

HST Bulletin_5 August 2022

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CATEGORIES

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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Measurement of kidney function in Malawi, South Africa, and Uganda: a multicentre cohort study

The Lancet Global Health | August 2022

June Fabian, Robert Kalyesubula, Joseph Mkwandawire, Christian Hansen, Dorothea Nitsch, et al.

The true prevalence of chronic kidney disease (CKD) in Africa is unknown. Current estimates of prevalence are 11–16% in people at high risk and 3–6% in population-representative studies, but these figures might not capture the true burden of kidney disease. One reason these estimates might not be accurate is that creatinine-based equations to estimate glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) were developed in high-income countries, and have undergone little validation in African populations, partly because directly measured GFR (mGFR) using exogenous biomarkers, such as iohexol, to assess the accuracy of these equations is not possible due to limited access to compounds and to clinical services that offer mGFR testing. The rationale for race-based adjustment of GFR-estimating equations has recently been called into question, sparking intense global debate. These equations were based on studies showing that African-American participants had higher mGFR for a given creatinine than other population groups in the USA. The American Society of Nephrology and the National Kidney Foundation reviewed the use of race-based coefficients and recommended immediate adoption of a new race-neutral CKD-EPI (creatinine) 2021 equation. Another issue is whether eGFR equations—race-neutral or not—are transferable to continental African populations, despite their widespread use. Studies from Kenya, Ghana, South Africa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Côte d'Ivoire have consistently demonstrated that race-based adjustments for the Modification of Diet in Renal Disease (MDRD) and Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology Collaboration (CKD-EPI; creatinine) 2009 equations overestimate GFR, especially as GFR declines. Even when omitted, these equations still perform poorly.

Viral suppression and HIV-1 drug resistance 1 year after pragmatic transitioning to dolutegravir first-line therapy in Malawi: a prospective cohort study

The Lancet HIV | August 2022

Birgit Schramm, Elvis Temfack, Diane Descamps, Sarala Nicholas, Gilles Peytavin, et al.

Many countries are now replacing non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI)-based first-

line **antiretroviral therapy** (ART) with a regimen containing **tenofovir disoproxil fumarate**, **lamivudine**, and **dolutegravir** (TLD). Recognising laboratory limitations, Malawi opted to transition those on NNRTI-based first-line ART to TLD without **viral load testing**. We aimed to assess viral load and **HIV drug resistance** during 1 year following transition to TLD without previous viral load testing.

72 weeks post-partum follow-up of dolutegravir versus efavirenz initiated in late pregnancy (DoIPHIN-2): an open-label, randomised controlled study

The Lancet HIV | August 2022

Thokozile Malaba, Irene Nakatudde, Kenneth Kintu, Angela Colbers, Tao Chen, et al.

Elimination of perinatal transmission of HIV remains a key global health priority. Safe and effective antiretroviral drugs during pregnancy and breastfeeding are crucial to achieve this aim. In sub-Saharan Africa, approximately one in five pregnant women with HIV are diagnosed late or access antenatal care late in pregnancy annually. Late diagnosis leads to delayed initiation of **antiretroviral therapy** (ART) and is associated with a seven-times higher perinatal transmission risk and a two-times higher infant mortality risk in the first year of life.

Dolutegravir in late pregnancy: where to from here?

The Lancet HIV | 1 August 2022

Tendesayi Kufa

Strategies to eliminate the perinatal transmission of HIV include initiation of effective antiretroviral therapy (ART) as soon as possible before or during pregnancy and maintaining a suppressed viral load throughout pregnancy and postpartum. Late initiation of ART in pregnant women with HIV has been associated with increased risk of perinatal transmission and perinatal mortality in infants.

Contribution of child health interventions to under-five mortality decline in Ghana: A modeling study using lives saved and missed opportunity tools

Plos One | 1 August 2022

Augusta Kolekang, Bismark Sarfo, Anthony Danso-Appiah, Duah Dwomoh and Patricia Akweongo

Increased coverage of Maternal, Neonatal, Child Health, and Nutrition (MNCHN) interventions have been advocated during the period of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and beyond that aimed to reduce under-five mortality (U5M). However, although Ghana achieved some increase in coverage of interventions during the period, it failed to achieve the MDGs target of a 75% decline in U5M between 1990 and 2015 and is not on track to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.2. Ghana needed to achieve a U5M rate of about 40 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2015 to achieve the target, but U5M in 2014 was about 60 deaths per 1,000 live births. Also, the Greater Accra and Ashanti Regions of Ghana, which had the lowest mortality rates historically, had the slowest U5M rate decline of 62 to 47 deaths per 1,000 live births and 78.2 to 80 deaths per 1,000 live births, respectively, compared to the national rate decline of 108 to 60 deaths per 1,000 live births between 1998 and 2014. These point to a possible stagnation and increase in mortality in the future. Progress in reducing neonatal deaths also lags compared to deaths after the neonatal period, with reports of an increasing proportion of neonatal deaths in some countries. This calls for the prioritization of interventions implemented to scale-up high-impact interventions for maximum impact on U5M decline.

Inflammatory pathways in COVID-19: Mechanism and therapeutic interventions

MedComm | 1 August 2022

Yujie Jiang, Tingmei Zhao, Xueyan Zhou, Yu Xiang, Pedro Gutierrez-Castrellon, et al.

The 2019 coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has become a global crisis. In the immunopathogenesis of COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2 infection induces an excessive inflammatory response in patients, causing an inflammatory cytokine storm in severe cases. Cytokine storm leads to acute respiratory distress syndrome, pulmonary and other multiorgan failure, which is an important cause of COVID-19 progression and even death. Among them, activation of inflammatory pathways is a major factor in generating cytokine storms and causing dysregulated immune responses, which is closely related to the severity of viral infection. Therefore, elucidation of the inflammatory signaling pathway of SARS-CoV-2 is important in providing potential therapeutic targets and treatment strategies against COVID-19. Here, we discuss the major inflammatory pathways in the pathogenesis of COVID-19, including induction, function, and downstream signaling, as well as existing and potential interventions targeting these cytokines or related signaling pathways. We believe that a comprehensive understanding of the regulatory

pathways of COVID-19 immune dysregulation and inflammation will help develop better clinical therapy strategies to effectively control inflammatory diseases, such as COVID-19.

Early impact of the PEN HEARTS package to manage noncommunicable diseases in Bhutan: a mixed-methods evaluation

Remote and Rural Health | 2 August 2022

Karma Tenzin, Lora Sabin, Wangchuk Wangchuk, Karma Choden, Frank Feeley, et al

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) pose significant public health challenges in Bhutan. In 2019, Bhutan's Ministry of Health introduced a set of interventions associated with the World Health Organization's Package of Essential Noncommunicable Disease Interventions for Primary Health Care in Low-Income Settings called PEN HEARTS. This initiative encompassed six components: healthy lifestyle intervention, evidence-based protocols, access to medicines and technology, risk-based management, team-based care, and systems monitoring. Evaluations of PEN interventions in other countries documented barriers to implementation. The present report provides the result of a 2019–2020 evaluation assessing implementation of PEN HEARTS in Bhutan and initial impacts on provision of care for NCDs and patient outcomes.

What is polypharmacy in people living with HIV/AIDS? A systematic review

AIDS Research and Therapy | 2 August 2022

Mohammed Ibn-Mas'ud Danjuma, Safah Khan, Farah Wahbeh, Lina Mohammad Naserallah, Unwam Jumbo & Abdelnaser Elzouki

Polypharmacy in people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) is a rising morbidity that exacts hefty economic burden on health budgets in addition to other adverse clinical outcomes. Despite recent advances, uncertainty remains around its exact definition in PLWHA. In this systematic review and Meta-analysis, we explored relevant databases (PUBMED, EMBASE, CROI) for studies evaluating polypharmacy in PLWHA from January 2000 to August 2021 to ascertain the exact numerical threshold that defines this morbidity.

Cryptococcus Infection in an Immunocompetent Patient

Cureus | 3 August 2022

Kofi Seffah, Walter Agyeman, Jennifer L Madeo and Ayesha Ahmad

Cryptococcus is an encapsulated yeast found worldwide in the soil, in particular with bird droppings. There are multiple species, but *Cryptococcus neoformans* is most commonly associated with human infection. Transmission is by inhalation. The yeast can remain dormant in the lungs or cause indolent pneumonia in immunocompetent people. In an immunocompromised host, cryptococcus disseminates and has a predilection for the CNS. It is the most common cause of opportunistic yeast meningitis. The most feared sequela is elevated intracranial pressure causing vision loss, neurological deficits, seizures, and a comatose state. In addition, the infection has been associated with cerebral infarcts and space-occupying lesions called cryptococcomas that can exacerbate neurological deficits. Patients living with HIV (with a CD4 count of less than 100) are at the highest risk for cryptococcal meningitis.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Children's mental health: What kids need from a father

Health-E News | 29 July 2022

A father's physical presence in their child's life can sometimes be as challenging as having an absent father. This is according to mental health experts looking at how growing up with a male parent affects children. A report released by StatsSA in 2021 revealed that children living in SA were more likely not to grow up with their biological fathers. The report stated that 31.7% of Black children stayed with their biological fathers, compared to 51.3% of children who are Coloured, 86.1% of children who are Indian/Asian, and 80.2% of children who are White. Professor Boitumelo Molebogeng Diale is a registered Educational Psychologist from the University of Johannesburg. She said having an absent father can sometimes be as challenging as living with a present one.

2 more people have been 'cured' of HIV: a man treated for cancer, and a woman with 'elite control'

Business Insider | 1 August 2022

Two more HIV-positive patients have been "cured" of the human immunodeficiency virus, scientists announced at AIDS 2022 this week in Montreal. One person is a cancer patient, and the other is a woman who seems to have a mysterious and special innate ability to control the virus, post-treatment. The finds — while both still very rare — are two distinct glimmers of hope for HIV/AIDS researchers hunting for a cure for the disease, achieved by two very different mechanisms. Scientists prefer to say these people are in "long term remission," since we can't say for certain that the cures are permanent. However, both new cases have had little (if any) evidence of HIV replication in their bodies for several years, a good sign that this isn't a temporary fix.

Fact check: No, children's COVID-19 vaccines don't contain motion-sickness drug scopolamine

USA Today | 1 August 2022

The claim: Military found the drug scopolamine in COVID-19 vaccines for children

More than 420 Facebook users have shared an article that claims the military discovered a drug called scopolamine in COVID-19 vaccines formulated for children, according to the social media data aggregator CrowdTangle. "The U.S. military has found the drug scopolamine in Covid-19 vaccines destined to reach the arms of children," the July 21 Real Raw News article reads. Scopolamine is used topically to prevent symptoms of motion sickness, such as nausea and vomiting. According to the article, however, it is also referred to as "Devil's Breath" and "the Zombie Drug" for its supposed ability to "zombify" a person before rendering them unconscious. Scopolamine can act as a sedative in some forms. But this article is fabricated, just like many other stories that appear on the Real Raw News site.

World Hepatitis Day brings care closer to you

Graphic Online | 1 August 2022

World Hepatitis Day (WHD) is observed on the 28th of July every year since its adoption of the Global Health Sector Strategy on viral hepatitis in 2016. The day seeks to spotlight global action on viral hepatitis. The theme for this year, "Bringing hepatitis care closer to you", was chosen to raise awareness about the need to simplify and bring hepatitis care to primary health facilities, community-based venue and locations beyond hospital sites. Effectively, to bring the care of hepatitis closer to communities and people wherever they are. It is aimed that by 2030, viral hepatitis would be eliminated globally. Hepatitis is simply an inflammation of the liver.

Societal enablers: 'Our No 1 weapon in HIV fight'

Health-e News | 1 August 2022

In the fight against HIV, ignoring societal enablers could see new HIV infections and death estimates reach over four million by 2030. This is according to UNAIDS Deputy Executive Director Eamonn Murphy. "We need societal enablers to reach impact goals. Failure to make any progress would undermine efforts to reach the HIV service targets resulting in an additional 1.7 million AIDS-related deaths and 2.5 million additional new HIV infections between 2021 and 2030," stated Murphy. He was speaking at the 24th International Aids conference in Montreal on Sunday.

Global monkeypox vaccine race sparks fears that poorer nations will lose out

Guardian | 1 August 2022

A scramble for monkeypox vaccines is under way, with 35 countries vying for access to the 16.4m doses that exist so far, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), and a risk that low-income countries may lose out. Meg Doherty, WHO's director of Global HIV, Hepatitis and Sexually Transmitted Infections Programmes, said there was "quite a possible risk" that the countries bidding for supplies would be high-income countries. "We'll have to watch out for this," she said. "Our mantra has been and continues to be that we want equity. If WHO needs to say that louder and stronger for those countries who are not getting access, we will continue to do that.

'A quarter of new HIV infections in young women due to gender-based violence'

City Press | 1 August 2022

Speaking at the 24th International Aids Conference in Montreal, Canada, Health Minister Dr Joe Phaahla said while the country had made remarkable progress against HIV and Aids, new infections remained high. Over 150 girls and young women between the ages of 15 and 24 are infected daily. He said:

Approximately 20-25% of new HIV infections in young women in South Africa are because of gender-based violence. "Additionally, early sexual debut and age-disparate relationships are common for adolescent girls and young women. Genotyping shows that such relationships fuel the cycle of HIV transmission in South Africa."

New global alliance launched to end Aids in children by 2030

IOL | 1 August 2022

Globally, only half (52%) of children living with HIV are on life-saving treatment, far behind adults where three quarters (76%) are receiving antiretrovirals, according to the data that has just been released in the UNAids Global Aids Update 2022. Concerned by the stalling of progress for children, and the widening gap between children and adults, UNAids, Unicef, the World Health Organization and partners have brought together a global alliance to ensure that no child living with HIV is denied treatment by the end of the decade and to prevent new infant HIV infections.

South Africa: SAHPRA Announces Approval of Breakthrough Treatments for Children with HIV

allAfrica | 1 August 2022

Press Release

SAHPRA has registered a new "sweet-tasting" combination antiretroviral treatment for infants and young children with HIV. This treatment comes in granules that can be sprinkled on soft food or dissolved in milk or water. Furthermore, this treatment does not require refrigeration. The "4-in-1" formulation approved by SAHPRA with the trade name Quadrimune has been developed by the non-profit entity, Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi), and Cipla. Unlike the traditional <https://allafrica.com/stories/202208010219.html> protease inhibitor-containing paediatric ARV formulations, this new treatment combines the antiretrovirals abacavir, lamivudine, lopinavir and ritonavir in a novel manner of administering it to children and infants. SAHPRA has also registered dolutegravir dispersible tablets for children with HIV by Macleods (Trade names – Syromak 10 ODT and Kovasyp 10 ODT) and Mylan (trade names – Odinstri and Ristegra dispersible tablets). This comes after the recent registration of dolutegravir dispersible tablets for this cohort by the innovator company GSK (Tivicay) which paved the way for the registration of generic medicines.

Tuberculosis moves out of Covid's shadow as research advances

Biz News | 1 August 2022

A Stats SA June 2021 report found that tuberculosis (TB) remained the leading cause of death in the three years from 2016 – 2018. According to the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), tuberculosis was the cause of 121,000 deaths in 2018 and 2019 – a figure that supersedes the total number of deaths caused by Covid-19 in South Africa to date. And by far. Despite that, however, Covid-19 received attention and healthcare measures incomparable to that ever received by TB. Hopefully now, the advancement of medical care in respect of TB can finally be paid its due, a reality this article attests to.

Health department scraps daily Covid-19 updates due to 'reduced severity and transmissibility'

News24 | 1 August 2022

The Department of Health will no longer release daily Covid-19 reports. Instead, it will release weekly reports. In a statement, it said daily reports would no longer be released "due to the reduced severity and transmissibility of the disease at the current moment, coupled with declining Covid-19 case numbers".

South Africa's public health system – a lonely, disempowering place that breeds anger and hopelessness

Daily Maverick | 1 August 2022

Last year I found myself at a public hospital trying to get a family member with a mental health condition admitted for psychiatric observation. It was a traumatic ordeal that went from the evening to the early hours of the morning, as they refused to admit him despite our pleas and his obvious heightened state of agitation. During that long ordeal, no amount of quoting the law, the Constitution or the Hippocratic Oath would have made a difference. The overworked doctors and nurses prioritised those they felt were at death's door, such as those who had been in car accidents, had stab wounds or were suffering from severe substance withdrawal. I felt helpless, hopeless, angry and absolutely incredulous. Just last week I

again found myself accompanying a friend to a public clinic to get an assessment for their ailment. We queued outside in the parking lot, where there was no clear signage explaining the process, for about 30 minutes before a file was opened for my friend in the parking lot. They were then told to go to a nurse who was working in a small tent, with no explanation of why they needed to go there.

Global discrimination against vulnerable groups fuels new HIV infections

Maverick Citizen | 1 August 2022

HIV is one of the most studied diseases of all and an arsenal of treatment and prevention tools has been amassed over the past 40 years — the latest being an antiretroviral injection taken every eight weeks that can prevent 99% of infections. However, HIV is still spreading — primarily among people who have been deemed criminals or invisible by their governments. Some 70% of new infections last year were in groups designated by UNAIDS as “key populations” for their vulnerability to infection: men who have sex with men (MSM), sex workers, transgender people, people who inject drugs and prisoners. Adolescent girls in sub-Saharan Africa, many of whom are infected during coerced sex, are another vulnerable group. “We have the tools. We know what we are supposed to do. But we need a people-centred approach to meet people where they are,” Professor Linda-Gail Bekker, head of the Desmond Tutu Health Centre and an infectious diseases expert, told the International Aids Conference in Montreal.

Lower levels of dietary calcium and potassium predict recurrence of kidney stones

news-medical.net | 1 August 2022

Kidney stones can cause not only excruciating pain but also are associated with chronic kidney disease, osteoporosis and cardiovascular disease. If you've experienced a kidney stone once, you have a 30% chance of having another kidney stone within five years. Changes in diet are often prescribed to prevent recurrent symptomatic kidney stones. However, little research is available regarding dietary changes for those who have one incident of kidney stone formation versus those who have recurrent incidents.

Book Review: The double toll of viruses and social injustice

Nature | 1 August 2022

The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear how social, economic, racial and political disadvantages occur alongside — and help to cause — inequities in health conditions and health care. People living in crowded circumstances, individuals with existing conditions and those working in unprotected, public-facing settings were all hit earlier and harder than others. From polio in the 1950s to the HIV epidemic of the 1980s and the Ebola disaster of the 2010s, viruses rampage along structural inequalities. Steven Thrasher's *The Viral Underclass* explores these inequalities through powerful case studies of people in the United States who had been doubly harmed — both by viruses and by the circumstances surrounding their illnesses.

Oral six-month treatment for MDR-TB is safe and effective in people with HIV

Aidsmap | 2 August 2022

An all-oral treatment regimen for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) recently recommended as a new standard of care by the World Health Organization is effective and safe in people living with HIV, Dr Ilaria Motta of Médecins sans Frontières reported at the 24th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2022) in Montreal on Sunday. However, activists at the conference say that all-oral treatment remains out of reach for many people in the worst-affected countries, as they launched the 1 / 4 / 6 x 24 campaign to galvanise public health programmes into investing in sufficient “staff, stuff, space, systems, and support” to make new shorter regimens for TB treatment available to all by 2024.

“It took me three seconds to decide” – Fareed Abdullah reflects on his career in public health

Spotlight | 2 August 2022

Over the last three decades, Dr Fareed Abdullah has been at the coalface of South Africa's response to HIV, tuberculosis (TB), and more recently, COVID-19. In this time, he proved himself a health sector pillar – unafraid to shun political party lines when they clashed with his clinician's integrity. Recently he spoke out against the proposed NHI [National Health Insurance] legislation, while back in 1999 he helped pioneer the roll-out of AIDS treatment in the Western Cape, in defiance of then President Thabo Mbeki.

Stemming the HIV tide among Africa's girls and women

Health-E News | 3 August 2022

Over four thousand new HIV infections are recorded among girls and young women in Sub-Saharan Africa every week. However, an expert believes that access to information about the virus can turn these numbers around. Patricia Machawira, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) 's Regional Advisor on Education and Well-being in Eastern and Southern Africa, said services and accurate information could help young girls and women make empowered choices. She was one of the speakers at the 24th International AIDS Conference in Montreal, Canada. The discussion fell under the theme: *Achieving an Aids-free future: African leaders championing Sex Education and Challenging Misinformation.*

South Africa: Eliminating Malaria Remains Top Priority

Controlling and eliminating malaria remains critical for the health of southern Africa and cross-border partnership is key to achieving this goal. This was highlighted at the 7th Malaria Research Conference hosted by the South African Medical Research Council Malaria Research Group (MRG) and the Department of Health. This year's gathering, currently underway, focuses mainly on the progress that has been made towards achieving the department's goal of eliminating malaria by 2025, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

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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.

Consolidated guidelines on HIV, viral hepatitis and STI prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care for key populations

World Health Organization | 29 July 2022

The guidelines are officially launched at the AIDS 2022 Conference in Montreal, Canada, in a satellite session entitled: Launching new WHO guidelines for key populations: Focus for impact. The guidelines outline a public health response to HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) for 5 key populations (men who have sex with men, trans and gender diverse people, sex workers, people who inject drugs and people in prisons and other closed settings).

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Launch event: "Implication of the COVID-19 Pandemic for Patient Safety: a rapid review"

Date: 9 August 2022

Time: 14:00 – 15:30 CET

The COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly impacted nearly all countries' health systems and diminished their capability to provide safe health care, specifically due to errors, harm and delays in diagnosis, treatment and care management. "Implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for patient safety: a rapid review" emphasizes the high risk of avoidable harm to patients, health workers, and the general public, and exposes a range of safety gaps across all core components of health systems at all levels. The disruptive and transformative impacts of the pandemic have confirmed patient safety as a critical health system issue and a global public health concern.

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.

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.

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Data Scientist: HEALTH SYSTEMS RESEARCH (HSR) UNIT

Closing Date: 2022-08-15

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