

# HST Bulletin



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## RECENT NEWS

### **Hope for strong world declaration on deadly TB**

*Health-e News | 23 August 2018.*

Last week the World Health Organisation (WHO) changed its treatment recommendations for the deadliest form of TB, drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB), following South Africa's bold decision.

### **Study shows children with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis can be treated**

*IOL | 22 August 2018.*

The results of a large, international systematic review, published in the journal PLOS Medicine, have showed that tuberculosis treatment is successful in children with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB).

### **Medical male circumcision: is the HIV prevention claim wrong?**

*Business Day | 14 August 2018.*

A study has found that medically circumcised older men in Mpumalanga have a higher rate of HIV than uncircumcised men.

### **Q&A: 'Research in the global South is of higher quality'**

*SciDevNet | 10 August 2018.*

An article published in the journal Nature last month (July 5) puts forward a new technique for the evaluation of research on development. It marks a departure from conventional approaches that, according to the authors, have significant weaknesses.

### **Nanomedicine could revolutionise the way we treat TB. Here's how**

*The Conversation | 15 August 2018.*

Tuberculosis is one of the world's deadliest infectious disease. Worldwide, there are still about 10.4 million cases of TB and 1.7 million deaths every year.

### **Will NHI and Medical Schemes Amendment Bills offer appropriate response to**

## healthcare crisis?

*Daily Maverick | 22 August 2018.*

NHS reforms need to pay attention to capacity development and learning and the process of implementation.

## No suitable care for SA's elderly population

*Health-e News | 22 August 2018.*

South Africa's elderly population is growing rapidly – but state mental health care is not adequate. About 30% of adults aged 60 and older will at some stage require medication to treat mental conditions.

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# ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

## Advancing the science behind human resources for health: highlights from the Health Policy and Systems Research Reader on Human Resources for Health

*BMC Health Policy and Systems | Published: 14 August 2018.*

*AS George, J Campbell, A Ghaffar and HPSR HRH reader collaborators*

Health workers are central to people-centred health systems, resilient economies and sustainable development. Given the rising importance of the health workforce, changing human resource for health (HRH) policy and practice and recent health policy and systems research (HPSR) advances, it is critical to reassess and reinvigorate the science behind HRH as part of health systems strengthening and social development more broadly. Building on the recently published Health Policy and Systems Research Reader on Human Resources for Health (the Reader), this commentary reflects on the added value of HPSR underpinning HRH.

## Reproductive health problems in rural South African young women: risk behaviour and risk factors

*BMC | Published: 15 August 2018.*

*Hashini Nilushika Galappaththi-Arachchige, Siphosenkosi G Zulu, Elisabeth Kleppa, Kristine Lillebo, Erik Qvigstad, Patricia Ndhlovu, Birgitte Jyding Vennervald, Svein Gunnar Gundersen et al*

South African young women continue to be vulnerable, with high prevalence of teenage pregnancy, HIV, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and female genital schistosomiasis (FGS). This study seeks to examine the underlying factors that may be associated with these four adverse reproductive health outcomes.

## HIV Prevention in Adolescents and Young People in the Eastern and Southern African Region: A Review of Key Challenges Impeding Actions for an Effective Response

*The Open AIDS Journal | Published: 19 August 2018.*

*Kaymarlin Govender, Wilfred GB Masebo, Patrick Nyamaruze, Richard G Cowden, Bettina T Schunter, Anurita Bains*

The global commitment to ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 places HIV prevention at the centre of the response. With the disease continuing to disproportionately affect young populations in the Eastern and Southern African Region (ESAR), particularly adolescent girls and young women, reducing HIV infections in this group is integral to achieving this ambitious target. This paper examines epidemiological patterns of the HIV epidemic among adolescents and young people, indicating where HIV prevention efforts need to be focused (i.e., adolescent girls and young women, adolescent boys and young men and young key populations).

## Lower genital tract cytokine profiles in South African women living with HIV: influence of mucosal sampling

*Scientific Reports | Published: 15 August 2018.*

*Shameem Z Jaumdally, Lindi Masson, Heidi E Jones, Smritee Dabee, Donald R Hoover, Hoyam Gamielidien, Nontokozi Langwenya, Landon Myer, et al*

Measurement of cytokines in the lower female genital tract offer insight into risk for HIV infection and reproductive complications. However, few studies have systematically compared mucosal collection methods or whether collection order matters. We compared longitudinal cytokine profiles in matched

genital samples collected from women living with HIV using menstrual cup (MC), endocervical swabs (ECS) and swab-enriched cervicovaginal lavage (eCVL).

### **Equity of antiretroviral treatment use in high HIV burden countries: Analyses of data from nationally-representative surveys in Kenya and South Africa**

*PlosOne* | Published: 10 August 2018.

*Sizulu Moyo, Peter W Young, Eleanor Gouws, Inbarani Naidoo, Joyce Wamicwe, Irene Mukui, Kimberly Marsh, Ehimario U Igumbor, Andrea A Kim, Thomas Rehle*

[This study aimed] to assess changes and equity in antiretroviral therapy (ART) use in Kenya and South Africa. We analysed national population-based household surveys conducted in Kenya and South Africa between 2007 and 2012 for factors associated with lack of ART use among people living with HIV (PLHIV) aged 15–64 years. We considered ART use to be inequitable if significant differences in use were found between groups of PLHIV (e.g. by sex).

### **The impact of population dynamics on the population HIV care cascade: results from the ANRS 12249 Treatment as Prevention trial in rural KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa)**

*Journal of the International AIDS Society* | Published: 19 July 2018.

*Joseph Larmarange, Mamadou Hassimiou Diallo, Nuala McGrath, Collins Iwuji, Mélanie Plazy, Rodolphe Thiébaud, Frank Tanser, Till Bärnighausen*

The universal test and treat strategy (UTT) was developed to maximize the proportion of all HIV-positive individuals on antiretroviral treatment (ART) and virally suppressed, assuming that it will lead to a reduction in HIV incidence at the population level. The evolution over time of the cross-sectional HIV care cascade is determined by individual longitudinal trajectories through the HIV care continuum and underlying population dynamics. The purpose of this paper is to quantify the contribution of each component of population change (in- and out-migration, HIV seroconversion, ageing into the cohort and definitive exit such as death) on the HIV care cascade in the context of the ANRS 12249 Treatment as Prevention (TasP) cluster-randomized trial, investigating UTT in rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, between 2012 and 2016.

### **What Affects Attendance and Engagement in a Parenting Program in South Africa?**

*Prevention Science* | Published: 18 August 2018.

*Yulia Shenderovich, Manuel Eisner, Lucie Cluver, Jenny Doubt, McKenzie Berezin, Sybil Majokweni, Aja Louise Murray*

Parenting programs are a promising approach to improving family well-being. For families to benefit, programs need to be able to engage families actively in the interventions. Studies in high-income countries show varying results regarding whether more disadvantaged families are equally engaged in parenting interventions. In low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), almost nothing is known about the patterns of participation in parent training. This paper examines group session attendance and engagement data from 270 high-risk families enrolled in the intervention arm of a cluster-randomized controlled trial in South Africa.

### **Are circumcised men safer sex partners? Findings from the HAALSI cohort in rural South Africa**

*PlosOne* | Published: 1 August 2018.

*Molly S Rosenberg, Francesc X Gómez-Olivé, Julia K Rohr, Kathleen Kahn, Till W Bärnighausen*

The real-world association between male circumcision and HIV status has important implications for policy and intervention practice. For instance, women may assume that circumcised men are safer sex partners than non-circumcised men and adjust sexual partnering and behavior according to these beliefs. Voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) is highly efficacious in preventing HIV acquisition in men and this biological efficacy should lead to a negative association between circumcision and HIV. However, behavioral factors such as differential selection into circumcision based on current HIV status or factors associated with future HIV status could reverse the association. Here, we examine how HIV prevalence differs by circumcision status in older adult men in a rural South African community, a non-experimental setting in a time of expanding VMMC access.

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# TRAINING AND RESOURCES

## **The WHO PrEP Implementation Tool App for Health Workers**

*World Health Organisation | 2018.*

This app provides mobile access to WHO PrEP Implementation Tool (WHO Implementation Tool for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis of HIV Infection) and was developed to be a “digital pocket reference” available for clinicians and pharmacists.

The app is available for free download on mobile devices in the Apple Store and the Google Play Store.

## **WEBINAR: How to Obtain Accreditation for eLearning Courses for Health Workers**

*Knowledge for Health | 9 August 2018.*

Keeping up-to-date on new advances and information in medical care is critical for frontline health workers, yet access to quality professional development is often challenging for individuals with limited resources. Accredited eLearning courses can address this challenge.

Many training institutions and eLearning authors seek course accreditation to meet health workers’ licensure requirements. The process for obtaining accreditation is rewarding, but can be difficult to navigate.

On August 7, 2018, K4Health hosted How to Obtain Accreditation for eLearning Courses for Health Worker during which webinar presenters offered tips and tricks - drawn from real-life experiences at the regional and country levels - for navigating the accreditation process and ensuring that training curriculum, specifically that of eLearning courses, meets the requirements of local regulatory bodies.

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# PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

## **JAIDS Supplement - Population mobility: challenges for universal HIV testing and treatment**

*Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: July 2018.*

*Guest Editors: Carol S Camlin, Susan Cassels, Janet Seeley*

Better measures and methods are needed to understand how mobility affects the ability of individuals to successfully navigate the HIV care cascade. This is especially urgent for sub-Saharan Africa, where levels of mobility are high and forms of mobility are complex and dynamic. The effects of mobility on initiatives designed to extend the reach of primary HIV prevention interventions in these settings are, to date, unknown— a glaring gap in the literature. The articles in this supplement of the Journal of the International AIDS Society focus on crucial questions regarding the forms and dimensions of mobility and the impact on HIV prevention and care initiatives—particularly in Southern and Eastern Africa, but also in the ‘receiving’ nations in the global north of sub-Saharan African migrants.

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# CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

## **KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health Research Day**

7 September 2018

Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital, Durban

## **PHASA Conference**

10-12 September 2018

Khaya iBhubesi, Parys

## **Western Cape Department of Health Provincial Research Day**

16 November 2018

University of Stellenbosch Medicine and Health Sciences Faculty, Tygerberg campus

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# JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

## **SAHPRA: Chief Executive Director**

Closing Date: 31 August 2018

## **SAHPRA: Director - Public Relations and Corporate Communications**

Closing Date: 31 August 2018

## **Society for Family Health (SFH): Medical Male Circumcision Quality Assurance Technical Advisor**

Closing Date: 31 August 2018

## **mothers2mothers: Research and Strategic Information Manager - Cape Town**

Closing Date: 31 August 2018

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