



HEALTH SYSTEMS TRUST BULLETIN

20 August 2010

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Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

Health workers lost to international bodies in poor countries

David Southall, Mamady Cham, Omar Sey. *The Lancet* Volume 376, Issue 9740, Pages 498 - 499. Published: 14 August 2010.

Guidelines to help keep health workers in remote and rural areas, especially in poor countries, have just been issued by WHO. Other relevant issues relating to human resources in situations of poverty have been previously highlighted. Re-distribution of staff from the public (national) health service (NHS) to other countries, to the private sector (accessible by only a few patients), and away from remote or rural areas are additive and affect people who are the poorest the most...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2810%2961157-9/fulltext> (Accessed: 18 August 2010). [NB. This is a free access article that requires registration.]

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Health workforce responses to global health initiatives funding: a comparison of Malawi and Zambia

Ruairi Brugh, John Kadzandira, Joseph Simbaya, Patrick Dicker, Victor Mwapasa and Aisling Walsh. *Human Resources for Health*, 8:19. Published: 11 August 2010.

Shortages of health workers are obstacles to utilising global health initiative (GHI) funds effectively in Africa. This paper reports and analyses two countries' health workforce responses during a period of large increases in GHI funds...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.human-resources-health.com/content/8/1/19> (Accessed: 18 August 2010).

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Scale-up of a decentralized HIV treatment programme in rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa: does rapid expansion affect patient outcomes?

South Africa is home to 5.7 million people living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), or approximately 1 in 6 of the world's HIV+ population. It also has the largest public-sector antiretroviral therapy (ART) programme in the world, with an estimated 460 000 individuals established on ART by December 2007. However, as 1.5 million people living with HIV/AIDS in South Africa are estimated to be in need of ART, this figure only equates to 30% coverage. If the ambitious target set under the National Strategic Plan of universal access by 2011 is to be achieved; scale-up of ART services must be intensified....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/88/8/09-069419.pdf> [Approximately: 576 KB] (Accessed: 18 August 2010).

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Recent News

Working in fear – nurses and doctors

Health-e. Published: 20 August 2010.

There is chaos and widespread intimidation in KwaZulu-Natal hospitals as working nurses and doctors are coerced to join the strike by public servants. At Edendale Hospital in Pietermaritzburg yesterday morning (Thursday) a senior member of the hospital's security staff went through the hospital sjambokking anyone at work including women, according to eyewitnesses. The gates were blocked by strikers and even doctors were prevented from entering the premises for a few hours.... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20032894> (Accessed: 20 August 2010)

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A teabag that could save millions

IRIN. Published: 19 August 2010.

A cheap and effective filtering device developed by a South African university could provide safe drinking water to millions of people, drastically reducing the incidence of waterborne illnesses such as cholera and other diarrhoeal diseases. ... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=90215> (Accessed 20 August 2010)

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Bolstering the search for HIV vaccine

Khopotso Bodibe. Health-e News. Published: 12 August 2010.

Intensifying their search for a vaccine to prevent HIV infection, scientists are planning to run an improved version of the successful Thai HIV vaccine trial in South Africa next year. News from Thailand late last year that a vaccine trial conducted among 16 000 Thais gave a 31% protection rate against HIV infection has given scientists hope that their quest to find a vaccine to prevent HIV infection is on the horizon. But further tests are needed and South Africa is an obvious place for these to be run, given our high HIV rate..... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20032888> (Accessed: 17 August 2010).

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The DDT debacle

Wiida Basson, CSIR

While an estimated 880 000 people – most of them young children – die each year of malaria in the developing world, we may underestimate the potential effects of continued DDT use on future generations. In South Africa, as in several other developing countries, the use of the powerful insecticide DDT is allowed for malaria control in high-risk areas such as KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo....[Read More »](#)

Source: http://www.scienceinAfrica.co.za/2010/may/ddt_final.htm (Accessed: 17 August 2010).

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Training and Resources

Synergos Senior Fellows Network: Fellowship Opportunity for NGOs working for the poor

Synergos works to address global poverty and social injustice through innovative global partnerships in more than 30 countries around the world. One of its interesting programs is the Senior Fellows Network which aims to strengthen the capacity and opportunities for civil society leaders so that they are in a better position to address the systematic causes of poverty and promote sustainable social change. The Network provides fellowships to NGO leaders for a period of three years.

For more information: <http://www.synergos.org/fellows/> (Accessed: 16 August 2010).

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A Human Rights Based Approach to Health

Department of Ethics, Equity, Trade and Human Rights. World Health Organization.

A human rights-based approach (HRBA) aims to support better and more sustainable development outcomes by

analyzing and addressing the inequalities, discriminatory practices and unjust power relations which are often at the heart of development problems. Under a human rights-based approach, development efforts are anchored in a system of rights and corresponding State obligations established by international law. Civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights provide a guiding framework for development plans, policies and processes. A HRBA also appreciates the importance of capacity development.

For more information:

http://www.who.int/pmnch/topics/health_systems/2010_who_hr_approachtohealth/en/index.html

(Accessed: 18 August 2010).

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Online Masters Programmes in 2011

The School of Pharmacy and Pharmacology, University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Masters in Medical Sciences (Health Sciences): The Master of Health Sciences programme is an online programme, and is aimed at current health professionals and those with a relevant undergraduate degree wishing to pursue postgraduate study in health sciences majors. This degree is for students who want to advance a career in the field of health care, particularly as researchers, academics or even senior health policy executives. This programme will allow students to learn more about health sciences and organization of a research enquiry. This Masters program is a structured programme that can be individually tailored to ensure that all students gain maximum benefit from their study by aligning career aspirations with study options. Students will be able to undertake a major stream of study within the Masters program, giving them opportunity to develop specialist knowledge and skills, while also developing more generic research, project and management skills.

Masters in Pharmacy (Pharmacy Practice/Pharmacoeconomics): The Coursework Masters in Pharmacy has two streams. The first concerns Pharmacoeconomics. Economic evaluations of new pharmaceutical products are of increasing importance to countries. Pharmacists who need to involve themselves in pharmaco-economic evaluations need to consider whether traditional randomized clinical trials provide the most appropriate setting for an economic evaluation, to the more technical question of how to handle cost-effectiveness ratio data, including the issue of the most appropriate inferential apparatus - hypothesis testing, confidence intervals or Bayesian methods. The second stream is Pharmacy Practice. Before relying on a published study, pharmacists should ensure that it meets criteria related to a valid study. A sound study can be used to support decisions in such diverse areas as individual patient treatment, formulary management, drug-use guideline development, disease management initiatives, and pharmaceutical service reevaluation..

Further information on the programmes (including module descriptions) are provided at:

<http://pharmacy.ukzn.ac.za/Research/Masters.aspx>.

Applications for these programmes are now open, and are available at the website indicated. Applications close at the end of business hours on the 31st of August 2010.

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Publications

The Kwik Skwiz: The NDOH 10 Point Plan

Health Systems Trust.

As part of its Medium Term Strategic Framework, the National Department of Health released its priorities for the period 2009 to 2014. Also known as the 10 Point Plan, the priorities are intended to assist the country in meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and monitoring improvements in the health system. This document covers the ten priorities of the Plan and highlights some of the salient activities which are targeted for implementation within the period 2009-2014. The purpose of this document is to highlight the core tenets of the Plan and not to review or discuss the extent to which the key activities and deliverables have been met... [Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: <http://www.hst.org.za/publications/874> (Accessed: 18 August 2010).

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How do good health technologies get to poor people in poor countries?

Frost LJ, Reich MR. Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies. Published: 2010.

A growing literature examines the challenges that confront efforts to address particular barriers (such as pricing or patents or end-user demand). As part of this project, we conducted a literature review on specific barriers to access and produced an annotated bibliography of 44 selected recent articles. But few studies have comprehensively explored the many social, economic, political, and cultural processes that shape access to health technologies in developing countries—including how such technologies are perceived differently by key players.....[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: http://www.who.int/pmnch/topics/health_systems/2010_frost_reich/en/index.html

(Accessed: 17 August 2010).

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World Health Statistics 2010

World Health Organization. Published: 2010.

World Health Statistics 2010 contains WHO's annual compilation of data from its 193 Member States, and includes a summary of progress towards the health-related Millennium Development Goals and targets. As with previous versions, World Health Statistics 2010 has been compiled using publications and databases produced and maintained by the technical programmes and regional offices of WHO. Indicators have been included on the basis of their relevance to global public health; the availability and quality of the data; and the reliability and

comparability of the resulting estimates....[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: http://www.who.int/pmnch/topics/research_statistics/2010_worldhealthstats/en/index.html
(Accessed: 18 August 2010).

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Social determinants of sexual and reproductive health: informing future research and programme implementation

Malarcher S. The World Health Organization. Published: 2010.

While the last two decades have seen improvements in access to and utilization of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, progress in many countries has been slow and – after decades of investments – disappointing. Social activists and health analysts have highlighted the potential role that persistent inequities in health play in hindering progress towards achieving international and national development goals. Health inequity is defined as "inequalities in health deemed to be unfair or to stem from some form of injustice. The dimensions of being avoidable or unnecessary have often been added to this concept....[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: http://www.who.int/pmnch/topics/maternal/2010_who_ISBN9789241599528/en/index.html
(Accessed: 17 August 2010).

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Guidelines on HIV and infant feeding 2010

World Health Organization.

These revised guidelines provide principles and recommendations for infant feeding in the context of HIV and a summary of the evidence, which has major implications for how women living with HIV might feed their infants, and how health workers should counsel these mothers....[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2010/9789241599535_eng.pdf [Approximately: 1615 KB]
(Accessed: 18 August 2010).

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Counselling for maternal and newborn health care

World Health Organization.

The main aim of this MNH Counselling Handbook is to strengthen counselling and communication skills of health providers including skilled birth attendants, helping them to effectively discuss with women, their husbands/partners and families and communities the important issues surrounding pregnancy, childbirth, postpartum, postnatal and post-abortion care....[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2009/9789241547628_eng_Part1.pdf [Approximately: 413 KB]
(Accessed: 18 August 2010).

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Community-Based Intervention Packages for Preventing Maternal Morbidity and Mortality and Improving Neonatal Outcomes

International Initiative for Impact Evaluation.

The arguments for selective rather than comprehensive primary health care dominated debates soon after the Alma Ata Declaration. It was then recognised that community participation was important in supporting the provision and delivery of local health services and interventions at the community level. Recent analysis indicates that at full coverage, more than half of newborn deaths could be prevented by available interventions...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: http://www.3ieimpact.org/admin/pdfs_synthetic2/SR%20005-20Bhutta%20on%20child%20mortality.pdf
[Approximately: 2769 KB] (Accessed: 18 August 2010).

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Job Opportunities

Senior Research Programme Manager and Senior Researcher (2 posts)

Health Systems Trust

Closing date for applications: 23 August 2010.

Health Systems Trust is a not-for-profit organisation (NPO) supporting the development of an equitable and comprehensive health system for the provision of quality health care in South and southern Africa. We have vacancies in the organisation for a Senior Research Programme Manager and for a Senior Researcher. These are a one-year contract positions which are renewable based on funding and performance.

A detailed CV with names and contact details of at least three referees (with email addresses) should be sent to the Human Resources Department, Health Systems Trust, P.O. Box 808, Durban, 4000 (Fax: 031-266 9199, E-mail: siemonne@hst.org.za).

Enquiries: Please direct all queries to ronel@hst.org.za or irwin@hst.org.za

More information:

Senior Research Programme Manager: <http://www.hst.org.za/news/20041999>

Senior Researcher: <http://www.hst.org.za/news/20042000>

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AHP - African Health Placements

AHP is a not-for-profit project that aims to support the recruitment and retention of healthcare workers in South Africa. AHP is focused on assisting healthcare professionals make the right choice for their future in South Africa. No placement fees are charged.

Please view the website for more details <http://www.ahp.org.za> or contact on 011 328 1300

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