

HST Bulletin



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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Evidence-based policymaking is not like evidence-based medicine, so how far should you go to bridge the divide between evidence and policy?

BioMed Central | Published: 26 April 2017.

Paul Cairney, Kathryn Oliver

There is extensive health and public health literature on the 'evidence-policy gap', exploring the frustrating experiences of scientists trying to secure a response to the problems and solutions they raise and identifying the need for better evidence to reduce policymaker uncertainty. We offer a new perspective by using policy theory to propose research with greater impact, identifying the need to use persuasion to reduce ambiguity, and to adapt to multi-level policymaking systems.

Governing multisectoral action for health in low- and middle-income countries

PlosMedicine | Published: 25 April 2017.

Kumanan Rasanathan, Sara Bennett, Vincent Atkins, Robert Beschel, Gabriel Carrasquilla, Jodi Charles, Rajib Dasgupta, Kirk Emerson, et al

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by countries at the United Nations in 2015 sets forth a comprehensive vision of development with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets across all aspects of society. The 2030 Agenda document is ambitious and explicit about the need for integrated and sustained action across society to address complex challenges such as ending extreme poverty, reducing widening economic inequality, tackling climate change, and reducing and preventing conflict. These issues are beyond the remit and resources of a single thematic sector (such as health, finance, agriculture, or education) and instead require coordinated multisectoral action.

Health research and safeguards: The South African journey

South African Medical Journal | Published: 25 April 2017.

Amaboo Dhai

Health research, as a social good, needs to be conducted in the interests of the common good. Because of the unfortunate exploitation of research participants globally, safeguards for protections are necessary. Most international codes and guidelines originated as responses to the abuse and mistreatment of research subjects. In South Africa, medical scientists were busy with discoveries and innovations as far back as the 1800s. In December 1967, the historic first human heart transplant was undertaken in Cape Town. Although it is unclear how much research preceded this procedure, there is no doubt that the operation was done in a research setting, and it had a far-reaching impact.

A proposed novel framework for monitoring and evaluation of the cascade of HIV-associated TB care at the health facility level

Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 20 April 2017.

Colleen F Hanrahan, Annelies Van Rie

The rapid and accurate diagnosis of HIV-associated tuberculosis (TB), timely initiation of curative or preventative treatment and assurance of favourable treatment outcomes is a complex process. The current system of monitoring and reporting TB diagnosis and treatment does not include several key aspects of the care cascade, and may obscure systematic bottlenecks, inefficiencies or sources of sub-optimal care.

Spillover effects on health outcomes in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review

International Journal of Epidemiology | Published: 24 April 2017.

Jade Benjamin-Chung, Jaynal Abedi, David Berger, Ashley Clark, Veronica Jimenez, Eugene Konagaya, Diana Tran, Benjamin F Arnold, et al

Many interventions delivered to improve health may benefit not only direct recipients but also people in close physical or social proximity. Our objective was to review all published literature about the spillover effects of interventions on health outcomes in low-middle income countries and to identify methods used in estimating these effects.

Should trained lay providers perform HIV testing? A systematic review to inform World Health Organization guidelines

AIDS Care | Published: 24 April 2017.

C E Kennedy, PT Yeh, C Johnson & R Baggaley

New strategies for HIV testing services (HTS) are needed to achieve UN 90-90-90 targets, including diagnosis of 90% of people living with HIV. Task-sharing HTS to trained lay providers may alleviate health worker shortages and better reach target groups. We conducted a systematic review of studies evaluating HTS by lay providers using rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs).

Can the generic antiretroviral industry support access to a universal antiretroviral regimen?

Current Opinion in HIV & AIDS | Published: 24 April 2017.

Carolyn D Amole, Caroline Middlecote, Vineet R Prabhu, N Kumarasamy

The generic antiretroviral (ARV) industry played a critical role in the massive scale-up of HIV treatment in low-income and middle-income countries since 2000. As the global community looks ahead to a universal antiretroviral regimen, this article considers the industry's role in supporting universal access to affordable, simpler, more durable and tolerable HIV treatment regimens.

Behavioural disinhibition in the general population during the antiretroviral therapy roll-out in Sub-Saharan Africa: systematic review and meta-analysis

Tropical Medicine & International Health | Published: 27 April 2017.

Eva M Legemate, Jan AC Hontelez, Caspar W. Looman, Sake J De Vlas

Improved life expectancy and reduced transmission probabilities due to ART may result in behavioural disinhibition – i.e. an increase in sexual risk behaviour in response to a perceived lower risk of HIV. We examined trends in sexual risk behaviour in the general population of sub-Saharan African countries 1999 - 2015.

Prevention of cervical cancer in HIV-seropositive women from developing countries: a systematic review protocol

BioMed Central | Published: 24 April 2017.

Witness Mapanga, Ahmed Elhakeem, Shingairai A Feresu, Fresier Maseko and Tsungai Chipato

Over 85% of cervical cancer cases and deaths occur in developing countries. HIV-seropositive women are more likely to develop precancerous lesions that lead to cervical cancer than HIV-negative women. However, the literature on cervical cancer prevention in seropositive women in developing countries has not been reviewed. The aim of this study is to systematically review cervical cancer prevention modalities available for HIV-seropositive women in developing countries.

Contraceptive uptake after training community health workers in couples counseling: A cluster randomized trial

PlosOne | Published: 27 April 2017.

Clara Lemani, Jennifer H Tang, Dawn Kopp, Billy Phiri, Chrissy Kumvula, Loyce Chikosi, Mwawi Mwale, Nora E Rosenberg

Young women in Malawi face many challenges in accessing family planning (FP), including distance to the health facility and partner disapproval. Our primary objective was to assess if training HSAs in couples counseling would increase modern FP uptake among young women.

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RECENT NEWS

Malaria cases rise 50% after delays in spraying.

Business Day | 2 May 2017.

Good rains and hot, humid conditions have fuelled a surge in malaria cases in 2017, after 2016's drought led to a low number of cases reported to the National Institutes for Communicable Diseases (NICD).

3 African countries chosen to test 1st malaria vaccine

STAT | 24 April 2017.

Three African countries have been chosen to test the world's first malaria vaccine, the World Health Organization announced Monday [24 April 2017]. Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi will begin piloting the injectable vaccine next year with hundreds of thousands of young children, who have been at highest risk of death.

Paying for change? Trial offers cash to parents willing to vaccinate babies

Bhekisisa | 3 May 2017.

Researchers have shown that monetary incentives lead to infants being immunised on time.

South Africa sets up program to break the link between HIV and violence

Newsweek | 23 April 2017.

Miranda was four months pregnant and extremely anxious when she got her first HIV test. She had long been afraid of a positive diagnosis, and shortly after stepping into a tent offering free HIV tests at a taxi stand in central Johannesburg, her fear was confirmed.

Dry facilities an indictment on our democracy

Health-E News | 2 May 2017.

After 23 years of 'freedom', some health facilities are operating without the water as provincial authorities blame municipalities and municipalities drag their feet.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Better Off Knowing: Lay Counsellor's Refresher Guide

Health Systems Trust | 2016.

A training guide intended to refresh lay counsellor's knowledge on the latest World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines, Universal Test and Treat, PrEP and the CCMDD programme, amongst others.

Advanced clinical HIV management course

Southern African HIV Clinicians Society & WITS RHI | 22 May 2017.

The aim of this course is to provide doctors with regional HIV treatment knowledge and expertise, by developing clinicians' abilities to effectively manage HIV complications and provide leadership in HIV prevention, treatment and care. The course is full time, Monday to Friday, over two weeks (07h45 – 17h00) in Johannesburg, South Africa. Daily attendance is compulsory. The course will run from 22 May – 2 June 2017 and applications are still open.

Email: training@sahivsoc.org

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

World Report on Health Policy and Systems Research

WHO | 2017.

This first World Report on Health Policy and Systems Research reflects the importance of monitoring and measuring developments in the field. It provides evidence that allows national policy-makers and funders to see how their investments contribute to the generation and use of policy-relevant knowledge. Its chapters describe the evolution of the field, the current state of play and results to date, the challenge of institutional capacity and emerging trends, illustrating the importance of this area of research for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Malaria Prevention Works: Let's close the gap (World Malaria Day 2017)

WHO | 2017.

On World Malaria Day the World Health Organization (WHO) released a publication entitled "Malaria Prevention Works". Filled with eye-catching infographics, this brochure presents WHO's recommended malaria prevention tools in a simple and digestible manner.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

INTEREST Workshop

16 - 19 May 2017

Lilongwe, Malawi

HEAIDS Conference (Higher Education and Training): Empowering our youth in South Africa

9 - 11 June 2017

International Conference Centre, Durban, South Africa

SA AIDS

13 - 16 June 2017

International Convention Centre, Durban, South Africa

4th International Conference on Prevention & Infection Control (ICPIC)

20 - 23 June 2017

Geneva, Switzerland

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Health Systems Trust: Editorial Specialist

Closing Date: 8 May 2017

Health Systems Trust: Copy and Content Editor

Closing Date: 8 May 2017

Health Systems Trust: CCMDD Provincial Coordinator

Closing Date: 9 May 2017

Health Systems Trust: Quality Improvement Advisor

Closing Date: 10 May 2017



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