jeffrey Eaton et al

Key populations, including sex workers, are at high risk of HIV acquisition and transmission. Men who pay for sex can contribute to HIV transmission through sexual relationships with both sex workers and their other partners. To characterize the population of men who pay for sex in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), we analyzed population size, HIV prevalence, and use of HIV prevention and treatment.

Multiple opportunistic infections (pulmonary tuberculosis, *Mycobacterium avium* complex and parvovirus B19) in a single patient

Southern African Journal of HIV Medicine | 25 January 2022

Midhun John, Michelle Venter, Jenifer Vaughan, Marianne Black, Daniel Prince et al.

HIV infection is a common disease in the South African population. The virus can lead to the development of many opportunistic infections. This case study examines co-infection with three opportunistic infections and the need for clinical suspicion of infections in our HIV population.

The rising tide of early-onset colorectal cancer: a comprehensive review of epidemiology, clinical features, biology, risk factors, prevention, and early detection

The Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology | 28 January 2022

Swati Patel, Jordan Karlitz, Timothy Yen, Christopher Lieu, Richard Boland

The incidence of early-onset colorectal—ie, colorectal cancer diagnosed in patients under the age of 50 years—has been increasing around the world. This Series paper provides a comprehensive review on the topic of early-onset colorectal cancer, including examining the epidemiology of early-onset colorectal cancer around the world, clinical and pathological features, genetic and epigenetic landscapes, and emerging data on the clinical risk factors associated with early-onset colorectal cancer. Evidence-based approaches to prevention and early detection are also presented.

Reducing asthma attacks in children using exhaled nitric oxide (RAACENO) as a biomarker to inform treatment strategy: a multicentre, parallel, randomised, controlled, phase 3 trial

The Lancet Respiratory Health | 28 January 2022

Steve Turner, Seonaidh Cotton, Jessica Wood, Victoria Bell, Edwin-Amalraj Raja, et al.

The benefit of fractional exhaled nitric oxide (FeNO) in guiding asthma treatment is uncertain. We evaluated the efficacy of adding FeNO to symptom-guided treatment in children with asthma versus only symptom-guided treatment.

Gout and the risk of COVID-19 diagnosis and death in the UK Biobank: a population-based study

The Lancet Rheumatology | 28 January 2022

Ruth Topless, Angelo Gaffo, Prof Lisa Stamp, Philip Robinson, Prof Nicola Dalbeth, Prof Tony Merriman

There is a paucity of data on outcomes for people with gout and COVID-19. We aimed to assess whether gout is a risk factor for diagnosis of COVID-19 and COVID-19-related death, and to test for sex- and drug-specific differences in risk. The findings showed that gout is both a risk factor for diagnosis of COVID-19 and a risk factor for COVID-19-related death, independent of included comorbidities. Women with gout were at a higher risk of death with COVID-19 than were men with gout.

The role of counselling in tuberculosis diagnostic evaluation and contact tracing: scoping review and stakeholder consultation of knowledge and research gaps

BMC Public Health | 28 January 2022

Isabel Foster, Amanda Sullivan, Goodman Makanda, Ingrid Schoeman, Phumeza Tisile, et al

Tuberculosis (TB) care cascade analyses show large gaps at early stages, including care-seeking and diagnostic evaluation, where promising interventions to decrease attrition are urgently needed. Person-centered care is prioritized in the World Health Organization's End TB strategy; yet little is known about how it is delivered and can be optimized. Recommendations for counselling, a core component of person-centered care, are largely limited to its role in improving TB treatment adherence. The role of counselling to close key diagnostic gaps in the care cascade is poorly understood.

Pregnancy in a pandemic: inequalities in maternal health

The Lancet Digital Health | 1 February 2022

Editorial

The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting modifications to health services have exacerbated the global number of negative maternal and perinatal outcomes. Using data from electronic health records, a study by Piekos and colleagues showed that mild or moderate SARS-CoV-2 infection early on in pregnancy resulted in increased risk of preterm delivery and stillbirth, emphasising the importance of prioritising pregnant people for COVID-19 vaccination. However, the pandemic has also elucidated social and racial disparities in these outcomes; a rapid report by MBRRACE-UK found that six of the ten women reviewed who died during or after pregnancy from COVID-19 or its complications were from Black or minority ethnic groups. Such disparities have been previously recognised to play a role in adverse pregnancy outcomes. Using data from 2017 to 2019, results of a maternal deaths and morbidity report by MBRRACE-UK showed persistent inequalities in maternal mortality rates; compared with White women, those who are Asian, of mixed ethnic background, or Black have a higher risk of dying in pregnancy.

Cost-effectiveness of universal screening for chronic hepatitis B virus infection in China: an economic evaluation

The Lancet Global Health | 1 February 2022

Shu Su, Prof William Wong, Zhuoru Zou, Dan Dan Cheng, Jason J Ong, et al.

China has the highest prevalence of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection worldwide. Universal HBV screening might enable China to reach the WHO 2030 target of 90% diagnostics, 80% treatment, and 65% HBV-related death reduction, and eventually elimination of viral hepatitis. We evaluated the cost-effectiveness of implementing universal HBV screening in China and identified optimal screening strategies.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

South Africa's plan to “end” covid 19

AfricaNews | 19 January 2022

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has opened a new vaccine manufacturing facility that he says will boost the country's capacity to produce its own vaccines for diseases including COVID-19. The factory located in Cape Town was also launched by Patrick Soon-Shiong, the South African-born founder of NantWorks, a multinational biotechnology firm based in the United States that has invested about \$200 million to start the facility, according to local reports. “The pandemic has revealed the huge disparities that exist within and between countries in access to quality healthcare, medicines, diagnostics and vaccines,” said Ramaphosa on Wednesday.

South Africa's Covid-19 Response Gets a \$750 Million Boost

Reliefweb | 21 January 2022

The World Bank Group Board of Executive Directors today approved South Africa's request for a \$750 million development policy loan (DPL). This loan will support the Government of South Africa's efforts to accelerate its COVID-19 response aimed at protecting the poor and vulnerable from the adverse socio-economic impacts of the pandemic and supporting a resilient and sustainable economic recovery. The DPL supports the implementation of South Africa's Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (ERRP) and is well aligned with the World Bank's Crisis Response Approach aimed at protecting lives, livelihoods

and supporting a more inclusive and resilient growth path. It reflects priorities to modernize the country's social protection and health services and to improve delivery systems which will apply even beyond the pandemic. It also enhances financial sector stability, specifically the establishment of a deposit insurance scheme. It further supports South Africa's commitment to climate change.

Vaccination in the world's top athletes

The Lancet News | 25 January 2022

Talha Khan Burki

On Jan 17, 2022, the Australian Open tennis tournament began. Notably absent was nine-time champion Novak Djokovic. Having had his visa cancelled, Djokovic had been deported the day before he was due to start his title defence. The cancellation came at the behest of Australian immigration minister, Alex Hawke, who stated that he made the decision “on the basis that it was in the public interest”. Djokovic has not been vaccinated against COVID-19. The world number one tennis player arrived in Australia with a medical exemption to the requirement that all foreigners entering the country have to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The exemption was granted by the state of Victoria, based on Djokovic having tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 in December, 2021. This was not good enough to satisfy the Australian Border Force; they detained Djokovic after he arrived in Melbourne on Jan 5, 2022. His visa was subsequently cancelled. The decision was reversed in a federal court 5 days later, only for the immigration minister to intervene.

Celebrating World NTD Day: make every day a neglected tropical diseases day

World Health Organization | 26 January 2022

The World Health Organization (WHO) kicked off this year's commemoration of World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Day under the theme 'Achieving health equity to end the neglect of poverty-related diseases' with a call to focus more on strengthening interventions in order to promote equitable health services for all. In his concluding remarks during a virtual event to mark this year's World NTD Day, Dr Ren Minghui WHO's Assistant Director-General who leads the Division of Universal Health Coverage/Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases said celebrating progress reminds us of additional work required to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals to end the epidemics of NTDs. He said WHO will continue to work with countries endemic for NTDs and with all partners to help those who are suffering from these preventable diseases and ensure that no one is left behind.

World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day: WHO calls for equitable health services for all

Johnson & Johnson fine-tuning jabs against Omicron

Health-E News | 26 January 2022

As the Omicron variant of COVID-19 spreads rapidly across the globe, Johnson & Johnson (J&J) are working hard at developing a vaccine to fight the highly infectious strain. They are also testing the waters to see how safe their jab is for children and adolescents. At a webinar hosted by the Africa Centre For Disease Control (CDC) Dr Kashmira Date, the Global Medical Affairs Director of Vaccines at J&J Global Public Health, said the company will 'closely monitor newly emerging variants.' “They highlight the importance of continued surveillance, testing, and vaccination to prevent hospitalisations and deaths,” said Date.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the universality of health and human rights

The Lancet News | 27 January 2022

Chris Beyrer for the International AIDS Society–Lancet Commission on Health and Human Rights

The UN adopted the Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid in November, 1973, making this systematised form of racial discrimination an international crime. The vote was overwhelmingly in favour of the designation, with only Portugal, South Africa, the USA, and the UK voting against it. Subsequently, the 1998 Rome Statute, which created the International Criminal Court, further established apartheid as one of 11 crimes against humanity. Initially linked specifically to the apartheid regime of South Africa, the crime has been since been more broadly invoked—in the war crimes tribunals of the former Yugoslavia and the Rwandan genocide, and in the abuses against the Rohingya minority in Myanmar. The late Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu (1931–2021) was among the leaders in the struggle against apartheid in his own beloved South Africa. His voice was ever after one of the world's moral arbiters against apartheid regimes and acts wherever they occurred, including the genocidal

policies against the Rohingya, China's treatment of the Tibetan people, and the treatment of Palestinians under Israeli occupation.

HIV mRNA Vaccine Trial Is Now Underway

POZ | 28 January 2022

The experimental HIV vaccine regimen aims to train B cells to produce broadly neutralizing antibodies. The first doses of an experimental HIV vaccine regimen using the same messenger RNA (mRNA) technology as highly effective COVID-19 vaccines have been administered to clinical trial participants, according to an announcement from Moderna and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI). The Phase I study (IAVI G002; ClinicalTrials.gov NCT05001373) is testing whether sequential administration of a series of primer and booster shots can trigger the development and maturation of specialized B cells that can produce broadly neutralizing antibodies (bnAbs) that target various strains of HIV.

When Omicron Isn't So Mild

New York times | 29 January 2022

For those with underlying medical conditions, the latest pandemic wave has still posed a threat. Regina Perez, 57, had never been hospitalized for her lifelong asthma condition until she came down with Covid this month. She started having difficulty breathing, even after taking her usual medications. "It kind of took over, almost," she said. She wound up at St. Luke's Hospital in Allentown, Pa., for most of a week at a time when nearly all the Covid patients sampled had contracted the Omicron variant. The episode frightened her. While doctors were able to get her asthma and breathing under control, "I'll probably be scared for the rest of my life," she said. Ms. Perez, who was fully vaccinated and is now recovering at home, said she had spent the last two years doing everything she could to avoid infection, including working from home and rarely going out. She has not yet gotten a booster shot.

Promising progress on neglected tropical diseases in Africa

WHO Africa | 31 January 2022

Over the past decade, significant progress has been made in the elimination, control and eradication of neglected tropical diseases in the African region, where all but one neglected tropical disease (Chagas) are prevalent. More than a billion people are affected by neglected tropical diseases globally. Africa accounts for nearly 40% (400 million people) of the global burden. These diseases can be devastating, including causing severe pain, disabilities and deformities, malnutrition, stunted growth and cognitive impairment. Anaemia caused by some of these diseases has a direct impact on maternal mortality. Neglected tropical diseases are a set of 20 diseases or disease groups that occur predominantly in tropical and subtropical areas. They include lymphatic filariasis, more commonly known as elephantiasis, onchocerciasis or river blindness, schistosomiasis, or bilharzia, as well as human African trypanosomiasis, often called sleeping sickness. The global Neglected Tropical Disease global roadmap 2021—2030 seeks to reduce by 90% the number of people requiring treatment for the diseases; at least 100 countries eliminate at least one neglected tropical disease; eradicate two diseases (Guinea worm and yaws); and reduce disability related to these diseases by 75%.

World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day: WHO calls for equitable health services for all

World Health Organization | 30 January 2022

To mark World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day (WNTDD), the World Health Organization (WHO) is calling on everyone, to rally to confront inequalities that characterize NTDs and ensure that the poorest and marginalized communities who are mostly affected by neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) receive the health services they need. In his message for World NTD day, WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the COVID-19 pandemic has thrust millions of people deeper into poverty and affected those who already have limited access to health services." He urged the global community – the countries, partners, and colleagues – to continue their work during the pandemic.

Africa, the pandemic and healthcare independence

BBC | 31 January 2022

In a special edition of The Evidence, Claudia Hammond and her panel of experts focus on Africa, on how the more than fifty countries on the continent, home to 1.3 billion people and the most youthful population in the world, have fared, two years into the pandemic. African scientists have been key players in the

global response, sequencing variants of the virus and sharing this vital information with the world. But there's been huge frustration and anger on the continent about the way Africa has, yet again, found itself at the back of the global queue for life-saving tests, treatments and vaccines.

The sense that the global health system isn't set up to deliver for Africa has prompted what's been described as unprecedented solidarity, and galvanised calls for increased healthcare independence, self-sufficiency and a new public health order for the continent.

The widespread misuse of antibiotics in humans, animals and the environment must stop

GroundUp | 31 January 2022

I know of many cases where employers will not allow sick leave without employees having antibiotics to show for it. In the first two articles in this series on the antibiotic resistance pandemic, we established the size of the problem, with new data showing that 4.5 million people died in 2019 with an antibiotic resistant bacterial infection, nearly 1.3 million as a direct result of that infection. Furthermore, antibiotic use in childhood is associated with a variety of illnesses in later life. We also explained how bacteria become resistant to antibiotics and that the more antibiotics we use, the more resistance increases. This results in the need to use last resort antibiotics for everyday infections like cystitis, pneumonia, gonorrhoea, and meningitis, some of which are now, untreatable. Moreover, we also explained how this process happens in animals, be they your pets or animals produced for food.

One hundred and fifty thousand preventable new HIV infections among children in 2020

UNAIDS | 31 January 2022

Most of the 150 000 new HIV infections among children in 2020 could have been prevented. A strong start would be to better engage women and girls at significant risk of acquiring HIV infection in integrated antenatal care and HIV services, including HIV prevention and testing, delivered at the local level, and to ensure that those who are HIV-positive receive treatment before pregnancy. Nearly 65 000 child infections occurred in 2020 because women already living with HIV were not diagnosed during pregnancy and did not start treatment. More than 35 000 additional child infections occurred because women acquired HIV during pregnancy or breastfeeding, which led to a spike in their viral load and a high risk of vertical transmission. Women at substantial risk of HIV infection require tailored combination HIV prevention, including pre-exposure prophylaxis, more comprehensive counselling, repeat HIV testing and the provision of self-testing kits for partners.

Researchers and dieticians argue it's high time South African food products come with warnings

Daily Maverick | 31 January 2022

New research suggests that nearly 80% of packaged foods on major supermarket shelves may be ultra-processed: Cheap food loaded with fat, salt and sugar that allow companies to turn big profits — at your expense. Products like these, including possibly the chemicals in them, are fuelling new levels of death and disease with almost no regulation to stand in their way. Warning labels alone may not cure South Africa's bad diet — but it could get corporates to rethink what they're selling.

Why a million children are missing from school – and how to get them back

Bhekisisa | 1 February 2022

Estimating how many learners have dropped out of school as a consequence of the COVID pandemic is an issue governments across the globe are trying to pin down. The subject has been open to intense debate in South Africa and often receives additional attention when the results for the final year of schooling are due for release. As academics examining trends in access and learning outcomes over the past decade, we have taken a particular interest in measuring how the pandemic has contributed to learner drop-out. We also want to contribute to a better understanding of learner drop-out so that appropriate steps can be taken to address the issue effectively.

Schools can fully open and isolation reduced – Covid-19 regulation amendments take pragmatic turn

Daily Maverick | 1 February 2022

Following pressure to align regulations with the current state of the coronavirus pandemic, Cabinet has

announced that people who test positive for Covid-19 but don't show any symptoms will no longer have to isolate. Pupils can now return to school full-time, meaning life will start to return to normal for young people who have been hard-hit by the lockdown. The coronavirus pandemic and resultant lockdown has been particularly damaging for school-aged youth, many of whom lost huge amounts of learning time, have been cut off from their networks of friends, and in some cases, have gone hungry as the government first shut down schools and then imposed a system of rotational learning. On Monday, Cabinet announced amendments to the Level 1 lockdown regulations that suggest the executive has responded to pressure and is continuing to take a more pragmatic approach to the pandemic after the country has exited its fourth wave, which saw fewer hospitalisations and deaths than previous waves.

South African scientists will study link between COVID variants and untreated HIV

Reuters | 1 February 2022

Leading South African scientists are set to investigate COVID-19 and HIV in tandem, amid mounting evidence that the collision of the two pandemics could be generating new coronavirus variants. The team at the Network for Genomic Surveillance in South Africa (NGS-SA), which first alerted the world to the COVID variant Omicron, said it was time for a "systematic" investigation of what happens when patients with untreated HIV get COVID-19.

Daily water intake: Fill up your bottle, drink up and repeat

Health-E News | 1 February 2022

Gone are the days of thinking eight glasses of water a day are enough. Mpho Tshukudu, a nutrition dietician has thrown that theory on its head – your body weight and daily water intake go hand in hand. Water comprises 50 to 70% of an adult's body weight, which must be regularly replenished through dietary intake, as the body has no provision for water storage. Tshukudu said a person's daily water needs are determined by what is seen on the scale. "You need about 30 to 35ml per kg. So, if you weigh 100kg, you may need about 3 to 3.5 liters of water per day. If you weigh 65kg and you're drinking 2L a day, that might be too much, it all depends," she said.

Analysis: Is there a way out of SA's medico-legal morass?

Spotlight | 1 February 2022

Whichever way you look at it, when it comes to medical negligence claims against the state, the numbers are shocking. One way to look at it is by adding up what is called contingent liabilities. This refers to what the state would have to pay if all claims have to be paid. It can be a somewhat misleading metric since the state often contests claims and ends up having to pay less than what was claimed or nothing at all.

Scientists discover crucial link between high blood pressure and diabetes

IOL | 2 February 2022

One of the long-standing medical mysteries is the diagnosis of diabetes (high blood sugar) in majority of patients suffering from high blood pressure (hypertension). The reason for this had been unknown. But now, an international team of universities have made a breakthrough in it. The research, published online in 'Circulation Research', involved contributions from collaborating scientists in Brazil, Germany, Lithuania, and Serbia, as well as the UK and New Zealand.

Omicron vs Delta: What researchers learned about illness in children under 5

Health24 | 2 February 2022

Children under the age of five who get infected with Covid-19 for the first time with the Omicron variant don't get as sick as children who got Delta. The research published in the preprint server MedRxiv compared the severity of clinical outcomes in children under five in the USA who contracted Covid-19 for the first time before and after the emergence of Omicron.

UKZN lecturer launches isiZulu COVID animation film for children

Eyewitness News | 2 February 2022

The University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) on Wednesday announced that it had produced a short isiZulu animation film for children. The film is based on the university's social work senior lecturer Dr Maud Mthembu's book about COVID-19 titled, Uhambo lwami ngesikhathi sekhovithi - My journey during COVID-19. In a statement, the university said that the 10-minute film tells the story of Nsimu, a 10-year-old child whose family was affected by the virus and the impact that the disease had on the family.

What can you do to reduce the risk of getting an antibiotic-resistant infection?

GroundUp | 3 February 2022

You need to try to avoid getting an antibiotic-resistant infection for two reasons. You don't want to end up in hospital with a difficult-to-treat potentially fatal disease and you don't want to spread such an infection and put other people in hospital. Here's how to reduce your risk of getting an infection against which antibiotics don't work.

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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

Ritshidize report: State of Healthcare for Key Populations – January 2022

Ritshidize is a community-led monitoring system developed by organisations representing people living with HIV including the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC), the National Association of People Living with HIV (NAPWA), Positive Action Campaign, Positive Women's Network (PWN) and the South African Network of Religious Leaders Living with and affected by HIV/AIDS (SANERELA+). For more information go to www.ritshidize.org.za or follow on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, or contact ritshidize-comms@tac.org.za.

New UNAIDS report | Holding the line: communities as first responders to COVID-19 and emerging health threats

In a new UNAIDS report, Holding the line: communities as first responders to COVID-19 and emerging health threats, organizations led by and for people living with HIV and key populations detail their efforts to respond to the colliding pandemics of COVID-19 and HIV.

CDC's new Medical Monitoring Project (MMP)

The Medical Monitoring Project (MMP) is a surveillance system designed to learn more about the experiences and needs of people who are living with HIV. It is supported by several government agencies and conducted by state and local health departments along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

HSR 2022: Call for Abstracts!

HSG is pleased to invite abstract submissions for the 7th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research (HSR2022), to be held in Bogota, Colombia October 31 – November 4, 2022. Read below for theme details, field building requirements, and submission guidelines.

Theme: Systems Performance in the Political Agenda: Sharing lessons for current and future global challenges.

Call for Mentees: Publication Mentorship Program for First-time Women Authors in the Field of HPSR

Health Systems Global (HSG) and The Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research (the Alliance) invite early-career women working on HPSR issues, based in Low- and Middle-Income countries, to participate in this call. Those who are interested in publishing their HPSR research for the first time in a global peer-reviewed journal and require guidance and support to submit a publishable manuscript should apply.

Call for Papers | International Journal of Public Health

Public health and primary care; is 1+1=1?

Public health and primary care have both long been considered to be corner stones of health systems. Although both aim to improve the health of populations, they differ in target group (population vs. individual), approach (promote and prevent vs. diagnose and treat) and methods (risk reduction vs. care). Whether considering the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic, the rise in non-communicable diseases, poor mental health, or the impact of environmental changes (e.g., climate change) or demographic shifts (e.g., migration and aging), there is an urgent need for better coordination and harmonization of public health and primary care in all of these areas. In fact, could these two types of health services contravene basic mathematics and be combined into one? With this call for papers, we invite articles presenting both positive and negative examples of the collaboration and integration between public health and primary care. The Call is open from 15 December 2021 until 31 August 2022. IJPH double-blind peer-review rules and author's guidelines apply.

CDC Evaluation Fellowship Program

Application for the Evaluation Fellowship Program is now open until February 22, 2022 11:59 pm EST. Register and attend one of the informational webinars for Fellow applicants to have your questions answered about the CDC Evaluation Fellowship Program and the application process.

Webinar: Antimicrobial consumption - data for action

7 February 2022

Session 1: 10:00 - 11:30 CET

Session 2: 15:30 - 17:00 CET

Interpretation will be provided in French, Spanish, and Portuguese for both sessions 1 and 2. Russian interpretation will also be provided for session 1.

Invitation to Global Forum on TB Vaccines

Join researchers, product developers, advocates, community representatives, and others interested and engaged in TB vaccine R&D from around the world to review the state of the field and discuss the path forward for this important research.

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Facility Team Leaders (2): HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING (HSS) UNIT

Closing Date: 8 February 2022

Project Officers: Health Systems – Border Health: HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING (HSS) UNIT

Closing Date: 8 February 2022

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

Closing Date: 8 February 2022

Area Monitoring and Evaluation Officer: HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING (HSS) UNIT

Closing Date: 8 February 2022

Area Monitoring and Evaluation Officer: HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING (HSS) UNIT

Closing Date: 8 February 2022

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