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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

More talk than action: gender and ethnic diversity in leading public health universities

The Lancet | Published: 9 February 2019.

Mishal Sameer Khan, Fatim Lakha, Melisa Mei Jin Tan, Shweta Rajkumar Singh, Rina Yu Chin Quek, Emeline Han, See Mieng Tan, Victoria Haldane, et al

Improving the career progression of women and ethnic minorities in public health universities has been a longstanding challenge, which we believe might be addressed by including staff diversity data in university rankings. We present findings from a mixed methods investigation of gender-related and ethnicity-related differences in career progression at the 15 highest ranked social sciences and public health universities in the world, including an analysis of the intersection between sex and ethnicity. Our study revealed that

clear gender and ethnic disparities remain at the most senior academic positions, despite numerous diversity policies and action plans reported.

Effectiveness of 24-h mobile reporting tool during a malaria outbreak in Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

BMC Malaria Journal | Published: 21 February 2019.

Craig Davies, Rebecca Graffy, Mbavhalelo Shandukani, Ednah Baloyi, Laura Gast, Gerdalize Kok, Frans Mbokazi, Alpheus Zita et al

As surveillance is a key strategy for malaria elimination in South Africa, ensuring strong surveillance systems is a National Department of Health priority. Historically, real time tracking of case trends and reporting within 24 h—a requirement in South Africa’s National surveillance guidelines—has not been possible. To enhance surveillance and response efficiency, a mobile surveillance tool, MalariaConnect, was developed using Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) technology. It was rolled out in health facilities in malaria endemic areas of South Africa to provide 24-h reporting of malaria cases.

The prevalence of religiosity and association between religiosity and alcohol use, other drug use, and risky sexual behaviours among grade 8-10 learners in Western Cape, South Africa

PlosOne | Published: 13 February 2019.

Joel Msafiri Francis , Bronwyn Myers, Sebenzile Nkosi, Petal Petersen Williams, Tara Carney, Carl Lombard, Elmarie Nel, Neo Morojele

Alcohol and other drug use (AOD) and risky sexual behaviours remain high among adolescents in South Africa and globally. Religiosity influences, mitigates and provides resilience against engaging in risky behaviours among young people but few South African studies have explored potential associations between religiosity, AOD use and risky sex. We report the prevalence of religiosity and association between religiosity and AOD use and risky sexual behaviours among learners in the Western Cape Province, South Africa.

A trauma-informed substance use and sexual risk reduction intervention for young South African women: a mixed-methods feasibility study

BMJ Open | Published: 3 February 2019.

Bronwyn Myers, Tara Carney, Felicia A Browne, Wendee M Wechsberg

Sexual and physical trauma and substance use are intersecting risks for HIV among young women. This study assesses the feasibility, acceptability and preliminary effects of a novel trauma-informed substance use and sexual risk reduction intervention for young South African women. Sixty women, between 18 and 25 years of age, who reported trauma exposure, substance use and recent condom-less sex were recruited. Twenty participants were randomly selected for qualitative interviews.

“I don’t want them to know”: how stigma creates dilemmas for engagement with Treat-all HIV care for people living with HIV in Eswatini

African Journal of AIDS Research | Published: 19 February 2019.

Shona Horter, Sarah Bernays, Zanele Thabede, Velibanti Dlamini, Bernhard Kerschberger, Munyaradzi Pasipamire, Barbara Rusch, Alison Wringe

“Treat-all” programmes aim to improve clinical outcomes and to reduce HIV transmission through regular HIV testing and immediate offer of antiretroviral therapy (ART) for those diagnosed HIV-positive, irrespective of immunological status and symptoms of disease. Global narratives on the benefits of Treat-all anticipate reduced HIV-related stigma and increased “normalisation” of HIV with Treat-all implementation, whereby HIV is remoulded as a manageable, chronic condition where stigmatising symptoms can be concealed.

Improving estimates of district HIV prevalence and burden in South Africa using small area estimation techniques

PlosOne | Published: 22 February 2018.

Steve Gutreuter, Ehimario Igumbor, Njeri Wabiri, Mitesh Desai, Lizette Durand

Many countries, including South Africa, have implemented population-based household surveys to estimate HIV prevalence and the burden of HIV infection. Most household HIV surveys are designed to provide reliable estimates down to only the first subnational geopolitical level which, in South Africa, is composed of nine provinces. However HIV prevalence estimates are needed down to at least the second subnational level in order to better target the delivery of HIV care, treatment and prevention services. Our purpose is demonstration of the efficacy of relatively simple small-area estimation of HIV prevalence in the 52 districts of South Africa using data from the South African National HIV Prevalence, Incidence and Behavior Survey, 2012, district-level HIV prevalence estimates obtained from testing of pregnant women who attended antenatal care (ANC) clinics in 2012, and 2012 demographic data.

Repeat HIV testing practices in the era of HIV self-testing among adults in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

PlosOne | Published: 22 February 2019.

Charlene Harichund, Pinky Kunene, Sinenhlanhla Simelane, Quarraisha Abdool Karim, Mosa Moshabela

Repeat HIV testing is important in high HIV burden communities to enable sustainability of prevention initiatives; however, an understanding of repeat testing practices is limited. Additional HIV testing approaches may be required to increase testing. HIV self-testing is an additional testing approach, but knowledge on its potential for repeat testing is limited. This study explored repeat HIV testing practices and uptake of HIV self-testing among repeat testers, following exposure to HIV self-testing. HIV testing practices were explored at two time points.

HBV vaccination and PMTCT as elimination tools in the presence of HIV: insights from a clinical cohort and dynamic model

BMC Medicine | Published: 21 February 2019.

Anna L McNaughton, José Lourenço, Louise Hattingh, Emily Adland, Samantha Daniels, Anriette Van Zyl, Connie S Akiror, Susan Wareing, et al

Sustainable Development Goals set a challenge for the elimination of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection as a public health concern by the year 2030. Deployment of a robust prophylactic vaccine and enhanced interventions for prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) are cornerstones of elimination strategy. However, in light of the estimated global burden of 290 million cases, enhanced efforts are required to underpin optimisation of public health strategy. Robust analysis of population epidemiology is particularly crucial for populations in Africa made vulnerable by HIV co-infection, poverty, stigma and poor access to prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Why fixing Africa's data gaps will lead to better health policies

The Conversation Africa | 26 February 2019.

There's been a data revolution around the world driven by advances in information technology and a need for research that responds to complex developmental issues.

Countries are spending more on health, but people are still paying too much out of their own pockets

World Health Organisation | 20 February 2019.

Spending on health is growing faster than the rest of the global economy, accounting for 10% of global gross domestic product (GDP). A new report on global health expenditure from the World Health Organization (WHO) reveals a swift upward trajectory of global health spending, which is particularly noticeable in low- and middle-income countries where health spending is growing on average 6% annually compared with 4% in high-income countries.

A new law was supposed to protect South Africans' privacy. It may block important research instead

Science | 20 February 2019.

To probe causes of cardiovascular disease, Michèle Ramsay of the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg takes volunteers' personal history, blood, and urine and looks for genes or stressors that might help predict hypertension or stroke. She also asks volunteers for permission to share their data with other scientists and to make them available for future studies, in what's called broad consent—a standard request from some big databases in Europe and the United States. A decade from now, her data and samples could help answer a host of new questions.

Government to introduce warning labels on unhealthy food

Health-e News | 21 February 2018.

Packaged food that is high in salt, sugar and fat may soon have to carry warning labels, according to a top health official.

'Soda taxes work'

Health-e News | 26 February 2019.

Sugary drink consumption has been slashed by more than half, three years after the city of Berkeley introduced a levy on these products.

Stellenbosch builds world class institute to investigate deadly diseases

GroundUp | 15 February 2019.

Stellenbosch University has started building a new Biomedical Research Institute which will investigate diseases that have the greatest impact on South Africa and the rest of Africa.

This R1 billion-facility, which will be completed in 2022, will be one of the most innovative and advanced biomedical research centres in Africa. It will be based at the university's Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences in Tygerberg.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Disclosure of HIV Status Toolkit for Pediatric and Adolescent Populations

Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation | January 2019.

The objective of this toolkit is to provide general guidance on disclosure of HIV status in pediatric and adolescent HIV care. This document contains tools for use in clinical practice to build the capacity of health care workers, caregivers, and pediatric and adolescent patients themselves—in assisting with and delivering successful and informed disclosure. It is primarily targeted for use among health care workers.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Public Spending on Health: A Closer Look at Global Trends

World Health Organisation | 20 February 2019.

The 2018 global health financing report presents health spending data for all WHO Member States between 2000 and 2016 based on the SHA 2011 methodology. It shows a transformation trajectory for the global spending on health, with increasing domestic public funding and declining external financing. This report also presents, for the first time, spending on primary health care and specific diseases and looks closely at the relationship between spending and service coverage.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Meeting the Challenges of MDRTB

22-14 March 2019

Wolfson Pavilion, University of Cape Town Medical School, South Africa

Email: Roxanne.Adams@uct.ac.za

Building Children's Nursing for Africa Conference

16-18 April 2019

The River Club, Observatory, Cape Town, South Africa

Africa Health

28-30 May 2019

Gallagher Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

NACOSA : 2x District Officer

Closing Date: 3 March 2019

TB HIV Care : Human Resources Executive

Closing Date: 4 March 2019

ICAP Power of Peers Project: 3x vacancies

Closing Date: 8 March 2019

Sonke Gender Justice: Communication and Strategic Information (CSI) Unit Manager

Closing Date: 15 March 2019

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