

21 January 2011

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## Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

### **HIV–malaria co-infection: effects of malaria on the prevalence of HIV in East sub-Saharan Africa**

*Diego F Cuadros, Adam J Branscum and Philip H Crowley. Int. J. Epidemiol. Published: January 11, 2011.*

This is the first study to report malaria as a risk factor of concurrent HIV infection at the population level. According to our results, individuals who live in areas with high *P. falciparum* parasite rate have about twice the risk of being HIV positive compared with individuals who live in areas with low *P. falciparum* parasite rate. Our work emphasizes the need for field studies focused on quantifying the interaction among parasitic infection and risk of HIV infection, and studies to explore the impact of control interventions. Programmes focused on reducing malaria transmission will be important to address, especially in HIV-infected individuals. ...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://ije.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2011/01/11/ije.dyq256.abstract>

[Accessed: 18 January 2011]

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### **A Comparison of HIV Detection Rates Using Routine Opt-out Provider-Initiated HIV Testing and Counseling Versus a Standard of Care Approach in a Rural African Setting**

*Silvestri David M, Modjarrad Kayvon, Blevins Meridith L, Halale Elizabeth, Vermund Sten H, McKinzie Jeffry P. JAIDS Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes Volume 56, Issue 1, pp e9-e32. Published: 1 January 2011.*

Routine opt-out provider-initiated HIV testing and counselling (PITC) remains under-utilized in sub-Saharan Africa. By selectively targeting clients who either volunteer or have clinical indications of HIV disease, standard approaches to HIV counselling and testing are presumed more cost-efficient than PITC...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://journals.lww.com/jaids/pages/articleviewer.aspx?year=2011&issue=01010&article=00014&type=abstract>

[Accessed: 18 January 2011].

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### **Health corruption busters reveal the monster in our midst**

*IZINDABA. SAMJ 1155 Vol. 101, No. 1. Published: January 2011.*

Provincial health departments are beginning to show modest success in meeting President Jacob Zuma's exhortation to root out fraud and corruption, but their efforts have revealed a national pandemic of looting, conservatively costing hundreds of millions, much of it deeply systemic. While the crime-busting efforts are contributing significantly to reducing many provinces' billion rand budget deficits, poor management, ineffective financial systems and lack of skills continue to aggravate matters and to provide rich and easy pickings for syndicates...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.samj.org.za/index.php/samj/article/viewFile/4675/3052> [Accessed: 21 January 2011]

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### Validity of the International HIV Dementia Scale in South Africa

John A. Joska, Jennifer Westgarth-Taylor, Jacqueline Hoare, Kevin G.F. Thomas, Robert Paul, Landon Myer, Dan J. Stein. *AIDS Patient Care and STDs*. Published: 7 January 2011.

HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders (HAND) remain prevalent, especially in regions like South Africa where HIV prevalence is high but access to antiretroviral treatment (ART) is limited. The incidence of HIV dementia (HAD) has been halved with the use of ART, but the prevalence remains high. Appropriate brief screening tools to screen for HAD are needed in order to facilitate treatment initiation. The validity of the International HIV Dementia Scale has not been established in a region where infection with HIV clade C is predominant. The International HIV Dementia Scale (IHDS) was administered together with a detailed neuropsychological test battery to 96 HIV-positive individuals who had not received ART and who were attending primary care HIV clinics...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.liebertonline.com/doi/abs/10.1089/apc.2010.0292> [Accessed: 18 January 2011]

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### The willingness of private-sector doctors to manage public-sector HIV/AIDS patients in the eThekweni metropolitan region of KwaZulu-Natal

Panjasaram Naidoo, Champaklal C. Jinabhai, Myra Taylor. *Afr J Prim Health Care Fam Med*. 2010;2(1), Art. #102, 5 pages.

South Africa is severely affected by the AIDS pandemic and this has resulted in an already under-resourced public sector being placed under further stress, while there remains a vibrant private sector. To address some of the resource and personnel shortages facing the public sector in South Africa, partnerships between the public and private sectors are slowly being forged. However, little is known about the willingness of private-sector doctors in the eThekweni Metropolitan (Metro) region of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa to manage public sector HIV and AIDS patients...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.phcfm.org/index.php/phcfm/article/view/102> [Accessed: 18 January 2011]

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## Recent News

### Ending hunger to reach MDGs

Lungi Langa. *Health-e News*. Published: 20 January 2011.

UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Director Elhadj As Sy and WFP Southern, Eastern and Central African Regional Director Mustaph Darboe signed an agreement prioritising both goals and acknowledged the progress that had been made to address the nutritional factors hampering children's health...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20033055> [Accessed: 20 January 2011]

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### Aid agency to be launched

IRIN. Published: 17 January 2011.

South Africa will launch its own development aid agency in 2011 in a move likely to boost the country's status as an emerging economic power and a champion of the African continent. The South African Development Partnership Agency is expected to become operational before mid-2011 and will work with other donor agencies to coordinate development programmes, mainly on the continent... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=91651> [Accessed: 18 January 2011]

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### WHO global plan to contain drug-resistant malaria

Stephanie Nebehay. *Reuters*. Published: 12 January 2011.

The World Health Organisation launched a plan on Wednesday to stop a form of drug-resistant malaria from spreading from Southeast Asia to Africa, where millions of lives could be at risk. It would cost about \$175 million a year to contain and prevent the global spread of the artemisinin-resistant parasite which first emerged along the Thai-Cambodian border in 2007, the United Nations agency said...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E70B06420110112> [Accessed: 18 January 2011]

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### Breaks from HIV therapy still associated with poorer outcomes 8 years later

Michael Carter. *Aidsmap*. Published: 18 January 2011.

HIV-positive patients who take breaks from their antiretroviral therapy have poorer increases in their CD4 cell count, are more likely to develop HIV-related illness, and have a higher risk of death than individuals who take continuous treatment, and these risks persist for at least eight years after the treatment break, Swiss investigators report in the online edition of *AIDS*...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.aidsmap.com/Breaks-from-HIV-therapy-still-associated-with-poorer-outcomes-8-years-later/page/1611595/> [Accessed: 18 January 2011]

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## **MDGs: Make the most of the next five years**

*IRIN. Published: 20 January 2011.*

A decade after world leaders adopted the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), there is no consensus on what impact they have had on global poverty. The academics, policy-makers, civil society activists and development workers who gathered in Johannesburg on 16-19 January for a summit on global poverty agreed that the MDGs have made a difference, but have fallen far short of the ambitious targets on poverty, education, health, gender equality and global partnership that 189 countries committed to achieving by 2015....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportId=91681> [Accessed: 21 January 2011]

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## **Training and Resources**

### **Call for young people to participate in sexual and reproductive health and right capacity building programme**

*Partners in Sexual Health.*

Partners in Sexual Health (PSH) intends to provide training to young women and men, between 15 and 25 years old, on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights leadership. The project, funded by Ford Foundation, will capacitate and mentor young women and men already working and knowledgeable in the field of SRHR within Southern Africa, with Advocacy & Leadership skills to address issues affecting young people, and thus promote the implementation of policies and programmes that will particularly benefit young people.

PSH therefore calls on all interested young people to respond to this advert in writing on or before 31 January 2011 to Dumisani Gabula, e-mail address: [dumisani@psh.org.za](mailto:dumisani@psh.org.za) or [admin@psh.org.za](mailto:admin@psh.org.za).

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### **AIDSinfo Country fact sheets**

*UNAIDS*

An online interactive tool that allows you to select any country in the world and view a variety of indicators specific to the country.

For more information: <http://www.unaids.org/en/dataanalysis/tools/aidsinfo/countryfactsheets/>

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### **EBW Healthcare and the Sister Lilian Centre Launch Maternal Care SMS**

*Education Project*

EBW Healthcare and the Sister Lilian Centre are launching a free SMS education project for health workers in South Africa. Condensed extracts from EBW Healthcare's Maternal Care course book will be SMS'd to subscribers every Tuesday from 18 January until 5 July, at no cost to the recipient. The SMS's link back to the full text on <http://www.ebwhealthcare.com>, which publishes the content of the course book for free online.

For more information: <http://www.ebwhealthcare.com>

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### **Free online tool may help doctors make treatment decisions for HIV-positive patients with drug resistance**

*Aidsmap. Michael Carter. Published: 20 January 2011*

UK investigators have developed an online resource that can help doctors select the most effective combination of anti-HIV drugs for patients with extensive experience of antiretroviral therapy. Evaluated in two studies published in the January edition of AIDS Patient Care and STDs, suggestions made by the tool led to doctors changing their initial treatment decision in a third of cases. Physicians found the resource easy to use, and the majority said that they would consider using it in the future. An updated version of the resource, the HIV Treatment Response Prediction System (HIV-TRePS) (<http://www.hivrdr.org/>), is now freely available on the internet, and is based on a computer model that includes information gathered from 65,000 HIV-positive patients across the world.

For more information:

<http://www.aidsmap.com/Free-online-tool-may-help-doctors-make-treatment-decisions-for-HIV-positive-patients-with-drug-resistance/page/161574/>

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## **Reports and Publications**

### **State of the World's Cities 2010/2011 - Cities for All: Bridging the Urban Divide**

*UN-HABITAT. Published: 2010.*

The world's urban population now exceeds the world's rural population. What does this mean for the state of our cities, given the strain this global demographic shift is placing upon current urban infrastructure? ...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: <http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=2917> [Accessed: 19 January 2011]

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### **Does the development of new medicinal products in the European Union address global and regional health concerns?**

*Population Health Metrics. December 2010*

Since 1995, approval for many new medicinal products has been obtained through a centralized procedure in the European Union. In recent years, the use of summary measures of population health has become widespread. We investigated whether efforts to develop innovative medicines are focusing on the most relevant conditions from a global public health perspective...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: <http://www.pophealthmetrics.com/content/8/1/34> [Accessed: 21 January 2011]

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## Global Consensus for Social Accountability of Medical Schools

December 2010

The beginning of the 20th century presented medical schools with unprecedented challenges to become more scientific and effective in the creation of physicians. This was captured in the Flexner report of 1910. The 21st Century presents medical schools with a different set of challenges: improving quality, equity, relevance and effectiveness in health care delivery; reducing the mismatch with societal priorities; redefining roles of health professionals; and providing evidence of impact on people's health status. To address those challenges 130 organizations and individuals from around the world with responsibility for health education, professional regulation and policymaking participated for eight months in a three-round Delphi process leading to a three-day facilitated consensus development conference...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: <http://bit.ly/fw4ofp> [Accessed: 21 January 2011]

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## A checklist for health research priority setting: nine common themes of good practice

Health Research Policy and Systems. December 2010.

Health research priority setting processes assist researchers and policymakers in effectively targeting research that has the greatest potential public health benefit. Many different approaches to health research prioritization exist, but there is no agreement on what might constitute best practice. Moreover, because of the many different contexts for which priorities can be set, attempting to produce one best practice is in fact not appropriate, as the optimal approach varies per exercise. Therefore, following a literature review and an analysis of health research priority setting exercises that were organized or coordinated by the World Health Organization since 2005, we propose a checklist for health research priority setting that allows for informed choices on different approaches and outlines nine common themes of good practice. It is intended to provide generic assistance for planning health research prioritization processes. The checklist explains what needs to be clarified in order to establish the context for which priorities are set; it reviews available approaches to health research priority setting; it offers discussions on stakeholder participation and information gathering; it sets out options for use of criteria and different methods for deciding upon priorities; and it emphasizes the importance of well-planned implementation, evaluation and transparency....[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-policy-systems.com/content/8/1/36> [Accessed: 21 January 2011]

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## Conferences

### IV World Social Forum on Social Security and Health

Venue: 03 to 06 of February 2011. Medicine College of Dakar University, Senegal.

URL: <http://www.africa-adapt.net/AA/ProjectOverview.aspx?PID=NxDcOtqzqiA%3d>

The theme of the IV Forum will be "Towards Universal Social Security: a Right without Borders, a System without Barriers." More information can be found at <http://www.fsms.org.br> for enrollments of individual and collective participants and self-managed workshops.

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## Job Opportunities

### Chief Executive Officer

Mandela Institute for Development Studies.

Closing Date: 24 January 2011

The Mandela Institute for Development Studies (MINDS) seeks to appoint a Chief Executive Officer, based in Johannesburg. S/he will work with the Board of Trustees to establish the Institute as a reputable independent African entity working mainly in the Sub-Saharan Africa region, and will lead, coordinate and manage the work of the Institute, and manage human, financial and other assets.

Please view the website for more details:

<http://www.ngopulse.org/opportunity/mandela-institute-development-studies-chief-executive-officer>

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### Consultant

South African National AIDS Council.

Closing Date: 27 January 2011

The South African National AIDS Council's (SANAC) Men's Sector seeks to appoint a Consultant, based in Pretoria. S/he will work directly under the supervision of the Deputy Director at Sonke Gender Justice Network and work very closely with SANAC Men's sector chairperson, Programme Manager at Brothers For Life Campaign, the SANAC Secretariat and Programme Officers of organisations working with men.

Please view the website for more details:

<http://www.ngopulse.org/opportunity/south-african-national-aids-council-consultant>

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