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## ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

### **The Science of Durban, AIDS 2016**

*Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 30 June 2017.*

*Chris Beyrer, Olive Shisana, Stefan D Baral, Koleka Milsana, Kenneth H Mayer, Anton Pozniak, Bruce D Walker, Souleymane Mboup, et al*

The science presented at the 21st International AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa, in July 2016, addressed the state of the field across basic, clinical, prevention, law and policy and implementation science. The AIDS response has seen remarkable achievements in scientific advances, in translation of those advances into prevention, treatment and care for affected individuals and communities, and in large scale implementation – reaching 18 million people with antiviral therapy by mid-year 2016. Yet incident HIV infections in adults remain stubbornly stable and are increasing in some regions and among adolescents and adults in some key populations, challenging current science, policy and programming. There have been important advances in both preventive vaccines and in cure research, but both areas require ongoing investment and innovation.

### **Diabetes in sub-Saharan Africa: from clinical care to health policy**

*The Lancet | Published: 5 July 2017.*

*Prof Rifat Atun, Justine I Davies, Edwin A M Gale, Prof Till Bärnighausen, David Beran, Andre Pascal Kengne, Naomi S Levitt, Florence W Mangugu, et al.*

Rapid demographic, sociocultural, and economic transitions are driving increases in the risk and prevalence of diabetes and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in sub-Saharan Africa. The impacts of these transitions and their health and economic consequences are evident. Whereas, in 1990, the leading causes of death in sub-Saharan Africa were HIV/AIDS, lower respiratory infections, diarrhoeal diseases, malaria, and vaccine-preventable diseases in children, in more recent years, cardiovascular diseases and their risk factors are replacing infectious diseases as the leading causes of death in this

region, and rates of increase of cardiovascular risk factors are predicted to be greater in sub-Saharan Africa than in other parts of the world.

### **Understanding how domestic health policy is integrated into foreign policy in South Africa: a case for accelerating access to antiretroviral medicines**

*Global Health Action | Published: 7 July 2017.*

*Simon Moeketsi Modisenyane, Stephen James Heinrich Hendricks, Harvey Fineberg*

South Africa, as an emerging middle-income country, is becoming increasingly influential in global health diplomacy (GHD). However, little empirical research has been conducted to inform arguments for the integration of domestic health into foreign policy by state and non-state actors. This study seeks to address this knowledge gap. It takes the form of an empirical case study which analyses how South Africa integrates domestic health into its foreign policy, using the lens of access to antiretroviral (ARV) medicines.

### **Evaluations of training programs to improve human resource capacity for HIV, malaria, and TB control: a systematic scoping review of methods applied and outcomes assessed**

*Tropical Medicine and Health | Published: 1 July 2017.*

*Shishi Wu, Imara Roychowdhury, Mishal Khan*

Owing to the global health workforce crisis, more funding has been invested in strengthening human resources for health, particularly for HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria control; however, little is known about how these investments in training are evaluated. This paper examines how frequently HIV, malaria, and TB healthcare provider training programs have been scientifically evaluated, synthesizes information on the methods and outcome indicators used, and identifies evidence gaps for future evaluations to address.

### **Big Data and Population Health: Focusing on the Health Impacts of the Social, Physical, and Economic Environment.**

*Epidemiology | Published: 7 July 2017.*

*Howard Hu, Sandro Galea, Laura Rosella, David Henry*

The growing abundance of data on the factors that produce health, and the capacity to link these to data from individuals, hold extraordinary promise for improving population health. Although public health is built on a long history of creatively using health data going back to the pioneering work of John Snow and William Farr, the full potential of contemporary rich data sources is not being fully realised. Instead, the impact of this revolution is being seen mainly in the burgeoning precision medicine agenda, globally, and through the Precision Medicine Initiative (PMI) in the U.S.A. In that context, linkage of omics data to phenotypic information from health records is being exploited as new research platforms, with the hope that this will transform clinical practice. Similar momentum has not yet been achieved for the population health sciences.

### **Long-Acting Injectable Antiretrovirals for PrEP: Will the tail wag the drug?**

*AVAC | Published: 7 June 2017.*

*Mark Mascolini, Emily Bass*

A medicine you get only every two months to reduce your risk of acquiring HIV sounds like a great deal. And that could be an option in the future. But only if two big efficacy trials of long-acting injectable cabotegravir (CAB-LA) show that it is safe and effective. The strategy in question is one shot of this long-acting antiretroviral (ARV) in the buttocks every 8 weeks. The questions the two trials are asking are whether this type of PrEP is safe and well tolerated and whether it will help shield trial participants—women, men who have sex with men (MSM), and transgender women (TGW)—from HIV.

### **Setting Performance Standards for a Cost-Effective Human Immunodeficiency Virus Cure Strategy in South Africa**

*Open Forum Infectious Diseases | Published: 22 April 2017.*

*A David Paltiel, Amy Zheng, Milton C Weinstein, Melanie R Gaynes, Robin Wood, Kenneth A Freedberg, Paul E Sax, Rochelle P Walensky*

Reports of a single case of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) eradication suggest that elimination of

HIV from individuals is possible. Anticipating both increased research funding and the development of effective, durable cure technologies, we describe the circumstances under which a cure might improve survival and be cost-effective in South Africa.

## **Going door-to-door to reach men and young people with HIV testing services to achieve the 90–90–90 treatment targets**

*Public Health Action | Published: 21 June 2017.*

*E Geoffroy, E Schell, J Jere, N Khozomba*

[A study] to examine the effectiveness of door-to-door (DtD) testing in reaching young people and men in a remote, rural area with a high prevalence of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection.

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## **RECENT NEWS**

### **How access to knowledge can help universal health coverage become a reality**

*The Conversation | 29 June 2017.*

The World Health Organisation's Director-General Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus has set universal health coverage as one of the main priorities for his term. But Ghebreyesus's goal is a challenging one, especially for low and middle income countries which make up around 84% of the world's population. Yet they only have access to half the physicians and a quarter of the nurses that high income countries have access to.

### **Essential medicines shortage hit Gauteng**

*Health-E News | 6 July 2017.*

Gauteng hospitals and clinics are not receiving all the vital and essential medicines they need, with the problem being particularly bad on the East Rand.

### **Why competition is key to cutting the cost of cancer drugs in South Africa**

*The Conversation | 22 June 2017.*

South Africa's Competition Commission has launched an investigation into excessive pricing by three major pharmaceutical companies that have the sole rights to distribute cancer drugs in the country.

### **Dozens of gynaecologists are expected to shut down this year. This could stop that.**

*Bhekisisa | 10 July 2017.*

Skyrocketing medico-legal claims threaten to cripple South Africa's public and private health sectors as specialists face exorbitant litigation. Without drastic intervention, experts warn, health care could soon become unaffordable – or unavailable. Meanwhile, legal experts say mediation could be a solution hiding in plain sight.

### **Support and counselling critical in helping pregnant women adhere to ART**

*Medical Brief | 5 July 2017.*

Lack of social support after diagnosis and inadequate counselling were identified as key reasons for dropping out of HIV care after starting antiretroviral treatment during pregnancy, Malawian women living with HIV told researchers in a qualitative study.

### **RIP Prudence Mabele, iconic AIDS activist**

*Health-E News | 11 July 2017.*

One of South Africa's key AIDS activists, Prudence Mabele, passed away this week from complications relating to tuberculosis. She reflected on her life in this interview with Health-e in late 2016.

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## **TRAINING AND RESOURCES**

## **GVADATA**

*United Nations | 2017.*

Across all international organizations, data is hard to find, rarely coordinated, search tools are limited in their range, and resources are often focused on single issues. Users have not had a platform from which to browse the full repository of data that exists. The aim of GVADATA is to radically transform this. The Geneva Data Portal allows users to search across information platforms by using variables such as Global Goals, thematic areas, organizations, and type of information. Databases, reports, factsheets, maps, country profiles, infographics, photos, videos, and more data formats are included. Information is also customized to suit certain users as new resources have been designed for the media, academia, and speechwriters. The value of Geneva Data is its power to cut through different fields, thematic areas, and mobilize all actors of International Geneva.

## **Webinar: Developing Gender-Sensitive M&E Systems: A review of guidelines on how to integrate gender into an M&E framework and system assessment**

*MEASURE Evaluation | 3 August 2017.*

Join MEASURE Evaluation for a webinar on developing gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems. The webinar will take place August 3 at 11:00am EDT (17:00 in South Africa) and will be led by MEASURE Evaluation's Samantha Herrera and Debra Prosnitz. In this webinar, the presenters will discuss the importance of applying a gender lens to M&E processes and structures and how to think about gender in the context of the development of an M&E system.

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## **PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS**

### **A Practical Guide To Implementing Community-Based HIV-Prevention Services: Experiences shared and lessons learned from South Africa**

*Desmond Tutu TB Centre (DTTC) at Stellenbosch University | June 2017.*

The guide, which includes case studies, tips, photographs, training materials and an accompanying video, was funded by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Each chapter focuses on a different aspect of implementation, from engaging with stakeholders and communities to how to set up teams and conduct HIV testing services that integrate important other services including screening for TB, sexually transmitted infections and non-communicable diseases.

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## **CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

### **Public talk: Intimate partner violence among pregnant women in low-income countries – A case study of Rwanda**

Thursday, 20 July 2017

HEARD, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Westville Campus, J Block, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

### **9th IAS Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2017)**

23-26 July 2017

Palais des Congrès, 2 Place de la Porte Maillot, Paris, France

### **PHASA Conference 2017 (The Public Health Association of South Africa)**

4-7 September 2017

The Indaba Hotel, Spa and Conference Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa

### **Rural Health Conference 2017**

22-25 September 2017

Taung Hotel School & Convention Centre, North West Province, South Africa

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## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

### **Beyond Zero: 2x Clinical Advisor**

Closing Date: 21 July 2017

### **CHIVA: Deputy Country Director**

Closing Date: 28 July 2017

### **SFH (Society for Family Health): Director of Non Medicals Programmes**

Closing Date: 30 July 2017

### **Iris House Children's Hospice: Care Team Manager**

Closing Date: 1 August 2017

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