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## HST IN THE NEWS

### **Phakama Digest**

*Health Systems Trust | 31 July 2019.*

Health Systems Trust is pleased to announce the release of the inaugural edition of the Phakama Digest, a new publication series that profiles the work of the SA SURE Plus Project.

With 'phakama' meaning 'rise', the Digest is a knowledge-sharing resource on HIV and TB treatment and care, offering in-depth perspectives of our project implementation and good-practice models gaining ground in the field. The first edition features the HIV Case Management Model, innovated by the SA SURE Plus uMgungundlovu team as a means of enabling HIV-positive patients to receive and adhere to HIV treatment.

## ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

### **The whole is more than the sum of the parts: establishing an enabling health system environment for reducing acute child malnutrition in a rural South African district**

*Health Policy and Planning* | Published: 6 July 2019.

*Helen Schneider, Maria van der Merwe, Beauty Marutla, Joseph Cupido, Shuaib Kauchali*

There is a gap in understanding of how national commitments to child nutrition are translated into sub-national implementation. This article is a mixed methods case study of a rural South African health district which achieved accelerated declines in morbidity and mortality from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in young children, following a district health system strengthening (HSS) initiative centred on real-time death reporting, analysis and response. Drawing on routine audit data, the declining trends in under-five admissions and in-hospital mortality for SAM over a 5-year period are presented, comparing the district with two others in the same province.

### **Global health ethics: critical reflections on the contours of an emerging field, 1977–2015**

*BMC Medical Ethics* | Published: 25 July 2019.

*Gail Robson, Nathan Gibson, Alison Thompson, Solomon Benatar, Avram Denburg*

The field of bioethics has evolved over the past half-century, incorporating new domains of inquiry that signal developments in health research, clinical practice, public health in its broadest sense and more recently sensitivity to the interdependence of global health and the environment. These extensions of the reach of bioethics are a welcome response to the growth of global health as a field of vital interest and activity.

### **Process evaluation in the field: global learnings from seven implementation research hypertension projects in low-and middle-income countries**

*BMC Public Health* | Published: 16 July 2019.

*Felix Limbani, Jane Goudge, Rohina Joshi, Marion A Maar, J Jaime Miranda, Brian Oldenburg, Gary Parker, Maria Amalia Pesantes, et al*

Process evaluation is increasingly recognized as an important component of effective implementation research and yet, there has been surprisingly little work to understand what constitutes best practice. Researchers use different methodologies describing causal pathways and understanding barriers and facilitators to implementation of interventions in diverse contexts and settings. We report on challenges and lessons learned from undertaking process evaluation of seven hypertension intervention trials funded through the Global Alliance of Chronic Diseases (GACD).

### **Space-time clustering of recently-diagnosed tuberculosis and impact of ART scale-**

### **up: Evidence from an HIV hyper-endemic rural South African population**

*Scientific Reports* | 24 July 2019.

*Andrew Tomita, Catherine M Smith, Richard J Lessells, Alexander Pym, Alison D Grant, Tulio de Oliveira, Frank Tanser*

In HIV hyperendemic sub-Saharan African communities, particularly in southern Africa, the likelihood of achieving the Sustainable Development Goal of ending the tuberculosis (TB) epidemic by 2030 is low, due to lack of cost-effective and practical interventions in population settings. We used one of Africa's largest population-based prospective cohorts from rural KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa, to measure the spatial variations in the prevalence of recently-diagnosed TB disease, and to quantify the impact of community coverage of antiretroviral therapy (ART) on recently-diagnosed TB disease.

### **Perspectives on contraceptive implant use in women living with HIV in Cape Town, South Africa: a qualitative study among primary healthcare providers and stakeholders**

*BMC Public Health* | Published: 26 July 2019.

*Anna Brown, Jane Harries, Diane Cooper, Chelsea Morroni*

This study explored primary healthcare provider and HIV/contraception expert stakeholder perspectives on South Africa's public sector provision of contraceptive implants to women living with HIV. We investigated the contraceptive service-impact of official advice against provision of implants to women using the HIV antiretroviral drug, efavirenz, issued by the South African National Department of Health (NDoH) in 2014.

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## **RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS**

### **'Madiba of Medicine' leaves a legacy of hope**

*Daily Maverick* | 30 July 2019.

The University of Cape Town's Professor Bongani Mayosi has left a huge legacy behind a year after his tragic and untimely death. His living work stands as a formidable inheritance. The impact of his person and values are unquestionable.

### **National Health Insurance: Is this medical aid paving the way to a new era in benefits?**

*Bhekisisa* | 31 July 2019.

The country's largest closed medical scheme slashed costs of care by 12%. Here's how they did it.

### **Health compact needs budget increase, warns Western Cape MEC**

*BD Live* | 30 July 2019.

More money is needed to make the presidential health compact a reality, as provincial health departments

grapple with shrinking budgets.

### **Men and HIV: how poverty, violence and inequality play a part**

*The Conversation Africa | 28 July 2019.*

It's obvious that men's practices and behaviour are central to women's vulnerability to HIV. This is why a major focus in the fight against HIV has been on interventions involving work with men and boys to "transform masculinities" specifically on forms of masculinity that reinforce men's power over women as a way to reduce HIV transmission. But are HIV-risk behaviours intimately tied to male power? Do they always emerge from a position of power and control over women?

### **HIV drug studies offer patients more choices**

*GroundUp | 26 July 2019.*

When it comes to treating HIV, we are spoilt for choice. That's perhaps the only clear message that comes from three studies, all conducted in Africa, whose results have just been published by the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) and presented at the Mexico AIDS conference [last] week.

### **What we measure and why**

*IHME | 10 July 2019.*

After finding data sources; vetting, cleaning, and standardizing these data; and using mathematical models to determine the relationships between millions of data points, the researchers in the Global Burden of Disease study (GBD) can produce the study's results: its estimates of disease burden.

### **Africa needs specialist capacity to tackle the spread of infectious diseases**

*The Conversation Africa | 23 July 2019.*

Over the past ten years, a community of practice has begun to develop in Africa around research that uses models to understand and evaluate population-level health problems and their potential solutions. This type of research – known as Applied Epidemiological Modelling – involves developing and applying analytical tools for problems that can't be addressed by traditional statistical methods. These tools are particularly useful for combating infectious diseases.

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## **TRAINING AND RESOURCES**

### **WHO: Social Science, Risk Communication and Community Engagement website**

*World Health Organisation*

For public health emergencies, risk communication includes the range of communication capacities required through the preparedness, response and recovery phases of a serious public health event to encourage informed decision making, positive behaviour change and the maintenance of trust. This dedicated website, run by WHO, provides resources to assist health workers in communicating with the

public during epidemics, disease outbreaks and emergencies.

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## **PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS**

### **Evaluation of Phase 1 implementation of interventions in the National Health Insurance (NHI) pilot districts in South Africa NDOH10/2017-2018**

*National Department of Health | 14 July 2019.*

The NHI is being implemented by the National Department of Health (NDoH) through a gradual process, over three phases. These three phases are each implemented over a period of five years each. Phase 1 commenced in 2012 and was completed in 2017. The first phase of NHI did not involve developing new funding arrangements for health care in South Africa, but rather piloted various health system strengthening interventions focused at the primary health care (PHC) level. The interventions implemented during this phase were mainly funded by a direct NHI Conditional Grant to provinces, although there were other funding mechanisms. The NDoH established work streams to develop and refine NHI related policy and incorporate feedback from the phased NHI implementation. This evaluation focused on the 10 PHC interventions in the 10+1 pilot districts.

### **WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2019: Offer help to quit tobacco use**

*World Health Organisation | July 2019.*

This seventh WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic focuses on the “O” of MPOWER: “Offer help to quit tobacco use”. Today’s tobacco users will make up the majority of future tobacco-related deaths, which will disproportionately affect low- and middle-income countries. Providing access to, and encouraging the use of, effective cessation interventions greatly increases the likelihood of successfully quitting tobacco.

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## **CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

### **SAMA Conference**

8-10 August 2019

Elangeni Hotel, Durban, South Africa

### **Rural Health Conference**

5-7 September 2019

Kapenta Bay Hotel and Conference Resort, Port Shepstone, KwaZulu-Natal

### **PHASA Conference**

16-18 September 2019  
College of Cape Town, Athlone, Cape Town

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## **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

Please click on the job title for more information.

### **Talisman Foundation: Psychological Facilitator**

Closing Date: 6 August 2019

### **One to One Africa: Impact Manager**

Closing Date: 9 August 2019

### **Careworks: HTS Lay Counsellor**

Closing Date: 9 August 2019

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