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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

Emergence of three general practitioner contracting-in models in South Africa: a qualitative multi-case study

BMC International Journal for Equity in Health | Published: 5 October 2018.

Linda Mureithi, James Michael Burnett, Adam Bertscher, René English

The general practitioner contracting initiative (GPCI) is a health systems strengthening initiative piloted in the first phase of national health insurance (NHI) implementation in South Africa as it progresses towards universal health coverage (UHC). GPCI aimed to address the shortage of doctors in the public sector by contracting-in private sector general practitioners (GPs) to render services in public primary health care clinics. This paper explores the early inception and emergence of the GPCI. It describes three models of contracting-in that emerged and interrogates key factors influencing their evolution.

“My future is bright...I won't die with the cause of AIDS”: ten-year patient ART outcomes and experiences in South Africa

Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 14 October 2018.

Cheryl J Hendrickson, Sophie J S Pascoe, Amy N Huber, Aneesa Moolla, Mhairi Maskew, Lawrence C Long, Matthew P Fox

South Africa is moving into a new era of HIV treatment with “treat all” policies where people may be on treatment for most of their lives. We need to understand treatment outcomes and facilitators of long-term antiretroviral treatment (ART) adherence and retention-in-care in the South African context. In one of the first studies to investigate long-term treatment outcomes in South Africa, we aimed to describe ten-year patient outcomes at a large public-sector HIV clinic in Johannesburg and explore patient experiences of the treatment programme over this time in order to ascertain factors that may aid or hinder long-term adherence and retention.

Determinants of disclosure and non-disclosure of HIV-positive status, by pregnant women in rural South Africa

SAHARA-J: Journal of Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS | Published: 16 October 2018.

Shandir Ramlagan, Gladys Matseke, Violeta J. Rodriguez, Deborah L. Jones, Karl Peltzer, Robert A.C. Ruiter, Sibusiso Sifunda

Disclosure of HIV status remains one of the major challenges to the effectiveness of the prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV in rural areas in South Africa. This study aimed at assessing the determinants of HIV status disclosure among HIV infected pregnant women who have disclosed their HIV status to someone, as well as among those who have disclosed to their partners.

Establishing Standards to Evaluate the Impact of Integrating Digital Health into Health Systems

Global Health: Science and Practice | Published: 6 October 2018

Alain Labrique, Lavanya Vasudevan, William Weiss and Kate Wilson

The rapid and global growth of mobile phone use in the last decade has enabled health system and development innovators to leverage digital health strategies in low-resource settings to alleviate persistent health system challenges. From supply chain management to frontline health-worker training, digital strategies have demonstrated varying degrees of promise. Despite the pervasiveness of these digital innovations, there has been rampant criticism of limited evidence to support their effectiveness.

Outbreak of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis in South Africa undetected by WHO-endorsed commercial tests: an observational study

The Lancet | Published: 17 October 2018.

Ndivhuho A Makhado, Edith Matabane, Mauro Faccin, Claire Pinçon, Agathe Jouet, Fairouz Boutachkourt, Léonie Goeminne, Cyril Gaudin, et al

Global roll-out of rapid molecular assays is revolutionising the diagnosis of rifampicin resistance, predictive of multidrug-resistance, in tuberculosis. However, 30% of the multidrug-resistant (MDR) strains in an eSwatini study harboured the Ile491Phe mutation in the rpoB gene, which is associated with poor rifampicin-based treatment outcomes but is missed by commercial molecular assays or scored as susceptible by phenotypic drug-susceptibility testing deployed in South Africa. We evaluated the presence of Ile491Phe among South African tuberculosis isolates reported as isoniazid-monoresistant according to current national testing algorithms.

Development of a trauma-informed substance use and sexual risk reduction intervention for young South African women

Patient Preference and Adherence | Published: 4 October 2018.

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

[The aim of this study was] to develop a trauma-informed substance use and sexual risk reduction intervention for young South African women at risk of HIV. Guided by the ADAPT-ITT framework for intervention development, [researchers] selected four focus groups (n=26) to assess the service needs and preferences of trauma-exposed young women (aged 18–25 years) who use substances. Findings were used to develop a needs-based and contextually appropriate intervention. In addition four focus groups (n=30) were selected to explore potential service users' views of this intervention and recommendations for improving acceptability and appeal. Expert stakeholders were also consulted.

Estimating the cost of vaccine development against epidemic infectious diseases: a cost minimisation study

The Lancet | Published: 17 September 2018.

Dimitrios Gouglas, Tung Thanh Le, Klara Henderson, Aristidis Kaloudis, Trygve Danielsen, Nicholas Caspersen Hammersland, James M Robinson, Penny M Heaton, John-Arne Røttingen

The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations was established in 2016, to develop vaccines that can contribute to preparedness for outbreaks of epidemic infectious diseases. Evidence on vaccine

development costs for such diseases is scarce. Our goal was to estimate the minimum cost for achieving vaccine research and development preparedness targets in a portfolio of 11 epidemic infectious diseases, accounting for vaccine pipeline constraints and uncertainty in research and development preparedness outcomes.

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RECENT NEWS

President Cyril Ramaphosa to address the Presidential Health Summit

The Presidency | 15 October 2018.

President Cyril Ramaphosa will lead the government delegation to the two-day Presidential Health Summit that will be convened on Friday and Saturday, 19 and 20 October 2018 at the Birchwood Hotel in Boksburg, Gauteng.

Why the NHI is such a big deal

Business Day | 18 October 2018.

The proposed health-care scheme is an opportunity for SA to craft a more egalitarian society, says expert.

Support app helps new SA nurses become more skilled and confident

Medical Brief | 17 October 2018.

What happens when you take a bunch of newly-graduated student nurses and get them together in a WhatsApp support group? Well, an IoL report says that, according to research by Professors Felicity Daniels and Jennifer Chipps, they become better and more confident nurses for it.

Emaciated, mutilated, dead: the mental health scandal that rocked South Africa

The Guardian | 14 October 2018.

When 1,700 vulnerable and mentally ill people were moved from specialised care facilities to unlicensed organisations in a bid to save money, nearly one in 10 died.

People are still being shackled and tortured for living with this disease

Bhekisisa | 10 October 2018.

The Life Esidimeni tragedy makes headlines again in a new global report.

800,000 people kill themselves every year. What can we do?

The Guardian | 9 October 2018.

In too many places mental health support services are non-existent and those with treatable conditions are criminalized. Bold action is long overdue.

ARV shortages – a weapon of mass destruction

Daily Maverick | 18 October 2018.

The tragedy of antiretroviral shortages is that while we await the powers that be to implement contingency plans in resolving this issue, the virus (HIV) is busy remodelling itself to resist the drugs. As the levels of ARVs in the patients' blood diminish, the virus gets fertile grounds to emerge resistant to the medications. The emergence of these drug-resistant HIV strains will surely rubbish all the good work done by the ARVs Roll Out programmes.

Thousands of us die from these illnesses each day. Will it ever end?

Bhekisisa | 11 October 2018.

In a historic first, the UN just held a high-level meeting on TB. There was one on lifestyle diseases too. But did these sittings achieve anything?

Diabetes to be SAs leading killer by 2040, study shows

Business Day | 17 October 2018.

South Africans are likely to live, on average, seven years longer in 2040 than they do now, but the country will see only modest improvement in its global ranking as longevity increases worldwide, according to a study published in the Lancet on Wednesday.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Stopping Senseless Deaths: Overcoming access barriers to affordable, lifesaving diagnostics and treatments for HIV and opportunistic infections

Medecins Sans Frontieres | Published: July 2018.

This technical brief analyses access barriers to affordable, lifesaving diagnostics and treatments for HIV and OIs, including adult and paediatric formulations of dolutegravir – a highly effective and tolerable HIV integrase inhibitor that replaces efavirenz in first-line treatment regimens. Updated antiretroviral (ARV) drug pricing information is also provided.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

The Lancet Commission on global mental health and sustainable development

The Lancet | Published: 9 October 2018.

A decade on from the 2007 Lancet Series on global mental health, which sought to transform the way policy makers thought about global health, a Lancet Commission aims to seize the opportunity offered by the Sustainable Development Goals to consider future directions for global mental health. The

Commission proposes that the global mental agenda should be expanded from a focus on reducing the treatment gap to improving the mental health of whole populations and reducing the global burden of mental disorders by addressing gaps in prevention and quality of care. The Commission outlines a blueprint for action to promote mental wellbeing, prevent mental health problems, and enable recovery from mental disorders.

Council for Medical Schemes Annual Report

Council for Medical Schemes | 17 October 2018.

The Council for Medical Schemes is a regulatory authority responsible for overseeing the medical schemes industry in South Africa. It administers and enforces the Medical Schemes Act 131 of 1998. The report reveals that, in 2017, a total of R163.0 billion was collected in risk contributions from members (2016: R148.0 billion) and expenditure on relevant healthcare services increased by 6.4% to R144.5 billion (2016: R136.0 billion). A total of R15.0 billion was spent on non-healthcare expenses, compared to R14.1 billion in 2016, an increase of 6.6%.

Willingness to Pay for Condoms in Five Countries Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe

PEPFAR | September 2018.

Though condom use is now higher than ever before, key gaps remain in countries and in certain populations, where use has stagnated or even decreased. To address these gaps, UNFPA in 2016 spearheaded the creation of the “20 by 20 Initiative,” a multisectoral effort to increase the number of condoms in low-and middle-income countries to 20 billion by 2020. To support this initiative, AIDSFree conducted surveys to assess consumers’ willingness to pay for male condoms in five sub-Saharan countries—Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Free State Annual Provincial Health Research Day

8-9 November 2018

Bloemfontein

Drug Safety Africa 2018

20-22 November 2018

North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa

Role of the Genital Tract Microbiome in Sexual and Reproductive Health (S6)

11-15 December 2018
Southern Sun Cape Sun, Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

The South African Breastmilk Reserve: Programme Manager/ Healthcare Professionals

Closing Date: 20 October 2018

CHAI: Associate - Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) / Health Information Systems (HIS)

Closing Date: 2 November 2018

School of Public Health, University of the Western Cape: Postdoctoral Fellowships HSPR 2019

Closing Date: 2 November 2018

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