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Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

Universal health coverage: Progressive taxes are key

Robert Yates. *The Lancet*. Published: 14 May 2015.

On 12 December 2012, a UN General Assembly Resolution was passed unanimously which called on all countries to move their health systems towards universal health coverage (UHC). Interestingly, this resolution was co-sponsored by the USA – a country not known for having achieved this goal...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/>[Accessed: 24 July 2015]

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Financing universal health coverage – effects of alternative tax structures on public health systems: Cross-national modelling in 89 low-income and middle-income countries

Dr Aaron Reeves, Yannis Gourtsoyannis, Sanjay Basu, David McCoy, Prof Martin McKee, Prof David Stuckler. The Lancet. Published: 14 May 2015.

How to finance progress towards universal health coverage in low-income and middle-income countries is a subject of intense debate. We investigated how alternative tax systems affect the breadth, depth, and height of health system coverage. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/>[Accessed: 24 July 2015]

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Equity in health personnel financing after Universal Coverage: Evidence from Thai Ministry of Public Health's hospitals from 2008-2012

Wilailuk Ruangratanastrai, Somrat Lertmaharit and Piya Hanvoravongchai. Human Resources for Health. Published: 18 July 2015.

Shortage and maldistribution of the health workforce is a major problem in the Thai health system. The expansion of healthcare access to achieve universal health coverage placed additional demand on the health system especially on the health workers in the public sector who are the major providers of health services...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.human-resources-health.com/content/13/1/59>[Accessed: 24 July 2015]

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The effect of payment and incentives on motivation and focus of community health workers: Five case studies from low- and middle-income countries

Debra Singh, Joel Negin, Michael Otim, Christopher Garimoi Orach and Robert Cumming. Human Resources for Health. Published: 14 July 2015.

Community health workers (CHWs) have been proposed as a means for bridging gaps in healthcare delivery in rural communities. Recent CHW programmes have been shown to improve child and neonatal health outcomes, and it is increasingly being suggested that paid CHWs become an integral part of health systems...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.human-resources-health.com/content/13/1/58>[Accessed: 24 July 2015]

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Understanding health information seeking from an actor-centric perspective

Simon Batchelor, Linda Waldman, Gerry Bloom, Sabrina Rasheed, Nigel Scott, Tanvir Ahmed, Nazib Uz Zaman Khan and Tamanna Sharmin. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. Published: 15 July 2015.

This paper presents a conceptual approach for discussing health information seeking among poor households in Africa and Asia. This approach is part of a larger research endeavour aimed at understanding how health systems are adapting; with possibilities and constraints emerging. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/12/7/8103/htm>[Accessed: 24 July 2015]

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"What do you mean I've got to wait for six weeks?!" Understanding the sexual behaviour of men and their female partners after Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision in the Western Cape

Yoesrie Toefy, Donald Skinner, Sarah C. Thomsen. Plos One. Published: 15 July 2015.

Several studies have shown that voluntary male medical circumcision (VMMC) reduces the incidence of the Type-1 human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in heterosexual men by up to 60%. However, there is an increased risk of transmission of STIs, including HIV, in the immediate post-operative period after receiving VMMC...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/>[Accessed: 24 July 2015]

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Xpert MTB/RIF versus sputum microscopy as the initial diagnostic test for tuberculosis: A cluster-randomised trial embedded in South African roll-out of Xpert MTB/RIF

Dr Gavin J Churchyard, Wendy S Stevens, Lerole D Mametja, Kerrigan M McCarthy, Violet Chihota, Mark P Nicol, et al. The Lancet Global Health. Published: August 2015.

In South Africa, sputum smear microscopy has been replaced with Xpert MTB/RIF as the initial diagnostic test for tuberculosis. In a pragmatic parallel cluster-randomised trial, we evaluated the effect on patient and programme outcomes. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/>[Accessed: 24 July 2015]

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Recent News

Public health suffers if vaccines are not accessible

Mail&Guardian. Published: 24 July 2015.

A Western Cape project is looking to make free vaccines available in private clinics, but the Eastern Cape has stopped the practice...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://mg.co.za/article/2015-07-24-public-health-suffers-if-vaccines-are-not-accessible/>[Accessed: 24 July 2015]

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WHO lays out plans for financing new global health goal: To ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

WHO. Published: 10 July 2015.

WHO is urging countries to move towards universal health coverage and to scale up international investment in catalytic development funding. The call comes as world leaders travel to the Third UN Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2015/health-financing/en/>[Accessed: 24 July 2015]

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Global health leaders call for harnessing power of innovation to end diseases

UNITAID. Published: 15 July 2015.

Global health leaders this week discussed how best to harness the power of innovation to launch better and less costly medicines and diagnostic tools that can help end AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.unitaid.eu/en/resources/press-centre/statements/>[Accessed: 24 July 2015]

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The Vancouver Consensus

International AIDS Society. Published: 19 July 2015.

In 1996 the global HIV community gathered in Vancouver to share evidence that triple-combination antiretroviral treatment held the power to stem the tide of deaths from AIDS. The treatment era had begun. Today, as we gather again in Vancouver, we recognize a new transformative moment in the fight to end AIDS.[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://vancouverconsensus.org/>[Accessed: 24 July 2015]

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UNFPA, WHO and UNAIDS: Position statement on condoms and the prevention of HIV, other sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancy

UNAIDS. Published: 7 July 2015.

Condoms are a critical component in a comprehensive and sustainable approach to the prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and are effective for preventing unintended pregnancies.[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2015/july/>[Accessed: 24 July 2015]

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Fact sheet: South Africa's HIV programme by numbers

Health-e News. Published: 16 July 2015.

A new fact sheet details the achievements of South Africa's HIV programme, which initiated more than 600 000 people on antiretroviral treatment in 2014/15.[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/2015/07/16/fact-sheet-south-africas-hiv-programme-by-numbers/>[Accessed: 24 July 2015]

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South Africa: Women of lower socio-economic status have greater needs for services to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission

aidsmap. Published: 15 July 2015.

Pregnant women of lower socio-economic status are more likely to take up early HIV testing and to have HIV-exposed infants, according to findings of a study presented by Nobubelo Ngandu at the 7th South African AIDS conference last month in Durban.[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.aidsmap.com/South-Africa-Women-of-lower-socio-economic-status-have-greater-needs-for-services-to-prevent-mother-to-child-HIV-transmission/page/2984500/>[Accessed: 24 July 2015]

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Doctors at odds with state over proposed tariff plan

BDlive. Published: 21 July 2015.

The country's biggest doctor association in private practice on Monday took issue with the Health Department's controversial proposal that medical schemes cover only part of their members' bills for prescribed minimum benefits...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.bdlive.co.za/business/healthcare/2015/07/21/doctors-at-odds-with-state-over-proposed-tariff-plan>[Accessed: 24 July 2015]

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Training and Resources

Oral pre-exposure prophylaxis – questions and answers

UNAIDS. Published: July 2015.

UNAIDS welcomes the additional evidence released in February 2015 showing that pre-exposure prophylaxis using oral antiretroviral medication, PrEP, can contribute to preventing people from acquiring HIV.[Click Here»](#)

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Guidelines for reporting health research: A user's manual

BMJ Books. Published: September 2014.

"Guidelines for reporting health research" is a practical guide to choosing and correctly applying the appropriate guidelines when reporting health research to ensure clear, transparent, and useful reports.[Click Here»](#)

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Consolidated guidelines on HIV testing services – 5Cs: Consent, Confidentiality, Counselling, Correct Results and Connection

WHO. Published: July 2015.

The Guidelines bring together existing guidance relevant to the provision of HIV testing services (HTS) and addresses issues and elements for effective delivery of HTS that are common in a variety of settings, contexts and diverse populations.[Click Here»](#)

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Books, Publications, Reports and Manuals

How AIDS changed everything

UNAIDS. Published: July 2015.

A new book on Millenium Development Goal #6 shows growing momentum for ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.[Click Here»](#)

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Conferences and Events

3rd International Conference on Epidemiology and Emerging Diseases

When: 4-6 August 2015

Venue: Valencia, Spain

URL: <http://epidemiology.conferenceseries.com/>

The main motto of this conference is to bring all the renowned epidemiologists, clinicians, public health practitioners, biostatisticians, healthcare policymakers, industry experts, researchers and students under a common roof.

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8th International Clinicians' Course for Tuberculosis (TB) in South Africa

When: 13-16 August 2015

Venue: Pretoria, South Africa

URL: <http://www.ce.up.ac.za/8th-International-Clinicians-TB-HIV-in-South-Africa>

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), in association with the University of Pretoria, is delighted to present the 8th International Clinicians' Course for TB in South Africa. The course includes lectures on TB transmission, drug-resistant TB treatment, GeneXpert, diagnosing TB in children and much more. Targeted at clinicians and health-care practitioners, the cooperative award funding will provide a learning opportunity to 50 doctors and health professionals.

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Global Forum on Research and Innovation for Health 2015

When: 24-27 August 2015

Venue: Manila, Philippines

URL: <http://www.forum2015.org>

Forum 2015 is a unique global platform to promote the role of research and innovation in creating better health, enhancing equity and stimulating development. Join other policy-makers, business and non-profit leaders, international organizations, academic and research institutions, social entrepreneurs and key stakeholders, as we work together to shape the global health research agenda locally, regionally and globally.

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SVRI Workshops

When: 15-17 September 2015

Venue: Stellenbosch, South Africa

URL: <http://www.svri.org/forum2015/index.htm>

The Sexual Violence Research Initiative is proud to announce the 4th international conference, the SVRI Forum 2015. The Forum brings together researchers, gender activists, funders, policy makers, service providers, practitioners and survivors from around the world and will showcase innovation to end sexual violence, intimate partner violence and child abuse, and strengthen responses to survivors in low- and middle-income countries.

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South African Disability 2015 Expo and Conference

When: 17-19 September 2015

Venue: The Pavilion on the Waterfront, Cape Town, South Africa

URL: <http://www.ingadaevents.co.za/current/disability-cape-town>

It is the only public showcase on the African continent where people with any kind of disability, their caregivers, families and friends can find the manufacturers, distributors, suppliers and service providers that offer everything necessary to improve the quality of life. The event advocates the full equality and participation of persons with disabilities into society and to empower and equip people by making a meaningful contribution to their lives.

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Hospital Association of South Africa 2015 Conference

When: 21-23 September 2015

Venue: Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa

URL: <http://www.conferencehasa.co.za>

The Hospital Association of South Africa's (HASA) 2015 annual conference will return to familiar ground, once again taking place at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC). The 2015 conference theme – "Harmonising Healthcare. Shift. Synchronise. Symphony" – speaks to the need for all healthcare stakeholders to explore practical ways in which to bring harmony to all facets of the sector in order to establish a sustainable quality healthcare system that will be able to better serve the citizens of our nation.

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Rural Doctors Association of South Africa (RuDASA)

When: 23-26 September 2015

Venue: Mpumalanga, South Africa

URL: <http://www.rudasa.org.za/>

An annual RuDASA conference has been organised almost every year since 1996, and attracts a range of rural health professionals from all over the country. The conference is a much-anticipated, vibrant forum which combines a mixture of sessions ranging from clinical skills updates for and by a wide range of health professionals to emotive discussions and workshops on issues such as justice and equity.

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South African Association of Community Pharmacists (SAACP) Symposium

When: 25-26 September 2015

Venue: Birchwood Hotel and Conference Centre, Johannesburg

URL: <http://www.saacpsymposium.co.za>

SAACP is the professional body representing the community pharmacy sector of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa, and needs to take the lead in marketing the unique role and contribution of community pharmacists in healthcare delivery now and in the future in South Africa. This Symposium is the first stepping stone in influencing policies and legislation governing the professional role of community pharmacists.

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Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) Conference

When: 7-9 October 2015

Venue: Southern Sun Elangeni, Durban, South Africa

URL: <http://www.phasaconference.org.za>

The 11th Annual Conference of the Public Health Association of South Africa takes place between 7-9 October

2015 in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal. With 2015 being the target date for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the conference will provide an opportunity to reflect on the challenges faced by South Africa and Africa in trying to achieve the MDGs.

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9th Action Learning, Action Research (ALARA) and 13th Participatory Action Research World Congress

When: 4-7 November 2015

Venue: St. George Hotel and Conference Centre, Centurion (Pretoria), South Africa

URL: <http://www.alarassociation.org/pages/events/alara-world-congress-2015>

The theme of this World Congress is a challenge to Action Learning / Action Research practitioners the world over, whether working in resource rich or more socio-economically challenged contexts, to explain how they are contributing to the creation of a fairer world.

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18th International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa

When: 29 November to 4 December 2015

Venue: Rainbow Towers Hotel & Conference Centre, Harare, Zimbabwe

URL: <http://icasa2015zimbabwe.org/overview/icasa-2015-background/>

As ICASA Zimbabwe coincides with the MDG target year, the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa is offering the strategic first forum for post-MGD to leaders, activists, scientists and community to take stock of the outcomes of the MDG high level meeting challenges and to pave the way for a new, innovative and efficient approach towards an Africa AIDS free generation.

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Job Opportunities

ActionAid South Africa: Programme Officer - Northern Cape

Closing Date: 2 August 2015

Please view our website for more details

<http://www.hst.org.za/jobs/programme-officer-0>

Creative Consulting & Development Work: M&E internship opportunities

Closing Date: 14 August 2015

Please view our website for more details

<http://www.hst.org.za/jobs/me-internship-opportunities>

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