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## HST IN THE NEWS

### **South African Health Review 2019 Call for Abstracts: Now Open**

The editors are pleased to announce that the call for abstracts for the 2019 edition of the SAHR is now open. Abstracts providing fresh insights into health systems strengthening efforts supporting the realisation of universal health coverage in South Africa are particularly sought. Preference will be given to manuscripts that take cognisance of the World Health Organization's six building blocks for an effective, efficient and equitable health system.

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## ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

### **“If you are here at the clinic, you do not know how many people need help in the community”: Perspectives of home-based HIV services from health care workers in rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa in the era of universal test-and-treat**

*PlosOne* | Published: 9 November 2018.

*Delphine Perriat, Mélanie Plazy, Dumile Gumede, Sylvie Boyer, Deenan Pillay, François Dabis, Janet Seeley, Joanna Orne-Gliemann*

Limited engagement in clinic-based care is affecting the HIV response. We explored the field experiences and perceptions of local health care workers regarding home-based strategies as opportunities to improve the cascade of care of people living with HIV in rural South Africa as part of a Universal Test-and-Treat approach.

### **Understanding the Time Needed to Link to Care and Start ART in Seven HPTN 071 (PopART) Study Communities in Zambia and South Africa**

*AIDS and Behaviour* | Published: 10 November 2018.

*Janet Seeley, Virginia Bond, Bliya Yang, Sian Floyd, David MacLeod, Lario Viljoen, Mwelwa Phiri, Melvin Simuyaba, et al*

To achieve UNAIDS 90:90:90 targets at population-level, knowledge of HIV status must be followed by timely linkage to care, initiation and maintenance of antiretroviral therapy (ART) for all people living with HIV (PLHIV). Interpreting quantitative patterns using qualitative data, we investigate time taken to link to care and initiate ART amongst individuals aware of their HIV-status in high HIV-prevalence urban communities in the HPTN 071 (PopART) study, a community-randomised trial of a combination HIV prevention package, including universal testing and treatment, in 21 communities in Zambia and South Africa.

### **12-month outcomes of HIV-infected infants identified at birth at one maternity site in Johannesburg, South Africa: an observational cohort study**

*The Lancet* | Published: 8 November 2018.

*Karl-Günter Technau, Renate Strehlau, Faezah Patel, Stephanie Shiau, Megan Burke, Martie Conradie, Gillian Sorour, Prof Gayle G Sherman, et al*

Initiation of antiretroviral therapy (ART) following diagnosis of HIV infection at birth is an emerging area of paediatric HIV care. We present outcomes of HIV-infected infants identified at birth at Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital in Johannesburg, South Africa. From September, 2013 (era 1), only high-risk HIV-exposed infants were offered diagnostic HIV PCR tests at birth. From June, 2014 (era 2), all HIV-exposed infants were offered laboratory-based diagnostic PCR tests. From October, 2014 (era 3), point of care (POC) diagnostic PCR tests were also done if staff availability allowed. We describe time to ART initiation, mortality, retention in care, and viral suppression among the HIV-infected infants identified

across these eras.

### **Patients' perspectives of acceptability of ART, TB and maternal health services in a subdistrict of Johannesburg, South Africa**

*BMC Health Services Research* | Published: 7 November 2018.

*Blaise Joy Bucyibaruta, John Eyles, Bronwyn Harris, Gaëtan Kabera, Kafayat Oboirien, Benon Ngyende*

The field of acceptability of health services is emerging and growing in coherence. But there are gaps, including relatively little integration of elements of acceptability. This study attempted to analyse collectively three elements of acceptability namely: patient-provider, patient-service organisation and patient-community interactions. Mixed methods were used to analyse secondary data collected as part of the Researching Equity in Access to Health Care (REACH) study of access to tuberculosis (TB) treatment, antiretroviral therapy (ART) and maternal health (MH) services in South Africa's public health sector.

### **Ability to use oral fluid and fingerstick HIV self-testing (HIVST) among South African MSM**

*PlosOne* | Published: 8 November 2018.

*Sheri A Lippman, Hailey J Gilmore, Tim Lane, Oscar Radebe, Yea-Hung Chen, Nkuli Mlotshwa, Kabelo Maleke, Albert E Manyuchi, James McIntyre*

HIV self-testing (HIVST) may increase HIV testing uptake, facilitating earlier treatment for key populations like MSM who experience barriers accessing clinic-based HIV testing. HIVST usability among African MSM has not been explored.

We assessed usability of oral fluid (OF) and fingerstick (FS; blood) HIVST kits during three phases among MSM with differing degrees of HIVST familiarity in Mpumalanga, South Africa.

### **Effect on longevity of one-third reduction in premature mortality from non-communicable diseases by 2030: a global analysis of the Sustainable Development Goal health target**

*The Lancet* | Published: December 2018.

*Bochen Cao, Freddie Bray, André Ilbawi, Isabelle Soerjomataram*

To curb the rising global burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include a target to reduce premature mortality from NCDs by a third by 2030. A quantitative assessment of the effect on longevity of meeting this target is one of the many important measures needed to advocate and inform national disease control policies. We did a global analysis to estimate improvements in average expected years lived between 30 and 70 years of age that would result from meeting the SDG target.

### **The problem or the solution? Early fertility and parenthood in the transition to adulthood in Khayelitsha, South Africa**

*Reproductive Health Matters* | Published: 9 November 2018.

*Alison Swartz, Colvin Christopher, Abigail Harrison*

In South Africa, early fertility and adolescent pregnancy have become a central focus of both political and public health concerns. In this article, we explore the ways that young men and women use their fertility and parenthood to navigate the transition from childhood to adulthood. For these young people, the persistence of poverty, the lack of employment, and the lack of employment opportunities. This article draws on ethnographic data collected between 2014 and early 2016 with young adults (17-25 years) in Town Two, Khayelitsha.

### **Identification of patients with recent-onset psychosis in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa: a pilot study with traditional health practitioners and diagnostic instruments**

*Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology* | Published: 9 November 2018.

*W Veling, JK Burns, EM Makhathini, S Mtshemla, S Nene, S Shabalala, N Mbatha, A Tomita, et al*

There is considerable variation in epidemiology and clinical course of psychotic disorders across social and geographical contexts. To date, very little data are available from low- and middle-income countries. In sub-Saharan Africa, most people with psychoses remain undetected and untreated, partly due to lack of formal health care services. This study in rural South Africa aimed to investigate if it is possible to identify individuals with recent-onset psychosis in collaboration with traditional health practitioners (THPs).

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## **RECENT NEWS**

### **Diabetes 'will destroy the economy of this country'**

*Health-e News* | 14 November 2018.

Local doctors say that if prevention efforts aren't ramped up, diabetes-related costs to society – especially amputations – will become completely unaffordable.

### **Trying to prevent and diagnose HIV at the same time – a Catch-22?**

*Daily Maverick* | 7 November 2018.

The doctors were puzzled by the fact that it wasn't quite HIV. If it became HIV they could treat it. If it didn't become HIV and went away they could discharge him. But this just being short of HIV all the time confused them.

### **Love & other drugs: Men could make all the difference in keeping your baby HIV free**

*Bhekisisa* | 12 November 2018.

Men can help to prevent new HIV infections by showing up for their partners. Here's how.

### **Healthcare in protest: The state should heed the desperation**

*Bhekisisa* | 14 November 2018.

Violent protests at health facilities haven't only uncovered failings, they have revealed the interconnected nature of the rights we aspire to live.

### **First cholera case recorded at a Limpopo clinic**

*Health-e News | 13 November 2018.*

The Provincial Department of Health has urged people to be vigilant and practice proper hygiene and sanitation practices, after a cholera case was recorded in Alldays, in Blouburg as a migrant farm worker believed to be from Zimbabwe working and living in the area tested positive for cholera.

### **UK gives 'landmark' £200m to improve contraceptive access in Africa and Asia**

*The Guardian | 13 November 2018.*

Funding comes as figures show international efforts to expand family planning services by 2020 are falling far short of targets.

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## **TRAINING AND RESOURCES**

### **WHO HTS Info app**

*World Health Organisation | November 2018.*

The first WHO guidelines app, "WHO HTS Info", from the Department of HIV, was launched at the International AIDS Conference in Amsterdam in July 2018. This app provides easy, on-the-go access to current HIV testing services (HTS) guidelines and information on your smartphone or tablet, whether you are online or offline. This story summarizes how the app was developed and highlights its key features and plans.

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## **PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS**

### **A healthier humanity: the WHO investment case for 2019-2023**

*World Health Organisation | 2018.*

This investment case describes how a stronger, more efficient and results oriented WHO can serve and guide governments and partners in their efforts to improve the health of their populations and to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 3.

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## **CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

**9th South African Child Health Priorities conference**

29 November - 1 December 2018  
University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

**Africa Health Conference 2018**

28-10 May 2018  
Gallagher Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa

**SA AIDS Conference 2018**

11-14 June 2018  
International Convention Centre, Durban, South Africa

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## **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

Please click on the job title for more information.

**Health Systems Trust: Senior Researcher (Tuberculosis Clinical Trial Lead)**

Closing Date: 26 November 2018

**OUT: Registered Nurse x 3**

Closing Date: 27 November 2018

**Bulungula Incubator: Community Nurse**

Closing Date: 30 November 2018

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