

HST Bulletin_10 February 2023

[View this email in your browser](#)

CATEGORIES

[Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles](#)[Recent Public Health News](#)[Training and Resources](#)[Publications and Reports](#)[Conferences and Events](#)[Job Opportunities](#)

ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Interventions to enhance psychological resilience in forcibly displaced children: a systematic review

BMC | 1 February 2023

Aya Thabet, Sonia Ghandi, Erin Barker, Geroge Rutherford, & Mohsen Malekinejad

Children represent nearly 40% of forcibly displaced populations and are subject to stressors that affect well-being. Little is known about the effects of interventions to enhance psychological resilience in these children, outside clinical settings.

Intimate partner violence and associated factors among HIV positive women attending antiretroviral therapy clinics in Gondar city, Northwest Ethiopia

BMC | 1 February 2023

Intimate partner violence against women is a behavior within an intimate relationship that causes sexual, physical, or psychological harm to the women. It occurs among all socioeconomic, religious, and cultural groups in all settings, and affects the health of women, families, and the community at large. Determining the magnitude and determinants of intimate partner violence against HIV positive women could help to design preventive and control strategies. However, there is a dearth of information regarding the magnitude and determinants of intimate partner violence against HIV positive women in Ethiopia. Thus, this study aimed to assess the magnitude and associated factors of intimate partner violence against HIV positive women in Gondar city, Northwest Ethiopia.

Severe Maternal Morbidity and Mortality in Sickle Cell Disease in the National Inpatient Sample, 2012-2018

JAMA Open Network | 2 February 2023

Macy Early, Ahizechukwu Eke, Alison Gemmill, Sophie Lanzkron, Lydia Pecker

Pregnancy outcomes are historically poor among people with sickle cell disease (SCD) in the US, most of whom have Black race. Whether outcomes have improved is unknown.

Colonialism, malaria, and the decolonization of global health

PLOS Glob Public Health | 3 February 2023

Bump Aniebo

This paper explores the decolonization of global health through a focus on malaria and European colonialism in Africa. We employ an historical perspective to better articulate what “colonial” means and to specify in greater detail how colonial ideas, patterns, and practices remain an obstacle to progress in global health now. This paper presents a history of malaria, a defining aspect of the colonial project. Through detailed analysis of the past, we recount how malaria became a colonial problem, how malaria control rose to prominence as a colonial activity, and how interest in malaria was harnessed to create the first schools of tropical medicine and the academic specialization now known as global health. We discuss how these historical experiences shape malaria policy around the world today. The objective of this paper is to advance discussion about how malaria and other aspects of global health could be decolonized, and to suggest directions for future analysis that can lead to concrete steps for action.

Effects of Kisspeptin on Sexual Brain Processing and Penile Tumescence in Men With Hypoactive Sexual Desire Disorder

A Randomized Clinical Trial

JAMA Open Network | 3 February 2023

Edouard Mills, Natalie Ertl, Matthew Wall, Layla Thurston, Lisa Yang

The human physiological sexual response is crucial for reward, satisfaction, and reproduction. Disruption of the associated neurophysiological pathways predisposes to low sexual desire; the most prevalent psychological form is hypoactive sexual desire disorder (HSDD), which affects 8% of men but currently has no effective pharmacological treatment options. The reproductive neuropeptide kisspeptin offers a putative therapeutic target, owing to emerging understanding of its role in reproductive behavior.

Pregnancy and neonatal safety outcomes of timing of initiation of daily oral tenofovir disoproxil fumarate and emtricitabine pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention (CAP016): an open-label, randomised, non-inferiority trial

The Lancet HIV | 3 February 2023

The safety of tenofovir disoproxil fumarate and emtricitabine as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in pregnant women not living with HIV is uncertain. We aimed to compare pregnancy and neonatal outcomes in women exposed and not exposed to PrEP during pregnancy.

A framework for improving diabetes care in humanitarian emergencies

The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology | 3 February 2023

Sylvia Kehlenbrink, Kiran Jobanputra

More than 100 million people were forcibly displaced from their homes due to conflict and violence in 2022, a historic number that is expected to increase this year. Additionally, a mean of approximately 200 million people are affected by natural disasters each year. Low-income and middle-income countries (LMICs) not only host more than 80% of people who have been forcibly displaced but are also home to most people with diabetes globally. Most crises are protracted, with the mean duration of displacement ranging from 10 years to 26 years, and humanitarian organisations provide long-term primary care to local and displaced populations. However, diabetes care is inadequate and largely neglected in humanitarian settings. In 2019, the Boston Declaration was signed by more than 40 organisations, emphasising this crucial gap and setting a shared agenda to improve diabetes care in humanitarian settings over the following 3 years.

Global cancer: overcoming the narrative of despondency

The Lancet | 4 February 2023

Editorial

It is easy to become despondent about global cancer. Feb 4 marks World Cancer Day, and renewed calls to “close the cancer care gap”. But the worldwide inequities in cancer care and control are deeply rooted. The facts are stark. Childhood cancer survival rates, for example, are more than 80% in high-income countries versus 20% in low-income countries. These disparities arise from huge differences across cancer prevention and care—in exposure to risk factors, in availability of public health programmes, and in access to diagnostics and treatments—compounded by growing cancer incidence. High-quality cancer services, including radiotherapy, complex surgeries, and novel treatments demand huge developments in infrastructure, workforce, education, and training, at potentially dizzying costs. Delivering them in countries

with weak health systems is a daunting task. But there are pragmatic steps that can be taken.

Provider perspectives on service delivery modifications to maintain access to HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis during the COVID-19 pandemic: qualitative results from a PrEP implementation project in Kenya

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 5 February 2023

Jennifer Velloza, Stephanie D Roche, Emmah J Owidi, Elizabeth M Irungu, Annabell Dollah, et al.

HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is an essential prevention strategy being scaled up for priority populations in Kenya, including for HIV serodiscordant couples. The COVID-19 pandemic posed challenges to PrEP rollout. We conducted a qualitative study of PrEP providers to understand how clinics adjusted PrEP delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic.

HIV prevalence and associated risk factors among young tertiary student men who have sex with men (MSM) in Nairobi, Kenya: a respondent-driven sampling survey

AIDS Research and Therapy | 6 February 2023

Samuel Waweru Mwaniki, Peter Mwenda Kaberia, Peter Mwangi Mugo & Thesla Palanee-Phillips

Young men who have sex with men (MSM), are a key population at higher risk of HIV infection yet they are underrepresented in research. We conducted a bio-behavioral survey to estimate HIV prevalence and associated risk factors among tertiary student MSM (TSMMSM) in Nairobi, Kenya.

Breastfeeding: crucially important, but increasingly challenged in a market-driven world

The Lancet Breastfeeding Series | 7 February 2023

In this Series paper, we examine how mother and baby attributes at the individual level interact with breastfeeding determinants at other levels, how these interactions drive breastfeeding outcomes, and what policies and interventions are necessary to achieve optimal breastfeeding. About one in three neonates in low-income and middle-income countries receive prelacteal feeds, and only one in two neonates are put to the breast within the first hour of life. Prelacteal feeds are strongly associated with delayed initiation of breastfeeding. Self-reported insufficient milk continues to be one of the most common reasons for introducing commercial milk formula (CMF) and stopping breastfeeding. Parents and health professionals frequently misinterpret typical, unsettled baby behaviours as signs of milk insufficiency or inadequacy. In our market-driven world and in violation of the WHO International Code for Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, the CMF industry exploits concerns of parents about these behaviours with unfounded product claims and advertising messages. A synthesis of reviews between 2016 and 2021 and country-based case studies indicate that breastfeeding practices at a population level can be improved rapidly through multilevel and multicomponent interventions across the socioecological model and settings. Breastfeeding is not the sole responsibility of women and requires collective societal approaches that take gender inequities into consideration.

Acceptability and retention of the key population-led HIV treatment service for men who have sex with men and transgender women living with HIV in Thailand

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 9 February 2023

Sita Lujintanon, Sorawit Amatavete, Prattana Leenasirimakul, Jantana Meechure, Preudtipong Noopetch, et al.

In Thailand, where the HIV epidemic is concentrated among key populations (KPs), particularly men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender women (TGW), an HIV service delivery model tailored to KPs was piloted. This study evaluated the acceptability and retention of clients who accepted and declined the KP-led HIV treatment service.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

In South Africa, Much More Than an Investment in HIV

Think Global Health 27 January 2023

Quarraisha Abdool Karim, professor in clinical epidemiology at Columbia University, and president of The World Academy of Sciences, spoke with Think Global Health about the arc of HIV/AIDS-fighting efforts in

South Africa, her home country. She also discussed her research and leadership over the past thirty-four years, how PEPFAR and the Global Fund have altered South Africa's health landscape, and the final lap in the battle to eradicate HIV/AIDS.

Hospital trust wins court case to treat baby whose mother refused HIV medication

Northants | 1 February 2023

An NHS trust won permission to give medication to a newborn baby whose mother is HIV positive in an effort to prevent the child from carrying the virus. Kettering General Hospital NHS Trust applied to the High Court over concerns the mother might decline the 28-day treatment for her baby after she refused similar herself during her pregnancy. The mother said the anti-retroviral drugs made her feel sick and dizzy and, despite attending hospital to take them during her pregnancy, had eventually declined to take them. Mr Justice Hayden found she had a "deep rooted and pervasive" concern about their impact on her baby. He found she "manifestly [wanted] the best for her baby and her objections to medication should not be construed otherwise". The baby, who cannot be identified, was born last month and treated immediately after being born.

African leaders unite in pledge to end AIDS in children

WHO | 1 February 2023

Ministers and representatives from twelve African countries have committed themselves, and laid out their plans, to end AIDS in children by 2030. International partners have set out how they would support countries in delivering on those plans, which were issued at the first ministerial meeting of the Global Alliance to end AIDS in children. The meeting hosted by the United Republic of Tanzania, marks a step up in action to ensure that all children with HIV have access to life saving treatment and that mothers living with HIV have babies free from HIV. The Alliance will work to drive progress over the next seven years, to ensure that the 2030 target is met. Currently, around the world, a child dies from AIDS related causes every five minutes. Only half (52%) of children living with HIV are on life-saving treatment, far behind adults of whom three quarters (76%) are receiving antiretrovirals. In 2021, 160 000 children newly acquired HIV. Children accounted for 15% of all AIDS-related deaths, despite the fact that only 4% of the total number of people living with HIV are children.

Major gaps in access to tests for fungal infections in Africa

Aidsmap | 1 February 2023

Serious gaps in the capacity to diagnose life-threatening fungal infections in Africa mean that people with advanced HIV may not receive treatment for AIDS-related illnesses such as cryptococcal meningitis and pneumocystis pneumonia, a 48-country survey reports in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*. The survey found that only 25% of people in Africa had routine access to cryptococcal antigen testing and 78% had access to diagnostic testing for pneumocystis jirovecii pneumonia (previously known as pneumocystis carinii, or PCP), one of the most common AIDS-defining illnesses. Symptoms of both infections are often mistaken for other illnesses, delaying treatment that could prevent the progression of either condition.

People outside eastern and southern Africa were least likely to have access to these tests. Even in countries that have made greater investments in laboratory capacity using HIV-related donor funding, some essential tests were rarely available, the survey found.

Major gaps in access to tests for fungal infections in Africa

Aidsmap | 1 February 2023

Serious gaps in the capacity to diagnose life-threatening fungal infections in Africa mean that people with advanced HIV may not receive treatment for AIDS-related illnesses such as cryptococcal meningitis and pneumocystis pneumonia, a 48-country survey reports in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*. The survey found that only 25% of people in Africa had routine access to cryptococcal antigen testing and 78% had access to diagnostic testing for pneumocystis jirovecii pneumonia (previously known as pneumocystis carinii, or PCP), one of the most common AIDS-defining illnesses. Symptoms of both infections are often mistaken for other illnesses, delaying treatment that could prevent the progression of either condition.

People outside eastern and southern Africa were least likely to have access to these tests. Even in countries that have made greater investments in laboratory capacity using HIV-related donor funding, some essential tests were rarely available, the survey found.

South Africans urged to go for regular cancer screening and testing for early

detection

IOL | 1 February

The Deputy Minister of Health Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo said cancer was the second leading cause of death globally. Dhlomo said this on World Cancer Awareness Day which is held annually on February 4 to raise awareness, improve education and increase access to life-saving cancer treatment. As the day was commemorated across the globe on Saturday, it was under the theme #CloseTheCareGap. He said lung, prostate, colorectal, stomach and liver cancer were the most common types of cancer in men. He said breast, colorectal, lung, cervical and thyroid cancer were the most common among women.

'I punched him on his potatoes': Meet the grannies fighting back against GBV

Bhekisisa | 1 February

- Korogocho is one of Nairobi's most dangerous slums, where rape and robbery are common. Beatrice Nyariara is helping women aged 55 to 90 to fight back.
- Elderly women in this area are often targeted because of a belief among some young men that having sex with an older woman can cleanse people of their sins.
- Gender-based violence (GBV) is so common in this community that people's screams for help are often disregarded, but Nyariara's classes are changing that.

World Cancer Day: Why young women may be at a disadvantage in early detection

IOL | 2 February 2023

Hoosain worries that breast cancer diagnoses do occur in young women. Although the danger of developing breast cancer increases rapidly with age, in South Africa, one in six breast cancer cases affects women under the age of 40. Albeit its prevalence is lower than with women in older age groups, it cannot be ruled out. Breast cancer is one of the most common forms of cancer for South African women of all races, with a lifetime risk.

WHO Turns 75 and Looks to the Future

Health Policy Watch | 2 February 2023

The world has changed since the World Health Organization (WHO) was founded 75 years ago. Established as the specialized health agency of the United Nations in 1948, WHO has played a critical role in addressing global health challenges, disease control, and providing health services to neglected populations ever since. This week, global health leaders gathered for a panel alongside the agency's 152nd Executive Board meeting to discuss the future direction. Vast advances in medical science mean that the challenges the WHO faces today are different from those in its past, but not any less numerous. From climate change to growing global economic inequalities, to pandemics like COVID-19, global health is under attack on all fronts.

HIV incidence in sub-Saharan Africa 'appears low,' but rates remain 'staggering'

Healio | 2 February 2023

Despite some progress being made, sub-Saharan Africa remained a hot spot for new HIV infections, with approximately 689,000 new infections annually among HIV-negative adults between 2015 and 2019, according to data pooled from 15 countries. "We were surprised that there [were] no empirical data characterizing HIV incidence in sub-Saharan Africa," Nora E. Rosenberg, PhD, MSP, associate professor in the Gillings School of Global Public Health's department of health behavior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, told Healio.

Young kids watch porn. Waiting to talk to them about sex when they're teens is unwise, warns expert

Drum | 2 February 2023

Studies show that children who openly talk to their parents about sex are more likely to delay having sex and will use protection when they become sexually active. This is according to Johannesburg-based counselling psychologist Lerato Mokgethi who speaks to Drum from her Boksburg office. For a long time, the conversation about sex has been couched in moral terms, warning girls to keep their virginity for the "right man". There's a huge danger in trying to dissuade children from having sex by using scare tactics, and experience has taught many of us that if children do not get the right advice from parents, they will often take advice from their peers.

FDA Approves Trodelvy to Treat Most Common Breast Cancer Subtype

Everyday health | 3 February 2023

Patients with the most common subtype of breast cancer have a new treatment option. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has expanded its approval of the oncology drug sacituzumab govitecan (Trodelvy) to include advanced hormone receptor (HR)–positive, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2)–negative (HR-positive/HER2-negative) tumors. The FDA approved Trodelvy for adults with advanced HR-positive/HER2-negative breast cancer that can't be completely removed with surgery and that hasn't been eradicated by chemotherapy or endocrine therapy that's designed to interfere with hormones that fuel tumor growth, according to Gilead Sciences, the company that developed the drug. R-positive/HER2-negative tumors are the most common subtype of breast cancer, according to the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Nearly all patients survive at least five years when this type of breast cancer is caught very early, and more than 90 percent of them live this long when tumors have only spread to some surrounding tissue near the breast, according to the NCI.

Three things to know about cervical cancer in Malawi

Médecins Sans Frontières | 3 February 2023

Cervical cancer accounts for 37 per cent of new cancer cases among women in Malawi. Since 2018, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has been working to reduce the incidence of cervical cancer and bring down deaths related to the disease in the districts of Blantyre and Chiradzulu. Our head of mission in Malawi, Marion Péchayre, explains how. Our interest in cancer is the result of a combination of factors. In low-income countries, epidemiological projections suggest a decline in infectious diseases and a simultaneous rise in chronic diseases such as cancer.

SANBS battles strained blood stocks

The SANBS | 3 February 2023

The state of the nation's blood stocks is significantly low and the South African National Blood Service (SANBS) urgently calls on South Africans to give blood to help meet the heightened demand.

Not counted: clinical trials of new HIV treatments are failing women

Aidsmap | 3 February 2023

The low representation of women in clinical trials has led to some efficacy and safety differences between men and women being missed, reports Dr Shuang Zhou of the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA). African-American women were particularly underrepresented in clinical trials of new antiretrovirals. Women make up the majority of people with HIV globally, but there is a chronic underrepresentation of cisgender women in antiretroviral clinical trials. This lack of representation results in sex-based differences being unknown. Some side effects, such as weight gain and rashes, have been reported more frequently by female patients. All drugs must be approved by regulators such as the FDA before they can be used by the general population. Before a drug is approved it needs to be developed through different clinical trial phases. Phase III recruits a large group of people to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of a new treatment, compared to what is currently available.

Fauci talks HIV vaccine research after most recent trial failure: 'I don't give up on it'

Yahoo News | 4 February 2023

In an interview with Yahoo News, Dr. Anthony Fauci discussed the state of HIV vaccine research after the recent failure of a late-stage trial funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. There's no question that vaccines have become a divisive topic. Thanks to vaccine hesitancy, fueled in part by politicization of the COVID-19 vaccine, now even diseases once thought to be afflictions of the past, like polio and measles, are creeping back up in pockets of the U.S. But there is a vaccine, if ever discovered, that would be greeted with enthusiasm — at least among those most at risk, according to Dr. Anthony Fauci, who until recently led the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

International study led by UKZN professor confirms effectiveness of PrEp in HIV negative pregnant women

News 24 | 4 February 2023

The University of KwaZulu-Natal's (UKZN) Professor Dhayendre Moodley has led an international study that confirms the safe use of tenofovir disoproxil fumarate/emtricitabine as pre-exposure prophylaxis

(PrEP) in pregnant HIV negative women. Until 2019, pregnant and lactating women in South Africa did not receive the PrEP roll-out due to a lack of safety data on its use in pregnancy. Unprotected sex and hormonal changes, among other factors, expose pregnant women to a higher risk of HIV infection. This was despite a 2018 study which found that women in two prevention studies were nearly three times more likely to become infected with HIV during pregnancy and four times as likely six months post-partum compared with the risk of HIV infection at other times, the SA Medical Research Council (SAMRC) said.

Time to Step Up and Fight Cancer in Africa

Health Policy Watch | 4 February 2023

Cancer kills nearly 10 million people a year, but the risk of dying from cancer varies greatly depending on where in the world you live. About 70% of these deaths are in low- and middle-income countries – and the disparity is worsening. A Lancet Oncology Commission report, published in May 2022, highlights that, in Africa, cancer deaths are expected to more than double, reaching roughly 1.4 million deaths annually by 2040. Meanwhile, in the U.S., the latest American Cancer Society statistics point to a 28-year, 32% decline in cancer deaths.

New initiative fights neglected tropical disease

South coast Herald | 5 February 2023

An international group of leading researchers visited Port Shepstone Regional Hospital in connection with World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day last Monday. They are connected to BRIGHT Academy in Shelly Beach which will serve as a headquarter for a new four-year project. It will introduce groundbreaking technology for diagnosis of Female Genital Schistosomiasis (FGS), one of the most neglected tropical diseases affecting millions of people in Africa including the Ugu District. The researchers are from Mozambique, Swaziland, Norway, Greece and South Africa. Professor Fortunate Shabalala of the University of Eswatini (UNESWA) said people are rarely checked for FGS. She said it is more common in women but men can also be affected. “Most women will present symptoms that are similar to Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STIs) or cancer.” Shabalala said long term presence of the disease in the body creates high risks of contracting HIV.

Nigeria: HIV Prevention Drug - Experts Call for Inclusion of Pregnant, Breastfeeding Mothers

AllAfrica | 5 February 2023

WHO described PrEP as the use of an anti-retroviral medication by HIV-negative people to reduce the use of HIV acquisition. The inclusion of pregnant and breastfeeding women in the HIV clinical trial intervention for Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) is important to curb the spread of the virus. This was the consensus during a five-day virtual training organised by the New HIV Vaccine and Microbicide Advocacy Society (NHVMAS) to educate journalists on developments in the fight against HIV and how to address existing gaps. Speaking during the training, the Executive Director of NHVMAS, Florita Durueke, said pregnant and breastfeeding women have a substantial risk of HIV infection, hence their involvement in trials is paramount. Ms Durueke said there is a need to develop ethical guidelines for the inclusion of these groups of persons. She said the World Health Organisation (WHO) has developed a framework that allows pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers to participate in research, especially in phase two.

PrEp 'safe for pregnant women living with HIV

The Witness | 6 February 2023

An international study has confirmed the safety of tenofovir disoproxil fumarate and emtricitabine as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in pregnant women not living with HIV. The study was led by the University of KwaZulu-Natal's (UKZN) Professor Dhayendre Moodley. Until December 2019, pregnant and lactating women were excluded from the PrEP roll-out in SA on the basis of the absence of safety data for its use in pregnancy. The CAP016 PrEP study was conducted in Durban, between 2017 and 2019. Initially, 693 pregnant women were screened and 540 were randomly assigned to immediate PrEP (n=271) or deferred PrEP (n=269). The study aimed to assess pregnancy outcomes and frequency of maternal and neonatal adverse events in pregnant women randomly assigned to initiate PrEP in the second trimester of pregnancy (14-28 weeks) or initiate PrEP after cessation of breastfeeding.

Aids council crafts male engagement strategy for HIV

Chronicle | 6 February 2023

The National Aids Council (Nac) has produced a male engagement strategy for HIV to help address the unique challenges faced by men. The country has made tremendous progress in the fight against HIV and Aids which has seen a decline in new infections. The target is to end as a public health threat by 2030. On Friday, Nac met stakeholders involved in the fight against HIV and Aids from Matabele North Province to present the male engagement strategy for HIV. In an interview after the presentation of the male strategy, Nac monitoring and evaluation Mr Amon Mpofu said HIV affect man differently hence the need to come up with strategy specifically directed at them.

Explainer: What is female genital mutilation?

UNICEF | 6 February 2023

An estimated 200 million girls and women worldwide have undergone some form of female genital mutilation (FGM) – many before the age of 15. Despite being internationally recognized as a human rights violation, FGM persists for various reasons. No matter where or how it is performed, FGM causes extreme physical and psychological harm. What reduces child marriage and poverty? Ask Zimbabwe's young chess queens

PODCAST | 'We've failed as clinicians': This HIV doctor is changing how he treats overweight patients. Here's why

Mail and Guardian | 6 February 2023

- The HIV treatment dolutegravir doesn't cause weight gain, research shows. So what's really happening? It's a combination of factors.
- One reason is that dolutegravir isn't as harsh as older antiretrovirals (ARVs), so it doesn't cause weight loss. Researchers think the weight gain is a sign that someone is getting better on ARVs. Then, they're experiencing the same issues that many other South Africans do because they don't have easy access to healthy food.
- Meanwhile, the medical establishment is grappling with its cruel treatment of obese people, who are often labelled "lazy" when the biggest reasons for weight gain aren't in people's control (for a range of reasons such as genetics and structural problems such as poverty). HIV doctor Francois Venter explains why the treatment of overweight people reminds him of the bad old days of the HIV epidemic.

What reduces child marriage and poverty? Ask Zimbabwe's young chess queens

Bhekisisa | 6 February 2023

While the international chess community reels from a major cheating row, in a bare classroom in a small rural town in Zimbabwe, 10-year-old Grace Zvarebwa sits on an upturned bucket, crouched over a board made of card, pondering her next move. After a few minutes, she checkmates her opponent's king to win the match. Grace is training for a pan-African schools chess tournament in Liberia, where she hopes to represent her club, the Queens of Chivhu. She is one of its star players. Since taking up the sport three years ago, she has won 15 medals — 10 gold, three silver and two bronze — in tournaments around the country.

Inspiring chat with Dr Pam Ntshangase-Mpanza who speaks cervical cancer prevention on International Day of Women and Girls in Science and beyond

Health Systems Trust | 8 February 2023

Every year, on 11 February, the United Nations (UN) celebrates the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. This year, in the spirit of promoting health, education and applauding the remarkable strides made by women and girls in science, the Health Systems Trust's Communications Unit interviewed Dr Nompumelelo Pamela Ntshangase-Mpanza – a gynaecologist by profession who was born in Durban's Inanda township, and who now serves as the Project Manager for HST's Cervical Cancer Prevention, Access and Control (CCPAC) programme in KZN's Zululand District in support of the Department of Health (KZN DoH).

[Return to Top](#)

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!

Building resilience against pandemics just got a boost!

The Pandemic Fund Governing Board approved \$300million in financing for its first round of funding to help developing countries better prepare for and respond to future pandemics. The Fund is also inviting interested eligible countries and Implementing Entities to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) for potential projects to be supported by this initial funding.

Did you know PrEP is for women, too?

HIV Medicine Association

PrEP is a highly effective option to prevent HIV when taken as prescribed. This National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, learn more about adding #PrEP to your sexual health toolbox: <https://buff.ly/40n3Fve>

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

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.

Ritshidze's second 'State of Healthcare for Key Populations' report is out!

Ritshidze is a community-led monitoring system developed by organisations representing people living with HIV including the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC), the National Association of People Living with HIV (NAPWA), Positive Action Campaign, Positive Women's Network (PWN) and the South African Network of Religious Leaders Living with and affected by HIV/AIDS (SANERELA+) — in alliance with Health GAP, amfAR, and the O'Neill Institute.

Have your say on the draft Action Agenda from the #UHC2030 movement!

With action-oriented policy recommendations & concrete milestones, which will inform the 2023 UHC political declaration negotiation. #UHCHLM

Give your feedback here: <https://t.co/RUIEySUyz>

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

The Lancet Summit - Childhood obesity: consequences across the life course

March 2-3, 2023 | Virtual | Free to attend

In partnership with the World Health Organization, UNICEF and the World Obesity Federation. Join us online for the Lancet Summit - Childhood obesity: consequences across the life course.

Resilient Health Systems for Africa: Re-envisioning the Future Now

For seven years Amref Health Africa, together with like-minded partners have been hosting the Africa Health Agenda International Conference (AHAIC), a biennial high impact convening that brings together diverse stakeholders from around the world to discuss challenges and opportunities for improving health in Africa.

Date: March 5th - 8th 2023

Venue: Kigali Convention Centre, Rwanda

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING (HSS) UNIT: GENETIC COUNSELLOR – Pregnancy Exposure Registries (Per) Project

Closing date: 13 February 2023

[\(Return to Top\)](#)



Copyright © 2019 HEALTH SYSTEMS TRUST, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

hst@hst.org.za

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)