

# HST Bulletin



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## ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

### **When Big Men ruled global health: a cautionary tale**

*The Lancet* | Published: 27 May 2017.

Laurie Garrett

There was a time in world health efforts when Big Men (yes, all men, European and North American) had Big Ideas, backed by money and power. They had offices in places like the World Bank, UNICEF, and the Rockefeller Foundation. And they made scientific and programmatic decisions, financing and executing schemes that affected the survival and lives of hundreds of millions of people. When their decisions were sagacious and well executed the results could be breathtaking. Millions of children might in a single year be spared death from measles, for example, thanks to a targeted immunisation campaign. But when any of these Big Men refused to back off from bad ideas, or confused their own aggrandisement and egos with the missions they were trying to accomplish, tragedies often unfolded.

### **'These are not luxuries, it is essential for access to life': Disability related out-of-pocket costs as a driver of economic vulnerability in South Africa**

*African Journal of Disability* | Published: 31 May 2017.

Jill Hanass-Hancock, Siphumelele Nene, Nicola Deghaye, Simmi Pillay

With the dawn of the new sustainable development goals, we face not only a world that has seen great successes in alleviating poverty but also a world that has left some groups, such as persons with disabilities, behind. Middle-income countries (MICs) are home to a growing number of persons with disabilities. As these countries strive to achieve the new goals, we have ample opportunity to include persons with disabilities in the emerging poverty alleviation strategies. However, a lack of data and research on the linkages between economic vulnerability and disability in MICs hampers our understanding of the factors increasing economic vulnerability in people with disabilities.

### **The emergence and evolution of the research fronts in HIV/AIDS research**

*PlosOne | Published: 25 May 2017.*

*David Fajardo-Ortiz, Malaquias Lopez-Cervantes, Luis Duran, Michel Dumontier, Miguel Lara, Hector Ochoa, Victor M Castano*

In this paper, we have identified and analysed the emergence, structure and dynamics of the paradigmatic research fronts that established the fundamentals of the biomedical knowledge on HIV/AIDS. A search of papers with the identifiers "HIV/AIDS", "Human Immunodeficiency Virus", "HIV-1" and "Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome" in the Web of Science (Thomson Reuters), was carried out. A citation network of those papers was constructed. Then, a sub-network of the papers with the highest number of inter-citations (with a minimal in-degree of 28) was selected to perform a combination of network clustering and text mining to identify the paradigmatic research fronts and analyse their dynamics. Thirteen research fronts were identified in this sub-network.

### **Pediatric Treatment Scale-Up: The Unfinished Agenda of the Global Plan**

*Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes | Published: 1 May 2017.*

*Martina Penazzato, Anouk Amzel, Elaine J Abrams, Karusa Kiragu, Shaffiq Essajee, Irene Mukui, Peter Elyanu, Anath A Rwebembera, Dorothy Mbori-Ngacha*

Five million children have died of AIDS-related causes since the beginning of the epidemic. In 2011, the Global Plan Towards the Elimination of New HIV Infections Among Children by 2015 and Keeping Their Mothers Alive (Global Plan) created the political environment to catalyse both the resources and commitment to end paediatric AIDS. Implementation and scale-up have encountered substantial hurdles, however, which have resulted in slow progress. The post-Global Plan phase presents a number of noteworthy challenges that all stakeholders, national programs, and communities must tackle to guarantee universal treatment for children living with HIV.

### **What is it going to take to move youth-related HIV programme policies into practice in Africa?**

*Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 16 May 2017.*

*Daniella Mark, Lina Taing, Lucie Cluver, Chris Collins, Kate Iorpenda, Catarina Andrade, Luann Hatane*

HIV has been reported to be the leading cause of mortality amongst adolescents in Africa. This has brought attention to the changes in service provision and health management that many adolescents living with HIV experience when transferring from specialized paediatric- or adolescent-focused services to adult care. When transition is enacted poorly, adherence may be affected and the continuum of care disrupted. As the population of HIV-infected adolescents grows, effective and supported transition increases in significance as an operational imperative.

### **Living and dying to be counted: What we know about the epidemiology of the global adolescent HIV epidemic**

*Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 16 May 2017.*

*Amy L Slogrove, Mary Mahy, Alice Armstrong, Mary-Ann Davies*

With increasing survival of vertically HIV-infected children and on-going new horizontal HIV infections, the population of adolescents (age 10–19 years) living with HIV is increasing. This review aims to describe the epidemiology of the adolescent HIV epidemic and the ability of national monitoring systems to measure outcomes in HIV-infected adolescents through the adolescent transition to adulthood.

### **Lifestyle factors and co-morbidities associated with obesity and overweight in Nkonkobe Municipality of the Eastern Cape, South Africa**

*BioMed Central | Published: 25 May 2017.*

*Wilfred Otang-Mbeng, Gloria Aderonke Otunola, Anthony Jide Afolayan*

Obesity is a global epidemic that affects 500 million people worldwide and is predicted to increase to one billion people by 2030. The prevalence of obesity is increasing across populations in South Africa. However, questions still remain surrounding the predisposing factors and obesity-related health problems especially in the rural areas. This study evaluated several lifestyle factors such as dietary habits, physical activity, smoking, alcohol intake, co-morbidities and their association with the prevalence of obesity and overweight in Nkonkobe Municipality of the Eastern Cape.

## **Non-communicable Diseases and HIV Care and Treatment: Models of Integrated Service Delivery**

*Tropical Medicine & International Health* | Published: 24 May 2017.

*Malia Duffy, Bisola Ojikutu, Soa Andrian, Elaine Sohng, Thomas Minior, Lisa R Hirschhorn*

Non-communicable diseases (NCD) are a growing cause of morbidity in low-income countries including in people living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Integration of NCD and HIV services can build upon experience with chronic care models from HIV programs. We describe models of NCD and HIV integration, challenges, and lessons learned.

## **Predictors of loss to follow-up among patients on ART at a rural hospital in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa**

*PlosOne* | Published: 24 May 2017.

*Rachel Arnesen, Anthony P Moll, Sheela V Shenoj*

Improved HIV outcomes as a result of expanded antiretroviral therapy (ART) access is threatened by increasing rates of loss to follow up (LTFU) among those on ART, largely reported in urban populations. Some reports suggest that LTFU rates are overestimated due to patient movement to other facilities and inadequate medical records.

## **Examining the effects of HIV self-testing compared to standard HIV testing services: a systematic review and meta-analysis**

*Journal of the International AIDS Society* | Published: 15 May 2017.

*Cheryl C Johnson, Caitlin Kennedy, Virginia Fonner, Nandi Siegfried, Carmen Figueroa, Shona Dalal, Anita Sands, Rachel Baggaley*

HIV self-testing (HIVST) is a discreet and convenient way to reach people with HIV who do not know their status, including many who may not otherwise test. To inform World Health Organization (WHO) guidance, we assessed the effect of HIVST on uptake and frequency of testing, as well as identification of HIV-positive persons, linkage to care, social harm, and risk behaviour.

## **Multidisciplinary Point of Care testing in South African primary healthcare clinics accelerates HIV ART initiation but does not alter retention in care.**

*Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome* | Published: 23 May 2017.

*Wendy S Stevens, Natasha M Gous, William B MacLeod, Lawrence C Long, Ebrahim Variava, Neil A Martinson, Ian Sanne, Regina Osih, Lesley E Scott*

Lack of accessible laboratory infrastructure limits HIV antiretroviral (ART) treatment initiation, monitoring and retention in many resource-limited settings. Point-of-care testing (POCT) is advocated as a mechanism to overcome these limitations. We executed a pragmatic, prospective, randomized, controlled trial comparing the impact of POCT versus standard-of-care (SOC) on treatment initiation and retention in care.

## **The status of vaccine availability and associated factors in Tshwane government clinics**

*The South African Medical Journal* | Published: 24 May 2017.

*Ntombenhle Judith Ngcobo, Mercy G Kamupira*

Vaccines have greatly contributed to the control of vaccine-preventable diseases and to human development. Efforts by many countries to introduce new vaccines are a significant move towards achieving the sustainable development goal for health. However, effective vaccine supply chains that ensure an uninterrupted supply of vaccines are pivotal to attaining universal access to life-saving vaccines and sustainable development. The introduction of new vaccines puts a strain on supply chains; South Africa (SA) is no exception, as there are indications of vaccine stock-outs in clinics.

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## **RECENT NEWS**

## **Nurse shortage worsened by alarming bureaucratic bungling**

*Moneyweb | 1 June 2017.*

South Africa has a dire shortage of registered nurses, yet those wanting to enter the profession are now finding a closed door.

## **Tedros' fundraising strategy for WHO, global health**

*DEVEX | 25 May 2017.*

Ensuring a well-funded World Health Organization is one of the biggest responsibilities — and headaches — Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus will have to bear in the next five years when he officially takes over as director-general of WHO in July.

## **KZN traditional healers trained to test and counsel HIV and TB patients**

*Health-E News | 18 May 2017.*

Traditional healers in KwaZulu-Natal have been trained by the provincial Department of Health (DoH) to counsel, examine and test their patients impacted by HIV/Aids and TB.

## **Malaria count up to 2000 since April**

*Health-e News | 25 May 2017.*

LIMPOPO – While the number of patients reporting to clinics and hospitals with malaria in Mopani is dropping, the provincial health department remains concerned as the battle to end the current outbreak continues.

## **Sex workers to remain 'criminals'?**

*Health-E News | 29 May 2017.*

Government has been advised not to decriminalise sex work in the very week that a special clinic for sex workers and drug users was opened in Cape Town.

## **People still dying from curable diseases — but SA ranks quite high**

*BD Live | 19 May 2017.*

The Healthcare Access and Quality Index rates SA high on diphtheria but low on TB; but developed countries, such as Norway and Australia, are not getting it right either.

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# **TRAINING AND RESOURCES**

## **Risk Recognition in Healthcare Settings**

*Medscape | 21 April 2017.*

This activity is intended for primary care physicians, public health and preventive medicine specialists, emergency medicine physicians, pharmacists, and nurses. The goal of this activity is to provide an overview of microorganisms that cause infection and how they are spread, as well as to describe risk recognition. Upon completion of this activity, participants will have increased knowledge regarding the:

1. Risks of infection present in healthcare settings
2. Precautionary practices to recognize and mitigate the risks of infection.

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# **PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS**

**Healthier, fairer, safer: the global health journey 2007–2017**

WHO | Published: May 2017.

This independent report, commissioned by WHO and written by Sir Liam Donaldson, reflects on the trends, achievements and challenges in global health over the past decade during which Dr Margaret Chan has been Director-General of WHO. It discusses the role of WHO in dealing with such issues as the rise of noncommunicable diseases, leaps in life expectancy, and emerging threats like climate change and antimicrobial resistance.

### **Leading the realization of human rights to health and through health: Report of the High-Level Working Group on the Health and Human Rights of Women, Children and Adolescents**

WHO | 2017.

We all have the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, without discrimination, wherever we are, and whatever our circumstances.

This report refers throughout to rights “to health and through health” to express this fact: the right to health does not stand alone but is indivisible from other human rights. Good health not only depends on but is also a prerequisite for pursuing other rights. Human rights cannot be fully enjoyed without health; likewise, health cannot be fully enjoyed without the dignity that is upheld by all other human rights.

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## **CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

### **HEAIDS Conference (Higher Education and Training): Empowering our youth in South Africa**

9-11 June 2017

ICC, Durban, South Africa

### **SA AIDS**

13 - 16 June 2017

International Convention Centre, Durban, South Africa

### **4th International Conference on Prevention & Infection Control (ICPIC)**

20-23 June 2017

International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG), Geneva, Switzerland

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## **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

Please click on the job title for more information.

### **Health Systems Trust: Human Resources (HR) Intern**

Closing Date: 7 June 2017

### **Health Systems Trust: Junior Bookkeeper**

Closing Date: 7 June 2017

### **Health Systems Trust: Females Rising through Education, Support and Health (FRESH): Data Capturer**

Closing Date: 15 June 2017

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