

HST Bulletin_06 April 2023

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CATEGORIES

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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

The prevalence of cervical abnormalities: Comparison of youth with perinatally acquired HIV and older women in Botswana

Southern African Journal of HIV Medicine | 28 March 2023

Thabo Phologolo, Mogomotsi Matshaba, Bathusi Mathuba, Keboletse Mokete, Ontibile Tshume, et al.

Cervical cancer burden and prevalence of precursor lesions is unknown among young women living with HIV in high prevalence settings. Current cervical cancer screening guidelines in resource-limited settings with high HIV prevalence typically exclude adolescents and young women. After observing two cases of advanced cervical cancer among young women with perinatally acquired HIV, a pilot screening programme was established in Botswana.

The impact of persistent precarity on patients' capacity to manage their treatment burden: A comparative qualitative study between urban and rural patients with multimorbidity in South Africa

Frontiers | 30 March 2023

Myrna van Pinxteren, Nonzuzo Mbokazi, Katherine Murphy, Frances Mair, Carl May et al.

People living with multimorbidity in low-and middle-income countries (LMICs) experience a high workload trying to meet the demands of self-management. In an unequal society like South Africa, many people face continuous economic uncertainty, which can impact on their capacity to manage their illnesses and lead to poor health outcomes. Using precariousness – the real and perceived impact of uncertainty – as a lens, this paper aims to identify, characterise, and understand the workload and capacity associated with self-management amongst people with multimorbidity living in precarious circumstances in urban and rural South Africa.

Risk factors for interruption in treatment among HIV-infected adolescence attending health care and treatment clinics in Tanzania

AIDS Research and Therapy | 30 March 2023

Expedito L Mtisi, Stella E Mushy, Simon G Mkawe, Antony Ndjovu, Eric Mboggo, et al.

Interruption in Treatment (IIT) is a challenge in HIV care and treatment programs in sub-Saharan Africa.

High IIT among HIV adolescents has both individual and potential public health consequences including discontinuation of treatment, increased HIV transmission and risk of death. In this era of test and treat policy it is important to ensure that patients remain connected to HIV clinics to enable achieve UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets timely. This study aimed to assess risk factors for IIT among HIV-positive adolescence in Tanzania.

Viral load suppression after intensive adherence counselling among adult people living with HIV at Kiswa health centre, Kampala: a retrospective cohort study. Secondary data analysis

AIDS Research and Therapy | 30 March 2023

Catherine Nakaye, Nelson Mukiza, Denis Mawanda, Hajira Kataike, Hellen Kaganzi, et al.

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS through the 95-95-95 target requires 95% of people living with HIV (PLHIV) on antiretroviral treatment (ART) to be virally suppressed. Viral Load (VL) non-suppression has been found to be associated with suboptimal ART adherence, and Intensive Adherence Counselling (IAC) has been shown to lead to VL re-suppression by over 70% in PLHIV on ART. Currently, there is data paucity on VL suppression after IAC in adult PLHIV in Uganda. This study aimed to evaluate the proportion of VL suppression after IAC and associated factors among adult PLHIV on ART at Kiswa Health Centre in Kampala, Uganda.

Non-communicable disease policy implementation from 2014 to 2021: a repeated cross-sectional analysis of global policy data for 194 countries

The Lancet Global Health | April 2023

Luke Allen, Simon Wigley, Hampus Holmer and Pepita Barlow

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are the world's leading cause of death and disability. Global implementation of WHO-recommended NCD policies has been increasing with time, but in 2019 fewer than half of these policies had been implemented globally. In 2022, WHO released updated data on NCD policy implementation, on the basis of surveys conducted in 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic. We sought to examine whether the trajectory of global policy implementation changed during this period.

Estimating national-level measles case–fatality ratios in low-income and middle-income countries: an updated systematic review and modelling study

The Lancet Global Health | April 2023

Alyssa Sbarra, Jonathan Mosser, Mark Jit, Matthew Ferrari, Rebecca Ramshaw, et al.

To understand the current measles mortality burden, and to mitigate the future burden, it is crucial to have robust estimates of measles case fatalities. Estimates of measles case–fatality ratios (CFRs) that are specific to age, location, and time are essential to capture variations in underlying population-level factors, such as vaccination coverage and measles incidence, which contribute to increases or decreases in CFRs. In this study, we updated estimates of measles CFRs by expanding upon previous systematic reviews and implementing a meta-regression model. Our objective was to use all information available to estimate measles CFRs in low-income and middle-income countries (LMICs) by country, age, and year.

The impact of alternative delivery strategies for novel tuberculosis vaccines in low-income and middle-income countries: a modelling study

The Lancet Global Health | April 2023

Rebecca Clark, Christinah Mukandavire, Allison Portnoy, Chathika Weerasuriya, Arminster Deol, et al.

Tuberculosis is a leading infectious cause of death worldwide. Novel vaccines will be required to reach global targets and reverse setbacks resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. We estimated the impact of novel tuberculosis vaccines in low-income and middle-income countries (LMICs) in several delivery scenarios.

The impact of community delivery of intermittent preventive treatment of malaria in pregnancy on its coverage in four sub-Saharan African countries (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Mozambique, and Nigeria): a quasi-experimental multicentre evaluation

The Lancet Global Health | April 2023

Raquel Gonzales, Manu Manun'Ebo, Martin Meremikwu, Victor Rabeza, Charfudin Saco, et al.

Intermittent preventive treatment of malaria in pregnancy (IPTp) with sulfadoxine–pyrimethamine is

recommended at each antenatal care clinic visit in high-moderate transmission areas. However, its coverage remains unacceptably low in many countries. Community health workers can effectively deliver malaria preventive interventions. The aim of this study was to assess the effect of community delivery of IPTp (C-IPTp) on antenatal care and IPTp coverage.

“I am scared, I do not want to lie”: exploring the impacts of COVID-19 on engagement in care, perceived health, relationship dynamics, and parenting among postpartum women with HIV in South Africa

BMC | 3 April 2023

Amelia Stanton, Abigail Blyler, Nzwakie Mosery, Georgina Goodman, Rachel Vanderkruik, et al.

COVID-19 and efforts to manage widespread infection may compromise HIV care engagement. The COVID-19-related factors linked to reduced HIV engagement have not been assessed among postpartum women with HIV, who are at heightened risk of attrition under non-pandemic circumstances. To mitigate the effects of the pandemic on care engagement and to prepare for future public health crises, it is critical to understand how COVID-19 has impacted (1) engagement in care and (2) factors that may act as barriers to care engagement.

Strengthening HIV and HIV co-morbidity care in low- and middle-income countries: insights from behavioural economics to improve healthcare worker behaviour

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 3 April 2023

Anant Mishra, Tonderai Mabuto, Kate Shearer, Antonio Trujillo, Jonathan E Golub, et al.

Despite advances in HIV and HIV co-morbidity service delivery, substantial challenges remain in translating evidence-based interventions into routine practice to bring optimal care and prevention to all populations. While barriers to successful implementation are often multifactorial, healthcare worker behaviour is critical for on-the-ground and in-clinic service delivery. Implementation science offers a systematic approach to understanding service delivery, including approaches to overcoming delivery gaps. Behavioural economics is a field that seeks to understand when and how behaviour deviates from traditional models of decision-making, deviations which are described as biases. Clinical policies and implementation strategies that incorporate an understanding of behavioural economics can add to implementation science approaches and play an important role in bridging the gap between healthcare worker knowledge and service delivery.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Young people in Africa should have a say in decisions that affect their health – 7 ways to include them

The Conversation | 28 March 2023

Most of Africa's population – 70% – is under 30 years old. In 2017 there were 628 million young people under 25 on the continent. This figure is predicted to reach 945 million by 2050. Young people bear the brunt of many challenges facing African countries. African adolescent girls and young women have the highest HIV infection rates. The continent has the highest rate of teenage pregnancies in the world. Many young people in Africa live with conflict and violence and are displaced. Many lack food, education and jobs. Yet young people are not heard in decisions that directly affect their lives and health. The United Nations Youth envoy stresses the importance of giving young people opportunities to be involved in decision-making. Leaders around the world pledge to work with young people, but they don't know how.

Improving data collection to improve national AIDS responses

UNAIDS | 29 MARCH 2023

During a regional UNAIDS HIV estimates workshop in Bangkok, Thailand, groups gathered around laptops to discuss national insights, including the growing HIV infections among gay men and men who have sex with men (MSM) in the Philippines, the high mother-to-child transmission rate in India, and the expansion of the epidemic among some more at-risk groups. After months of collecting raw data in their home country throughout the year, the teams were now entering those data into specific software to analyze the results. “Countries use the results to describe what's happening in terms of HIV incidence,

prevalence, AIDS-related deaths and other indicators that are difficult, if not impossible, to directly measure,” said Mary Mahy, UNAIDS Data For Impact Director, a.i. Since 2003, UNAIDS has supported countries to generate such uniform epidemiological measures based on data from antenatal clinics, surveys among key populations or among the entire population, antiretroviral therapy use, and more recently, HIV case reporting and vital registration systems. At the regional workshops, country representatives, UNAIDS staff, and partners use modelling software to produce HIV estimates.

Sexual Health for People With Vulvas—Beyond Reproduction

The Body | 30 March 2023

In the world of sexual health care, our society has often viewed preventative measures through a reproductive lens. That intentionally myopic perspective has left many same-gender-loving cisgender women and other folks with vulvas locked out of the conversation. With our health care system currently riddled with dangerous legislation, stigma, and reduced access to care at every turn, it can be daunting for queer women, nonbinary people, and trans men to open up to a health care professional about what to do in order to maintain their sexual health and gain a sense of sexual autonomy.

This TB drug's price just dropped by 80%. Meet the SA activist who helped to beat Big Pharma

Bhekisisa | 30 March 2023

People with drug-resistant tuberculosis in India could soon have access to critical medication at a far lower cost after the authorities rejected US pharmaceutical giant Johnson & Johnson's application to extend a patent. The firm wanted to extend its patent on bedaquiline, which expires in July, until 2027, which would have prevented cheaper generic versions reaching the market.

Memorial wall unveiled to honour nurses who died during Covid-19

Times Live | 30 March 2023

Deputy minister of health Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo on Wednesday honoured the healthcare workers who died in the line of duty during the Covid-19 pandemic, saying he thought of their children as he did so. He was speaking at the unveiling of a wall of remembrance erected by the South African Nursing Council (Sanc).

Frequent screening will be essential to eliminate cervical cancer in women with HIV

Aidmap | 30 April 2023

Screening women with HIV for cervical cancer every three years, along with high coverage of HPV vaccination in girls and young women with HIV will be necessary in countries with high rates of HIV to achieve ambitious global targets for the elimination of cervical cancer by 2120, a modelling study published in eClinical Medicine concludes.

New breast cancer susceptibility gene candidate identified

Medical express | 30 March 2023

A paper published in the American Journal of Human Genetics proposes ATRIP gene variants as a breast cancer susceptibility gene candidate based on a study of women without any of the known breast cancer-associated gene variants. The team of Canadian and Polish researchers led by the University of Toronto compiled data on 510 women from Poland with a strong family history of breast cancer but none of the confirmed moderate to high susceptibility breast cancer genes. Whole-exome sequencing was performed, and genes with confirmed loss of function variants were selected for association analyses. They limited this next step in the analysis to genes that were known to play a role in cancer pathogenesis and those with a recurrent loss of function variant. This narrowed the list down to nine genes of interest, with ATRIP being the most frequent.

Autism: Massive service delivery gap for children and adults in public healthcare

Health-e News | 31 March 2023

Autism South Africa (ASA) says that there are massive service delivery gaps in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The limited data collection on the prevalence of autism in the country and research on it is an additional restriction. A concerning observation ahead of World Autism Day on the 2nd of April, 2023. This year's 2023 World Autism Awareness Day theme is “Transforming the narrative: Contributions at home, at work, in the arts and in policymaking”, a challenging

idea to make a reality for autistic people who are public health users in SA because of the lack of support services for them.

Footprints 4 Sam aims to raise R80-million for Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital's 80th birthday

Daily Maverick | 31 March 2023

The hospital is dedicated to the care of obstetric, gynaecological and paediatric patients but has recently been plagued with issues. To commemorate the milestone, Footprints 4 Sam, a charitable trust wants to raise funds to renovate the neonatal intensive care unit at the hospital.

WATCH | Health Beat #6: 'You become anxious and angry' - How load shedding impacts mental health

News24 | 31 March 2023

This year could be the worst year for load shedding on record – you go to bed without electricity, and some days you wake up without power too. Does load shedding make you feel helpless? You're not alone. The South African Depression and Anxiety Group (Sadag) used an online survey to find out how blackouts impact our state of mind. The survey revealed load shedding-related increased anxiety, work-related stress, depression and thoughts of suicide among South Africans.

Researchers develop new model for quickly evaluating potential cervical cancer drugs

Medical express | 31 March 2023

Researchers at Oregon State University have created a means of speeding up and improving the evaluation process for drugs used to combat cervical cancer. The study led by Kaitlin Fogg, assistant professor of biological engineering in the OSU College of Engineering, is important because the American Cancer Society estimates that nearly 14,000 new cervical cancer cases will be diagnosed in the United States this year and that more than 4,000 women will die from the disease.

Decolonising global health: lessons from Zimbabwe

Aidsmap | 31 April 2023

The process of shifting control of public health programmes from the global north to local organisations needs to be carefully planned and navigated, say researchers involved in the transition of HIV programmes in Zimbabwe. Transition plans should be sensitive to challenges and opportunities linked to the local country context and to historic relationships between local and global organisations. Those involved should assess the local organisations' capacity for making the transition, provide enough time, and achieve an equitable balance between local organisations and the global partner organisations. Local ownership of health programmes in low- and middle-income countries gives local stakeholders autonomy over their public health agendas and the freedom to design, oversee, finance, and deliver health care to their own populations. Yet, historically, many programmes have been led by organisations based in the global north. Shifting management to local stakeholders is essential to increasing local autonomy, achieving long-term sustainability, and using resources efficiently. However, achieving this transition is challenging.

Profit versus health: 4 ways big global industries make people sick

Daily Maverick | 2 April 2023

It will take concerted joint efforts, such as an international convention, to change the system where just four industries account for at least one-third of global preventable deaths. This change needs to be in the direction of prioritising societal and environmental well-being and health impacts. Until this happens, health and equity will continue to be threatened, causing significant economic damage and declining social development.

Two little boys, aged 2 and 5, make up SA's first two human rabies cases for 2023

IOL | 2 April 2023

Two little boys from Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal made up South Africa's first two human rabies cases for 2023. That was according to the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) March 2023 communiqué. The NICD said that the first two cases of human rabies for 2023 were reported in February and March from Limpopo and KZN provinces respectively.

HPV self-sampling kits are cost-effective and improve screening rates

Contemporary OB/GYN | 3 April 2023

Mailing human papillomavirus (HPV) self-sampling kits to women overdue for cervical cancer screening is cost-effective and increases screening rates, according to a recent study published in JAMA Network Open. Worldwide, a reduction in cervical cancer incidence and mortality has been linked to cervical screening, as addressing precancers caused by high-risk HPV can prevent most cervical cancers. As HPV samples can be collected by both clinicians and individuals, HPV-only screening may be performed in homes. This reduces the need for office visits and addresses barriers to screening. Investigators performed an economic evaluation of the Home-Based Options to Make Cervical Cancer Screening Easy (HOME) trial, a study comparing mailed HPV self-sampling to in-clinic screening.

What's Next After Judge Blocks Coverage of Preventive Care for PrEP, HIV Tests?

Poz | 3 April 2023

On Thursday, March 30, a federal judge in Texas struck down the mandate that health insurance must cover many preventive health care services, including cancer and diabetes screenings, HIV tests and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent HIV. Immediately, HIV activists went on the offensive—planning a virtual town hall, for example—and by Friday the Department of Justice, under the Biden administration, appealed the ruling. “Preventive care is an essential part of health care: It saves lives, saves families money and improves our nation's health,” said Kamara Jones, a spokesperson for the Department of Health and Human Services, regarding the Texas ruling. “Actions that strip away this decade-old protection are backwards and wrong.” Next, the case will go to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The majority of the judges sitting on the court, reports CNBC, were appointed by Republican presidents.

Implants and Inserts Could Offer New HIV Prevention Option

Poz | 3 April 2023

Small implants placed under the skin and vaginal or rectal microbicide inserts could potentially offer convenient new options for HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), according to study results presented at the 30th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) in Seattle. One research team tested a refillable islatravir implant that could last for several years, while another team evaluated a biodegradable implant. Both protected female monkeys against vaginal infection with an HIV-like virus, and the refillable implant also protected male monkeys against rectal infection. Other researchers showed that fast-dissolving rectal or vaginal tablet inserts containing elvitegravir and tenofovir alafenamide (TAF) appear promising for on-demand protection.

Opinion: Shorter treatment regimens for TB offer hope, but await implementation

Spotlight | 3 April 2023

A global infectious disease killer existed long before COVID-19 and continues to wreak havoc on the lives of millions of people worldwide. Tuberculosis (TB) is a disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, which was responsible for the deaths of 1.6 million people in 2021. Unlike many bacterial infections that can be treated with several days of antibiotics, the standard treatment for TB lasts six months. Thankfully, in May 2021, researchers reported a new combination of drugs that worked as well as the standard course but can be taken for four months – a full two months shorter than the standard course.

First testosterone patch for menopausal women to begin clinical trials this year

The Guardian | 3 April 2023

The UK is to launch the world's first clinical trials of a new testosterone patch aimed at boosting libido in women with symptoms of the menopause, in a move researchers believe could transform lives globally. Testosterone is an essential hormone for women and its production drops heavily after menopause. Although testosterone creams and gels are available to help women with loss of sex drive in some countries, they have to apply the correct amount to their skin themselves, and in some cases have to use products originally designed for men. The products can also transfer to other surfaces or materials, such as clothing, once applied to the skin.

Face to face: “It's not about me, it's about the patient that I'm helping”, says head of trauma at Bara

Spotlight | 3 April 2023

Professor Rudo Mathivha speaks slowly and thoughtfully – a direct contradiction to the hive of activity around her at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital in Soweto, where she heads the bustling trauma unit. Mathivha became director of Baragwanath's Intensive Care Unit [ICU] in July 1999, holding her own in a white male-dominated space. Through a pioneering critical care training fellowship, she paved the way in this subspecialty for other women of colour.

Should you be worried about asymptomatic TB?

Bhekisisa | 3 April 2023

Our idea of what a tuberculosis (TB) patient normally looks like probably needs an update, says Emily Wong, an infectious diseases researcher at the Africa Health Research Institute in Durban. Until recently, scientists have said that you'll know you have active TB if you're losing weight, coughing all the time, or experiencing fever or night sweats. Active TB is the term health workers use to describe a TB infection that can no longer be contained by your immune system because the bacteria are replicating in your body too fast.

Key COVID Lessons: Nurture Healthworkers and Build Primary Care

Health Policy Watch | 3 April 2023

Strong primary health care, nurturing the health workforce and legal flexibility emerged as key COVID-19 lessons at a high-level roundtable at the Fifth Global Forum for Human Resources for Health, which opened on Monday. Chile gave its healthworkers life insurance, more holidays and extra pay during the pandemic, said Chilean health official Dr Raquel Child Goldenberg. "It was really important to have measures to protect health workers. They were stressed, and they had a hard workload," explained Goldenberg, Director of the Office of International Relations and Cooperation in the Ministry of Health.

Childhood TB: Failure in guidelines update leaves SA kids behind

Health-e News | 3 April 2023

Despite the availability of a new shorter treatment regimen for children with non-severe tuberculosis (TB), South African children are stuck with the longer six-month prescription. This is because the country failed to update guidelines for the management of childhood TB since 2013. In an interview with Health-e News, Dr Norbert Ndjeka, Chief Director of TB Control and Management at the National Department of Health says updating the guidelines took longer than expected.

Closing the data gaps in women's health

McKinsey and Company | 3 April 2023

Now more than ever, data is at the center of engagement and decision making. Healthcare and life sciences are no exception: data is central to discussions about public health and is core to enabling continued scientific advancement. The accelerated digitalization of healthcare during the pandemic has only expanded the amount of health-related data available—and cemented the key role that it plays in care delivery, disease prediction and diagnosis, biopharma and medtech innovation, and patient outcomes.

SA medical researchers dig deep in quest for improved lung cancer treatment

EWN | 3 April 2023

South African medical researchers are on a drive to enhance lung cancer treatment methods. Scientists at the iThemba Laboratories for Accelerator Based Science (LABS) in Cape Town recently zoned in on improving the treatment of non-small cell lung cancer. Statistics South Africa data shows between 2008 and 2018, cancer-related deaths in women increased by just over 34%, while mortalities in men went up by 24%. World Health Organization statistics show that lung cancer was the leading cause of cancer deaths globally accounting for more than 1,8 million fatalities in 2020.

Time is Tight for Pandemic Accord Negotiations, Tedros Acknowledges

Health Policy Watch | 3 April 2023

The fifth meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) to draft a pandemic accord started on Monday with acknowledgement by World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus that it faces a very tight timeframe. "There is now only one year until the World Health Assembly in May 2024, which will consider the outcome of your efforts," said Tedros. "This is a

very tight timeframe, especially for a global negotiation. But from what you have accomplished so far, I am confident again that you have the will and commitment to reach a consensus in 11 months.”

1 in 6 people globally affected by infertility: WHO

WHO | 4 April 2023

Large numbers of people are affected by infertility in their lifetime, according to a new report published today by WHO. Around 17.5% of the adult population – roughly 1 in 6 worldwide – experience infertility, showing the urgent need to increase access to affordable, high-quality fertility care for those in need. The new estimates show limited variation in the prevalence of infertility between regions.

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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!

The Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) – calling all public health champions!

PHASA is a voluntary organisation of individuals passionate about population health improvements and the reduction of health inequities, and whose work focuses on the prevention of disease, the promotion of health, and the improved functioning of the country's health care system. Are you passionate about improving the health and wellbeing of communities? Do you want to expand your professional network and stay current in the field of public health? Do you want to be part of the movement to improve Public Health? Then join the Public Health Association of South Africa today to make a difference and enhance your career!

As a member, you will:

- Gain access to cutting-edge research, resources, and best practices
- Connect with public health professionals from around the country
- Participate in educational events and conferences
- Contribute to shaping the future of public health
- Have access to mentors in the field
- Be at the forefront of advocacy initiatives.

To become a member, simply visit our [website](#) and complete the membership application. Don't miss this opportunity to advance your career and improve public health.

USAID High Potential Grants for NGO-led Development Projects in 2023

Deadline: 11 May 2023

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has launched new grant opportunities to support organizations, individuals, and communities worldwide. Check out the list below and start applying!

Sub-Saharan Africa Women in Science - Call for Application 2023

To submit applications/nominations for this program, you must be logged in to your account. If you are unable to access the form once you are logged in, please refer to the "How do I apply for a program?" section of the FAQ.

Call for Application: Africa CDC – Pathogen Genomics and Bioinformatics Fellowship Program

The Africa CDC – Pathogen Genomics and Bioinformatics Fellowship Program is a continental workforce development program targeting national public health institutions and laboratories in the African Union Member States to improve the use of pathogen genomic data for outbreak detection and disease surveillance. The fellowship program is implemented in partnership with the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM), and regional centers of excellence.

Who should apply:

The program is open to National public health institutes (NPHIs) and National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) personnel who wish to gain experience in NGS sequencing or analyzing pathogen genomic sequence data. Applicants should have a minimum of BSc degree and be a citizen of the African Union Member States.

Fellowship Program:

- The fellowship has two tracks – i) a wet-lab track focusing of end-to-end protocols for next-generation sequencing of pathogens; and ii) a dry-lab track with a focus on public health bioinformatics data analytics, interpretation, and reporting.
- The fellowship program aims to support technical experts and future leaders in public health pathogen genomics and bioinformatics in Africa.
- Training led by continent-based educational and professional subject matter experts
- Training at State-of-the-art facilities across the continent
- Multilingual fellowship program

The fellowship program has the following objectives:

- To train pathogen genomics and bioinformatics workforce to improve outbreak detection, investigation & disease surveillance in Africa
- To contribute to strengthening the prevention, preparedness, surveillance, and control of infectious diseases while supporting the implementation of Africa's New Public Health Order
- To contribute to knowledge and technology transfers and capacity building within and between African Union Member States

Potential candidates and host institutions:

- We are anticipating at least 25 fellows for the 2023 cohort
- 15 host institutions across Africa. Applicants should provide evidence of the host institution's agreement to accept the fellow for the duration of the fellowship period. Africa CDC and ASLM will support fellows to identify host institutions.
- Only complete applications shall be evaluated by an independent selection committee and the outcome communicated to the applicants

Before applying read the documents below:

More details on the fellowship program

- **Information Booklet – Arabic**
- **Information Booklet – English**
- **Information Booklet – French**
- **Information Booklet – Portuguese**

How to apply:

- All interested participants should fill in the online application form based on the selected languages:
- Application form – English – <https://bit.ly/3KrHk9P>
- Application form – French – <https://bit.ly/3Mi6sRJ>

Application deadline: Friday, April 28, 2023, 5:00 PM (EAT)

Start of the fellowship: June 2023

Contact Information: For all inquiries, please contact: **Africa CDC – Africa PGI Help Desk**

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2024: ALBERTINA SISULU EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM IN HEALTH (ASELPH) FELLOWSHIP
A UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT IN EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP**

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 30th June 2023

The Albertina Sisulu Executive Leadership Program in Health (ASELPH) is a unique collaborative program through the University of Pretoria that was jointly developed and initially implemented with contributions from the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health, and the National and Provincial Departments of Health in South Africa. A key aim is to improve the South African health system through the training of health workers to become exceptional executive leaders, who are better able to drive local health system strengthening and performance.

The Program is focussed on developing Executives (middle and senior health system managers or clinicians) for the unique environment and challenges of the South African health system; this 120 credit (1200 learning hours) postgraduate diploma covers modules in Leadership, Ethics, Strategic Planning, Health sector Transformation, Decentralization & health service re-engineering; Complex Problem Solving, Financial Management, Human Resources For Health, Quality Improvement, Strategic Marketing and Communication and Monitoring and Evaluation. Innovative teaching and learning approaches include peer learning, case study methodology, reflective learning and mentorship. Each Fellow completes a research project and 12 core and elective modules. These are provided through a hybrid learning approach which includes pre-module online work, a 3-day contact class per module at the University of Pretoria and post module assignments. In all, there are approximately 35 contact class days in 6 blocks (Mon-Sat) over a calendar year.

This is a call for applications for the 6th cohort of the Albertina Sisulu Executive Leadership Program in Health starting in January 2024 at the University of Pretoria. This is a part-time Postgraduate Diploma in Health Systems Management in Executive Leadership.

Target Group: Those in middle and senior management and leadership positions, including clinicians, in the health system are encouraged to apply. Applicants from NGOs, technical agencies and the private health sector are also welcome to apply for the training programme. Preference is for current public health sector employees.

Minimum Requirements for Admission are a three-year University Bachelor's Degree (NQF 7 or above) and a minimum of four years management experience in the health sector.

Partial or Full Tuition Bursaries may be available for public health sector employees, while it is anticipated that relevant Departments of Health will cover travel and accommodation costs. This includes applicants from provincial health services as well as municipal health services.

Preference is for current South African public health sector employees and will be for those who have not had any previous post graduate training in public health, management or leadership programs and/or those who have not benefited from any prior health sector financial support for any form of training.

Application and Selection Process: All SA public health sector officials eligible for consideration will be subjected to a joint Provincial DOH / ASELPH Recruitment, Interview and Selection process. Applications, together with supporting documents (ID, CV, motivation letter and copy of qualifications labelled with prospective applicant's student number) must be submitted online at:

https://upnet.up.ac.za/psc/upapply/EMPLOYEE/SA/c/UP_OAP_MENU.UP_OAP_LOGIN.GBL

For further information contact Mr Lesiba Mpati at lesiba.mpati@up.ac.za

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

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.

National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB, and STIs 2023-2028

The National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB, and STIs serves as a blueprint and roadmap to guide and inform the country's response to HIV, TB and STI epidemics. Through the implementation of the four previous National Strategic Plans, South Africa has made notable progress with respect to the HIV prevention and treatment programme, with over 5.7 million people on treatment. Of those on treatment and tested for viral load suppression, about 92% were virally suppressed, as of November 2022.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

World Health Day 2023: 75 years of improving public health

On 7 April 2023 – World Health Day – the World Health Organization will observe its 75th anniversary. In 1948, countries of the world came together and founded WHO to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable – so everyone, everywhere can attain the highest level of health and well-being. WHO's 75th anniversary year is an opportunity to look back at public health successes that have improved quality of life during the last seven decades. It is also an opportunity to motivate action to tackle the health challenges of today – and tomorrow. Join WHO on a journey to achieve Health For All. #HealthForAll #WHO75

Reaching the 95-95-95 targets: How can industry contribute?

Learning from both the success and failures towards reaching the 2020 targets is essential to increase the chance of ending AIDS as a global public health threat by 2030. Success will require commitment from all stakeholders in the HIV response. The Industry Liaison Forum at IAS – the International AIDS Society – is organizing a series of online roundtables to explore important gaps and how the biomedical industry can actively contribute to achieving the 95-95-95 target by 2025.

The series will have three events, each focusing on one of the specific 95-95-95 targets:

Session 1: "HIV testing strategies to reach key populations"

Session 2: "Ensuring linkage to and retention in care"

Session 3: "Overcoming global challenges: Achieving and sustaining viral suppression"

Time:

Apr 18, 2023 04:00 PM

May 4, 2023 04:00 PM

May 23, 2023 04:00 PM

Time shows in Zurich

The 5th Paediatric and Adolescent HIV Learning Collaborative for Africa (PAHLCA) Meeting in Maputo Mozambique

Dates: 7 - 8 May 2023

Time: 9:00pm - 5:00pm

The Paediatric and Adolescent HIV Learning Collaborative for Africa (PAHLCA) is hosting its first face-to-face event in Maputo from 7-8 May 2023. With the theme "Prevention of Vertical Transmission of HIV: A Key Pivot in Ending Paediatric HIV and AIDS," PAHLCA aims to:

1. Fostering learning, innovation, and collaboration among MOH programming teams and partners in African countries.
2. Providing a platform for sharing guidelines, implementation frameworks, curricula, toolkits, job aids, and client/caregiver information/education/communication materials that can be used to improve paediatric and adolescent HIV programs.
3. Maintaining an updated directory of Ministry of Health paediatric and adolescent HIV focal persons to facilitate communication, coordination, and sharing across countries.
4. Facilitating networking among country teams to form research collaborations for multi-country studies to improve paediatric and adolescent HIV services.

South African Nursing Council Indaba

Date: 18–19 May 2023

The South African Nursing Council (SANC) is pleased to welcome you to this key event where we will focus on The Future of Nursing. The SANC is a statutory body entrusted to set and maintain standards of Nursing Education and Practice in the Republic of South Africa, to protect the public. It is an autonomous, financially independent, statutory body operating under the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act No. 33 of 2005). The Council of the SANC is constituted in terms of the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act No. 33 of 2005). The tenure of the current and 16th Council of the SANC is from 2018 – 2023 and will end in August 2023. The Indaba program thus contains a focus on the milestones achieved by the 16th Council, and in addition, provides a wide variety of topics that affect Nursing as a whole.

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Enrolled Nurses: Global VAX Project

Closing Date: 2023-04-07

Vaccine Ambassadors (X14)

Closing Date: 2023-04-07

Data Capturers (6): Global VAX Project

Closing Date: 2023-04-10

Project Co-ordinator: Global VAX Project

Closing Date: 2023-04-10

Roving Pharmacist: uThukela District

Closing Date: 2023-04-13

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