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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

Alma-Ata at 40 years: reflections from the Lancet Commission on Investing in Health

The Lancet | Published: 20 October 2018.

David A Watkins, Gavin Yamey, Marco Schäferhoff, Olusoji Adeyi, George Alleyne, Ala Alwan, Seth Berkley, Richard Feachem

In 2013, the Lancet Commission on Investing in Health published its report, “Global health 2035: a world converging within a generation” (GH2035). The report concluded that a grand convergence in health—a reduction in infectious, child, and maternal mortality to rates seen in the best-performing middle-income countries—is technically and financially feasible for all but the poorest countries by 2035.

What Are Governments Spending on Health in East and Southern Africa?

Health Systems & Reform | Published: 30 October 2018.

Moritz Piatti-Fünfkirchen, Magnus Lindelow, Katelyn Yoo

Progress toward universal health care (UHC) in Africa will require sustained increases in public spending on health and reduced reliance on out-of-pocket financing. This article reviews trends and patterns of government spending in the East and Southern Africa regions and points out methodological challenges with interpreting data from the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Global Health Expenditure Database (GHED) and other sources.

Empowering frontline providers to deliver universal primary healthcare using the Practical Approach to Care Kit

BMJ | Published 24 October 2018.

Lara Fairall, Ruth Cornick, Eric Bateman

Forty years ago, when world leaders met in Alma Ata, the world was home to 4.3 billion people. The resultant declaration provided a bold vision where everyone had access to healthcare and affirmed the pivotal role of primary healthcare in achieving this. But the declaration was soon dismissed as an idealistic dream, and multilaterals, academia, and clinicians instead busied themselves with the low hanging fruits, in particular specific drivers of mortality, in what became known as selective primary healthcare.¹ These efforts were not without successes: childhood mortality halved; conditions like polio and river blindness almost eliminated; hundreds of thousands of lives saved by the scale-up of antiretroviral treatment; and Ebola and other outbreaks contained. But such programmatic achievements have not yielded robust health systems.

The Practical Approach to Care Kit (PACK) guide: developing a clinical decision support tool to simplify, standardise and strengthen primary healthcare delivery

BMJ Global Health | Published: 17 October 2018.

Ruth Cornick, Sandy Picken, Camilla Watrus, Ajibola Awotiwon, Emma Carkeek, Juliet Hannington, Pearl Spiller, Eric Bateman, et al

For the primary health worker in a low/middle-income country (LMIC) setting, delivering quality primary care is challenging. This is often complicated by clinical guidance that is out of date, inconsistent and informed by evidence from high-income countries that ignores LMIC resource constraints and burden of disease. The Knowledge Translation Unit (KTU) of the University of Cape Town Lung Institute has developed, implemented and evaluated a health systems intervention in South Africa, and localised it to Botswana, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Brazil, that simplifies and standardises the care delivered by primary health workers while strengthening the system in which they work. At the core of this intervention, called Practical Approach to Care Kit (PACK), is a clinical decision support tool, the PACK guide. This paper describes the development of the guide over an 18-year period and explains the design features that have addressed what the patient, the clinician and the health system need from clinical guidance, and have made it, in the words of a South African primary care nurse, 'A tool for every day for every patient'.

Non-technical health care quality and health system responsiveness in middle-income countries: a cross-sectional study in China, Ghana, India, Mexico, Russia, and South Africa

Journal of Global Health | Published: December 2018.

Pascal Geldsetzer, Annie Haakenstad, Erin Kinsella James, Rifat Atun

While there is increasing recognition that the non-technical aspects of health care quality – particularly the inter-personal dimensions of care – are important components of health system performance, evidence from population-based studies on these outcomes in low- and middle-income countries is sparse. This study assesses these non-technical aspects of care using two measures: health system responsiveness (HSR), which quantifies the degree to which the health system meets the expectations of the population, and non-technical health care quality (QoC), for which we 'filtered out' these expectations.

The global tuberculosis epidemic: turning political will into concrete action

Journal of Thoracic Disease | Published: September 2018.

Theodore Lytras, Ourania Kalkouni

The scourge of tuberculosis has afflicted mankind for thousands of years. Today, although often regarded as a disease of the past, tuberculosis is still globally the number one cause of death among infectious diseases, ranking above HIV/AIDS. Few also appreciate that drug-resistant tuberculosis accounts for a sizable proportion of the problem of antimicrobial resistance (AMR); it has been estimated that it accounts for a quarter of AMR-associated deaths.

Identifying gaps in the continuum of care for cardiovascular disease and diabetes in two communities in South Africa: Baseline findings from the HealthRise project

PlosOne | Published: 14 March 2018.

Alexandra Wollum, Rose Gabert, Claire R McNellan, Jessica M Daly, Priscilla Reddy, Paurvi Bhatt, Miranda Bryant, Danny V Colombara

The HealthRise initiative seeks to implement and evaluate innovative community-based strategies for diabetes, hypertension and hypercholesterolemia along the entire continuum of care (CoC)-from

awareness and diagnosis, through treatment and control. In this study, we present baseline findings from HealthRise South Africa, identifying gaps in the CoC, as well as key barriers to care for non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

The protective role of family structure for adolescent development in sub-Saharan Africa

PlosOne | Published: 29 October 2018.

Oluwaseyi Dolapo Somefun, Clifford Odimegwu

Several studies have focused on the risk factors associated with adolescent developmental outcomes, but the literature on the role of protective factors at the family and community level for positive adolescent development is scarce, especially in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). We hypothesize that ensuring a supportive environment for adolescents may result in delayed sexual debut for adolescents in SSA. The relationship between family structure and positive adolescent sexual behaviour, measured as delay in sexual debut, was examined using the bioecological theory framed by a risk and resilience perspective.

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RECENT NEWS

New Global Commitment to Primary Health Care for all at Astana Conference

UNICEF | 26 October 2018.

Declaration of Astana charts course to achieve universal health coverage, 40 years since declaration on primary health care in Alma-Ata.

Offline: In defence of precision public health

The Lancet | 27 October 2018.

Precision public health offers a compelling opportunity to reinvigorate a discipline that has never been more important for advancing the health of our most vulnerable and excluded communities.

Joburg girl battles TB stigma on the global stage

Health-e News | 30 October 2018.

THE HAGUE: During the launch of a new book which tells the story about their tuberculosis (TB) journey, Janet, and her nine-year-old daughter Angelina, spoke to Health-e News from the Netherlands about the stigma they faced in a local pre-school.

Activists interrupt TB conference opening ceremony to call on J&J to cut price of TB drug in half, to one dollar per day

MSF Access Campaign | 24 October 2018.

The Hague, 24 October 2018 — Activists interrupted the opening ceremony of the 49th Union World Conference on Lung Health in The Hague today, to call on US pharmaceutical corporation Johnson &

Johnson (J&J) to cut the price of the TB drug bedaquiline in half, to 'one dollar per day', so that people who urgently need it can afford it.

Poo testing the new breakthrough in child TB

Health-e News | 26 October 2018.

A much simpler test to detect tuberculosis (TB) in children, using a stool sample instead of sputum, could save thousands of lives.

EDITORIAL: NHI and the health department are going nowhere slowly

Business Day | 30 October 2018.

Treasury redirects unspent funds to meet president's pledge to fill posts and buy more hospital beds and linen.

Oblivious to the killer within

Health-e News | 29 October 2018.

Hypertension is South Africa's biggest epidemic. But most people don't know they have high blood pressure, and few of those on treatment have their blood pressure under control – partly because the medical profession doesn't know what drugs work for Africans.

New Center to Jumpstart Point-of-Care Technologies for HIV Treatment in Africa

Northwestern Engineering News | 17 October 2018.

Northwestern-led center receives \$7.5 million grant from National Institutes of Health.

C-THAN will work with university partners in Africa to foster an ecosystem of POC technology development to better detect and monitor HIV and common fatal comorbidities and complications, including tuberculosis, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, diabetes, heart disease, and certain cancers.

From Havana with love: A day in the life of a Cuban doctor in a county hospital

Daily Nation | 22 October 2018.

They have become quite popular with patients, earning their trust and confidence.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

PACK Kit

Knowledge Translation Unit: University of Cape Town Lung Institute

The Practical Approach to Care Kit (PACK) is a health systems improvement programme designed to support the work of primary care health workers in underserved communities (like doctors, nurses, midwives, health officers, community health practitioners), strengthen the health services in which they work and thereby achieve the best possible patient outcomes.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Childhood TB & Stigma: Conversations of Resilience in the War Against TB

Global Coalition of TB Activists | October 2018.

Childhood TB & Stigma tells the powerful stories of 13 child TB survivors and their families from countries such as Ukraine, India, Mexico and The United States and the extreme challenges that they went through and eventually overcame.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Free State Annual Provincial Research Day

9 November 2018

University of the Free State, Bloemfontein

Universal Health Congress

12-14 December 2018

Valletta, Malta

ESMO (European Society for Medical Oncology) Summit Africa 2019

15-17 February 2019

Cape Town, South Africa

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Health Systems Trust: Provincial Technical Advisor

Closing Date: 2 November 2018

Health Systems Trust: Layout Artist/Desktop Publisher

Closing Date: 6 November 2018

UWC School of Public Health: Postdoctoral Fellowships

Closing Date: 2 November 2018

UWC Health Services to Systems Research Unit: Research Assistant

Closing Date: 2 November 2018

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