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HST IN THE NEWS

South African Health Review 2020: Call for Abstracts

Closing Date: 31 October 2019.

The call for abstracts for the 2020 edition of the SAHR is open. The theme for this edition is *equitable health care for people with disabilities in South Africa*. Abstracts providing fresh insights into health systems strengthening efforts for equitable health care for Persons with Disabilities are particularly sought. Overall, the 2020 edition will represent an evidence base which can be used to strengthen health systems and services and to inform future policy development in disability and health in South Africa. Preference will be given to manuscripts that take into account the complexities and opportunities for developing and sustaining inclusive health systems, especially in the context of universal health coverage.

ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

What if communities held the solutions for universal health coverage?

BMC Infectious Diseases of Poverty | Published: 5 September 2019.

John C Reeder, Marie-Paule Kieny, Rosanna Peeling, François Bonnici

This commentary highlights the value of community-engaged social innovations to advance health care delivery in low- and middle-income countries and to accelerate universal health coverage. It emphasizes the importance of research to guide the innovators on what works, what does not work to make their innovations sustainable and to replicate and scale them up as relevant. It also helps to demonstrate impact and to enhance uptake within the health systems.

Working in partnership with communities to improve health and research outcomes. Comparisons and commonalities between the UK and South Africa

Primary Health Care Research & Development | Published: 10 September 2019.

Patricia Wilson, Azwihangwisi Helen Mavhandu-Mudzusi

Community and public participation and involvement is an underpinning principle of primary health care, an essential component of a social justice-orientated approach to health care and a vehicle to improving health outcomes for patients, public and communities. However, influenced by history and context, there are intrinsic issues surrounding power imbalance and other barriers to partnerships between communities, public, policy makers and researchers. It is important to acknowledge these issues, and through doing so share experiences and learn from those working within very different settings.

Measuring and improving the quality of tuberculosis care: A framework and implications from the Lancet Global Health Commission

Journal of Clinical Tuberculosis and Other Mycobacterial Diseases | Published: August 2019.

Catherine Arseneault, Sanam Roder-DeWan, Margaret E Kruk

In this article, we describe the framework of the Lancet Global Health Commission on High Quality Health Systems, propose new and undermeasured indicators of TB care quality, and discuss implications of the Commission's key conclusions for measuring and improving the quality of TB care services. The Commission contends that measurement of quality should focus on the processes of care and their impacts. In addition to monitoring treatment coverage and the availability of tools, governments should consider indicators of clinical competence (for e.g. ability of providers to correctly diagnose TB and adhere to treatment guidelines), of timely, continuous and integrated care and of respectful and patient-centered care.

Development of a tool for assessing quality of comprehensive care provided by community health workers in a community-based care programme in South Africa

BMJ Open | Published: 5 September 2019.

Frances Griffiths, Olukemi Babalola, Celia Brown, Julia de Kadt, Hlologelo Malatji, Margaret Thorogood, Yu-hwei Tseng, Jane Goudge

[This study aimed to] develop a tool for use by non-clinical fieldworkers for assessing the quality of care delivered by community health workers providing comprehensive care in households in low- and middle-income countries. [The authors] determined the content of the tool using multiple sources of information, including interactions with district managers, national training manuals and an exploratory study that included observations of 70 community health workers undertaking 518 household visits collected as part of a wider study. [The authors] also reviewed relevant literature, selecting relevant domains and quality markers. To refine the tool and manual [the authors] worked with the fieldworkers who had undertaken the observations. Two scores summarising key aspects of care were constructed: (1) delivering messages and actions during household visit, and (2) communicating with the household; [the authors] also collected contextual data. The fieldworkers used the tool with community health workers in a different area to test feasibility.

Progression to type 2 diabetes mellitus and associated risk factors after hyperglycemia first detected in pregnancy: A cross-sectional study in Cape Town, South Africa

Plos Medicine | Published: 9 September 2019.

Tawanda Chivese, Shane A Norris, Naomi S Levitt

Global data indicate that women with a history of hyperglycemia first detected in pregnancy (HFDP) are at up to 7 times risk of progressing to type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) compared with their counterparts who have pregnancies that are not complicated by hyperglycemia. However, there are no data from the sub-Saharan African region, which has the highest projected rise in diabetes prevalence globally. The aim of this study was to determine the proportion of women who progress to T2DM and associated risk factors 5 to 6 years after HFDP in Cape Town, South Africa.

Long-term adherence to antiretroviral therapy in a South African adult patient cohort: a retrospective study

BMC Infectious Diseases | Published: 5 September 2019.

Atika Moosa, Tanuja N Gengiah, Lara Lewis, Kogieleum Naidoo

South Africa has the highest HIV prevalence and supports the largest antiretroviral therapy (ART) programme globally. With the introduction of a test and treat policy, ensuring long term optimal adherence to ART ($\geq 95\%$) is essential for successful patient and public health outcomes. The aim of this study was to assess long-term ART adherence to inform best practices for chronic HIV care.

Integrated provision of topical pre-exposure prophylaxis in routine family planning services in South Africa: a non-inferiority randomized controlled trial

Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 11 September 2019.

Leila E Mansoor, Nonhlanhla Yende-Zuma, Cheryl Baxter, Kathryn T Mngadi, Halima Dawood, Tanuja N Gengiah, Natasha Samsunder, Jill L Schwartz, et al

Tenofovir-containing oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is recommended for those at substantial risk as part of combination HIV prevention. However, there are limited data, beyond clinical trial settings, to guide the introduction of PrEP in healthcare services with adequate levels of adherence. Since young women in Africa are at high risk of HIV and likely to utilize family planning (FP) services, the feasibility, acceptability and effectiveness of integrating topical PrEP provision into routine FP services was assessed.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

David Sanders (1945-2019) and the Struggle for Right to Health

NewsClick | 4 September 2019.

David Sanders, who passed away on August 30, was passionate about participatory socialist democracy as a way to improve health and reduce inequality.

Gauteng Health MEC 100 Days: ‘The challenges are well known, but they aren’t insurmountable’

Health-e News | 10 September 2019.

The Gauteng health department’s progress report on its new leadership includes some key achievements such as appointing 14 CEOs in the province’s hospitals and an app to deal with patient complaints.

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: ‘Drinking helped me forget my painful life’

Health-e News | 10 September 2019.

Speaking to Health-e News, women share their first-hand experience about having babies with foetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD). We also hear from a nurse, a shebeen owner, and the department of health.

SA men four times more likely to commit suicide than women, WHO report finds

BD Live | 9 September 2019.

SA Depression and Anxiety Group calls for better education, improving prevention measures, and ending stigma about phenomenon on World Suicide Prevention Day.

Bacteria developing new ways to resist antibiotics, doctors warn

The Guardian | 11 September 2019.

Bacteria are increasingly developing ways of resisting antibiotics, threatening a future in which patients

could become untreatable, doctors have warned. Over the last decade scientists in the UK studying samples from patients have identified 19 new mechanisms of antibiotic resistance.

Malaria Eradication Feasible by 2050, Says New Lancet Report

Health Policy Watch | 9 September 2019.

A new Lancet Commission report calls for health policy leaders to agree upon an ambitious global plan to eradicate malaria by 2050 – contrasting with a World Health Organization report released in August that concluded it was too early to set a target date for eradication.

Is setting a deadline for eradicating malaria a good idea? Scientists are divided

Science | 27 August 2019.

In 2007, philanthropists Bill and Melinda Gates stunned many scientists when, at a meeting in Seattle, Washington, they called for the worldwide eradication of malaria. Many felt malaria was so entrenched—there were almost 250 million cases annually—and so difficult to fight that any talk of eradication was premature. But it's hard to ignore two of the world's most generous funders, and both the World Health Organization (WHO) and researchers embraced the idea. Soon, a flurry of working groups, scientific papers, and public health strategies were laying the groundwork.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

The Global Fund Data Explorer

The Global Fund | 2019.

Explore data on investments and results in the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria around the world. The Global Fund invests in smart, effective health programs to end AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as epidemics. The Data Explorer visualizes where [these] investments are and what they achieve by providing grant financial and results data at global, regional and country levels.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Contraceptive eligibility for women at high risk of HIV: Guidance statement - Recommendations on contraceptive methods used by women at high risk of HIV

World Health Organisation | 29 August 2019.

The World Health Organization (WHO) convened a Guideline Development Group (GDG) meeting from 29 to 31 July 2019 to review global guidance on contraceptive eligibility for women at high risk of HIV acquisition to determine whether revisions to the fifth edition of the Medical eligibility criteria for

contraceptive use (MEC) were needed. The issue was deemed critical, particularly for sub-Saharan Africa, given the high lifetime risk of acquiring HIV alongside the importance of hormonal contraception in offering women and adolescent girls' choice and in reducing their risk of unintended pregnancy, a common threat to the health, well-being and lives of women and adolescent girls.

Malaria eradication: benefits, future scenarios and feasibility

WHO Strategic Advisory Group on Malaria Eradication | 23 August 2019.

After its 3-year study of trends and future projections for the factors and determinants that underpin malaria, the Strategic Advisory Group on Malaria Eradication (SAGme) reaffirms that eradication is a goal worth pursuing, likely to save millions of lives and billions of dollars. However, with our current tools, we are far from a malaria-free world. In its executive summary, SAGme calls for more investment in research and development of new tools and approaches to fight malaria, stronger universal health coverage so that everyone can access the services they need, and better surveillance to guide a more targeted malaria response.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

3rd National Pharmacy Conference

3-6 October 2019

Sun City, South Africa

Ending the Emergency: Science, Leadership, Action - The 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health

30 October - 2 November 2019

Hyderabad, India

Principles of Tuberculosis Care and Prevention: Translating Knowledge to Action

16-26 March 2020

Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Health Systems Trust: Field Office Manager

Closing Date: 16 September 2019

Health Systems Trust: Phlebotomists

Closing Date: 18 September 2019

Health Systems Trust: Area Monitoring and Evaluation Officers

Closing Date: 18 September 2019

Health Systems Trust: Financial Controller

Closing Date: 20 September 2019

Health Systems Trust: Grants and Compliance Officer

Closing Date: 20 September 2019

Health Systems Trust: Risk and Compliance Officer

Closing Date: 20 September 2019

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