

# HST Bulletin



Dear Subscribers,

The HST Bulletin will be taking a break over the festive period. The next Bulletin will be published on 17 January 2020. Best wishes for the festive season and a happy New Year.

The HST Bulletin Editorial Team

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## ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

### **Development of parallel measures to assess HIV stigma and discrimination among people living with HIV, community members and health workers in the HPTN 071 (PopART) trial in Zambia and South Africa**

*Journal of the International AIDS Society* | Published: 16 December 2019.

Anne L Stangl, Pamela Lilleston, Hlengani Mathema, Triantafyllos Pliakas, Shari Krishnaratne Kirsty Sievwright, Nomhle Bell-Mandla, Redwaan Vermaak, et al

Integrating standardized measures of HIV stigma and discrimination into research studies of emerging HIV prevention approaches could enhance uptake and retention of these approaches, and care and treatment for people living with HIV (PLHIV), by informing stigma mitigation strategies. [This study] sought to develop a succinct set of measures to capture key domains of stigma for use in research on HIV prevention technologies.

### **Current tools available for investigating vaccine hesitancy: a scoping review protocol**

*BMJ Open* | Published: 11 December 2019.

Elizabeth O Oduwole, Elizabeth D Pienaar, Hassan Mahomed, Charles Shey Wiysonge

Vaccine hesitancy, defined as the delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccination despite availability of vaccination services is responsible in part for suboptimal levels of vaccination coverage worldwide. The WHO recommends that countries incorporate plans to measure and address vaccine hesitancy into their immunisation programmes. This requires that governments and health institutions be able to detect concerns about vaccination in the population and monitor changes in vaccination behaviours. To do this

effectively, tools to detect and measure vaccine hesitancy are required. The purpose of this scoping review is to give a broad overview of currently available vaccine hesitancy measuring tools and present a summary of their nature, similarities and differences.

### **Predictors of contraceptive use among adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) aged 15 to 24 years in South Africa: results from the 2012 national population-based household survey**

*BMC Women's Health* | Published: 12 December 2019.

*L Makola, L Mlangeni, M Mabaso, B Chibi, Z Sokhela, Z Silimfe, L Seutlwadi, D Naidoo, et al*

Despite a variety of contraceptives being available for women in South Africa, a considerable number of adolescent girls and young women still face challenges in using them. This paper examines socio-demographic and behavioural predictors of using contraceptives among adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) aged 15 to 24 years.

### **Pathways to care and outcomes among hospitalised HIV-seropositive persons with cryptococcal meningitis in South Africa**

*PlosOne* | Published: 12 December 2019.

*Vanessa Quan, Sandra Toro-Silva, Charlotte Sriruttan, Verushka Chetty, Violet Chihota, Sophie Candfield, Anna Vassall, Alison D Grant, Nelesh P Govender*

Cryptococcus causes 15% of AIDS-related deaths and in South Africa, with its high HIV burden, is the dominant cause of adult meningitis. Cryptococcal meningitis (CM) mortality is high, partly because patients enter care with advanced HIV disease and because of failure of integrated care following CM diagnosis. [The authors] evaluated pathways to hospital care, missed opportunities for HIV testing and initiation of care. A cross-sectional study [was performed] at five public-sector urban hospitals. [The study] enrolled adults admitted with a first or recurrent episode of cryptococcal meningitis. Study nurses conducted interviews, supplemented by a prospective review of medical charts and laboratory records.

### **Community participation and private sector engagement are fundamental to achieving universal health coverage and health security in Africa: reflections from the second Africa health forum**

*BMC Proceedings* | Published: 12 November 2019.

*Olushayo Olu, Pamela Drameh-Avognon, Emil Asamoah-Odei, Francis Kasolo, Thomas Valdez, Grace Kabaniha, Humphrey Karamagi, Suvajee Good, et al*

Inadequate access to quality health care services due to weak health systems and recurrent public health emergencies are impediments to the attainment of Universal Health Coverage and health security in Africa. To discuss these challenges and deliberate on plausible solutions, the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa, in collaboration with the Government of Cabo Verde, convened the second Africa Health Forum in Praia, Cabo Verde on 26–28 March 2019, under the theme Achieving Universal Health Coverage and Health Security: The Africa We Want to See.

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## **RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS**

### **South Africa can easily afford the NHI**

*Mail & Guardian* | 6 December 2019.

At the United Nations general assembly in September, all countries, including South Africa, reaffirmed their commitment to achieving universal health coverage by 2030. This is achieved when everybody accesses the health services they need without suffering financial hardship. As governments outlined their universal health coverage plans, it was noticeable that some had made much faster progress than others, with some middle-income countries outperforming wealthier nations.

### **Universal health coverage means leave no one behind**

*Daily Maverick* | 13 December 2019.

At the root of primary healthcare is the involvement of the community and 'this idea of social solidarity, that we need to look after those who need help the most'.

### **We are using computer models to fight drug resistance**

*The Conversation Africa | 12 December 2019.*

The infectious disease burden in Africa is very high, particularly for tuberculosis (TB), malaria and HIV/AIDS. In 2018, nearly a quarter (24%) of TB cases in the world were in Africa. The region accounted for 93% of malaria cases. The continent also bears the brunt of the HIV epidemic: 20.6 million of the 37.9 million people living with HIV are in eastern and southern Africa. To solve the disease problems, scientists in Africa need to push boundaries and think outside the box.

### **WHO commemorates the 40th anniversary of smallpox eradication**

*World Health Organisation | 13 October 2019.*

Historic milestone underscores urgent need to invest in global health security and universal health coverage

### **WHO Recommends Worldwide Adoption Of All Oral-Regimen For MDR/RR-TB**

*Health Policy Watch | 13 December 2019.*

The World Health Organization issued new guidelines for the treatment of multi drug-resistant (MDR) tuberculosis on [11 December], prioritizing for the first time an all-oral treatment regimen. The new treatment recommends replacing the painful injectable drugs that patients had to endure under previous treatment guidelines with a shorter course of oral bedaquiline – one of only three new drugs approved for treatment of TB within the last half century.

### **16 Days of Activism: SASOG calls health care professionals to action**

*Medical Brief | 11 December 2019.*

In South Africa, a woman is killed every three hours and according to the World Health Organisation, is five times more likely to be a victim of femicide than her global counterpart. As we mark the '16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children', the SA Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (SASOG), would like to call its members to action. The call to go beyond activism is also extended to all other clinicians treating potential female, child and male victims.

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## **TRAINING AND RESOURCES**

### **Global Influenza Strategy 2019–2030**

*World Health Organisation | March 2019.*

The Global Influenza Strategy for 2019-2030 provides a framework for WHO, countries and partners to approach influenza holistically through tailored national programmes – from surveillance to disease prevention and control – with the goal of strengthening seasonal prevention and control and preparedness for future pandemics.

To achieve this, the strategy places a large focus on the following:

- The development of better global tools, such as vaccines, antivirals and treatments, that would benefit all countries and instil public confidence and uptake.
- Stronger country capacities that are integrated within national health security planning and universal health coverage efforts.

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## **PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS**

### **South African Child Gauge 2019, Child and adolescent health: Leave no one behind**

*Children's Institute, University of Cape Town | 10 December 2019.*

*Maylene Shung-King, Lori Lake, David Sanders, Michael Hendricks*

This issue of the South African Child Gauge makes a powerful case for investing in child health. The science is clear. If we want to promote cognitive development, break the intergenerational cycles of poverty and violence, and halt the growing epidemic of obesity and non-communicable diseases, we need to invest early – starting in the first 1,000 days of a child's life and continuing into adolescence. Investments during these two sensitive periods of development, yield the greatest returns. The theme of

the 2019 issue – “Child and Adolescent Health: Leave no one behind” – is a call to prioritise child and adolescent health and put children at the heart of the health care system.

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## CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

### **International Social and Behavior Change Communication Summit**

30 March-3 April 2020

Marrakech, Morocco

### **23rd International AIDS Society Conference**

6-10 April 2020

San Francisco & Oakland, United States

### **HIV Research for Prevention**

11-15 October 2020

Cape Town, South Africa

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## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

### **HPCA: Testing, Linkage & Retention Officers**

Closing Date: 20 December 2019

### **Wits Health: Grants Manager**

Closing Date: 24 December 2019

### **CareWorks: Ugu Linkage Officer**

Closing Date: 10 January 2020

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