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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Universal influenza vaccines are futile when benchmarked against seasonal influenza vaccines

The Lancet Infectious Diseases | 17 March 2022

Sophie A Valkenburg, Leo L M Poon

Influenza A viruses pose a challenge for vaccinology in their surface antigenic diversity; however, conserved internal proteins could be used to bolster cellular immunity to provide heterosubtypic immunity. Current influenza vaccines are founded on haemagglutinin antigenic match, and vaccine efficacy can be high when well matched, but more often the matching is subpar and unable to anticipate pandemic and outbreak strains. This shortfall has led to a call for the development of a universal influenza vaccine, 1 which is proving difficult to accomplish.

Global estimates of violence against children with disabilities: an updated systematic review and meta-analysis

The Lancet Child and Adolescent Health | 17 March 2022

Zuyi Fang, Ilan Cerna-Turoff, Cheng Zhang, Mengyao Lu, Jamie M Lachman, et al

Previous meta-analysis evidence shows that children (aged 0–18 years) with disabilities experience high amounts of violence. During the past decade, there has been a substantial increase in the volume of available data, and we therefore aimed to update the evidence and provide a current global estimate of violence against children with disabilities.

A critique of the marketisation of long-term residential and nursing home care

The Lancet Healthy Longevity | 21 March 2022

Christine Corlet Walker, Prof Angela Druckman, Prof Tim Jackson

Long-term care systems across countries within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development have undergone a progressive marketisation and financialisation in recent decades, characterised by the embedding of neoliberal market values such as competition, consumer choice, and the profit motive. In this Personal View, we argue that these make poor guiding principles for the care sector, identifying the dysfunctional dynamics that arise as a result, and reflecting on the clinical implications of each, with a focus on facility-based care. We outline why providers can scarcely respond to competitive forces without compromising care quality. We explain why the promotion of consumer choice

cannot effectively motivate improvements to quality of care. And we explore how privatisation opens the door to predatory financial practices. We conclude by considering how far proposals for reform can take us, ultimately arguing for a rejection of neoliberal market ideology, and calling for sector-wide discussions about what principles would be more fitting for a caring economy.

Accelerate investment and action to find the missing patients with tuberculosis

The Lancet | 22 March 2022

Keertan Dheda, Lancelot Pinto, Junior Mutsvangwa, Chi Ciu Leung, Arne von Delft, et al.

Globally, there were about 10 million new cases of active tuberculosis in 2020 and an estimated 1.5 million deaths. In the same year, in many African countries, there were more deaths from tuberculosis than from COVID-19. Early detection and effective treatment is the key strategy to combat tuberculosis. Unfortunately, even before 2020, about a third of people newly ill with tuberculosis remained undetected—the missing tuberculosis diagnoses. Detecting these individuals with active tuberculosis is important not only to prevent morbidity and mortality but also to subvert amplification of this airborne epidemic, since almost a third of these people are likely to be highly infectious with smear-positive or cavitary disease. Indeed, for example, a 2018 South African national door-to-door survey showed that 58% of people with culture-positive tuberculosis did not report any symptoms. Currently deployed global and national health strategies are not fundamentally configured to detect this missing burden of disease, because they rely on patients self-reporting to clinics or health-care facilities (passive case finding). All these considerations also apply to the multidrug-resistant tuberculosis epidemic response.

Association between socio-economic factors and HIV self-testing knowledge amongst South African women

South African Journal of HIV Medicine | 24 March 2022

Michael Ekholuenetale, Chimenzie Nzopotam, Osaretin Okonji

Background: Self-testing for HIV is an effective and alternative method of increasing HIV testing rates and a strategy for reaching populations that are underserved by HIV testing services. Nonetheless, many resource-constrained settings are yet to adopt HIV self-testing (HIVST) into their national HIV programmes.

Objectives: This study aimed to examine the association between socio-economic factors and HIVST knowledge amongst South African women.

Method: We used nationally representative data from the 2016 South African Demographic and Health Survey. A sample of 8182 women of reproductive age was analysed. The outcome variable was HIVST knowledge. This was measured dichotomously; know versus do not know about HIVST. The multivariable logistic model was used to examine the measures of association, with the level of significance set at $P < 0.05$.

A roadmap of recovery for the COVID generation

The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health | 1 April 2022

Editorial

2 years into the COVID-19 pandemic, we are humbled by the tireless work of our clinical and scientific colleagues who have treated and protected the world's children. The clinical profile of SARS-CoV-2 infection in the young is now established: the vast majority of children and adolescents will have a mild illness, with a low risk of hospitalisation or complications. Initial fears over emerging strains being more dangerous appear to be unfounded: reporting the first data from the omicron wave in South Africa, Jeané Cloete and colleagues showed that the observed rapid increases in cases and hospitalisations in children (<13 years) mirrored the high community transmission of SARS-CoV-2, with similar rates of hospital admission or intensive care intervention seen with earlier variants.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

UK airlines aim to drop in-flight face mask mandates – but not for South Africans

Business Insider | 17 March 2022

London's Heathrow Airport recently announced that the wearing of face masks had become optional. British Airways and Virgin Atlantic, which both fly to South Africa and are based at Heathrow, welcomed

the airport's decision and said they would follow suit. But flights with no mask mandates are few and far between, for now, and will only work on routes where destinations don't have pre-existing laws on covering up in public. South Africa has no intention of dropping its mask mandate, even beyond the state of disaster, with passengers aboard British Airways and Virgin Atlantic flights still required to cover up.

Mental wellbeing: SA hits rock bottom on global list

Health-e News | 18 March 2022

The latest Mental State of the World report has identified South Africa as the lowest-ranked country based on mental wellbeing. It also revealed how the mental health of younger generations has plummeted; growing up in an internet-dominated and inequitable world. Published annually by the Mental Health Million Project, the report reached a total of 223 087 respondents from 34 countries. They form part of the Core Anglosphere, Spanish-speaking Latin America, the Arab world, Spanish & French speaking continental Europe and Africa. Data for the study uses an online assessment tool called the Mental Health Quotient (MHQ), which comprises 47 elements including both problems and assets.

Mass Polio Vaccination Drive to Administer More Than 80 Million Doses to Southern African Children in Five Countries

Health Policy Watch | 18 March 2022

Malawi is launching a mass vaccination campaign against wild poliovirus type 1, which is to extend to 23 million children across five southern African countries, WHO said on Friday. The campaign, to kick off Sunday, follows Malawi's declaration of a polio outbreak on 17 February – three months after the first polio virus case in 30 years was identified in a young child in Lilongwe. The case was the first in Africa since the region was certified free of indigenous wild poliovirus in 2020. WHO said that the region's certification as wild polio-free remains unchanged, as the wild poliovirus strain identified had been “imported” from Pakistan. So far, no clear explanation of how the Asian virus strain may have infected an African child who had never traveled outside of the country, has been provided by WHO or Malawi health authorities. Nor has there been any explanation of why it took three months between the time the child was diagnosed and the outbreak was formally declared by WHO. But the breadth of the new campaign makes it clear the incident has been perceived as a major threat to Africa's wild polio virus free status – with risks of subtle, silent transmission of the virus much more widely, via contaminated water and sewage, food, or human-to-human contact.

Unitaid to introduce new long-lasting injection to prevent HIV in Brazil and South Africa, as high-income countries begin deployment

Unitaid | 18 March 2022

People at risk of HIV in Brazil and South Africa will be among the first to benefit from a highly effective, long-acting injectable HIV preventive treatment through two large-scale operational projects funded by global health agency Unitaid. Long-acting cabotegravir is a new HIV prevention method that provides eight weeks of continuous protection against HIV infection through a single intramuscular injection. This provides an alternative to oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), which can reduce the risk of HIV infection by 99%, but only when taken as prescribed: either once a day, or before and after sex for cisgender men. Long-acting cabotegravir addresses challenges users face with regular pills that reduce the impact of oral PrEP in real-world settings. It also mitigates fears that pills will be misinterpreted for HIV treatment and cause the user to suffer stigma, discrimination, or intimate partner violence as a result. Unitaid will partner with Fiocruz in Brazil, Wits RHI in South Africa, and local health authorities in both countries to integrate long-acting cabotegravir into national sexual health programmes, generating some of the first real-world evidence that will support wide-scale global implementation.

New Children's TB Guidelines a 'Game-Changer' With Non-Invasive Tests, Shortened Treatments

Health Policy Watch | 21 March 2022

Children and adolescents diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB) will benefit from a set of new guidelines that aim to shorten the treatment plan, expand preventative care, and introduce better diagnostic testing and treatments. The World Health Organisation (WHO) today released a new set of 'game-changer' guidelines where children and adolescents with non-severe forms of drug-susceptible TB will now be treated for four months instead of six months. The guidelines come on the back of World TB Day on March 24, and underscore the fact that children and adolescents have fallen behind adults when it comes to prevention

and care associated with the disease. The theme this year for World TB Day is 'Invest to End TB. Save Lives.' "The WHO guidelines issued today are a game-changer for children and adolescents, helping them get diagnosed and access to care sooner, leading to better outcomes and cutting transmission. The priority now is to rapidly expand implementation of the guidance across countries to save young lives and avert suffering," said Dr Tereza Kasaeva, Director of WHO's Global TB Programme.

As Europe Moves to Improve Mental Health Services for Children, Experts Are Concerned About Men's Mental State

Health Policy Watch | 21 March 2022

Mental health practitioners worldwide are warning of a massive wave of pandemic-related mental health issues that many countries are ill-equipped to address. On Monday, the World Health Organization's (WHO) Europe office and the government of Greece launched a new European programme to strengthen and improve the quality of mental health services for children and adolescents. WHO Europe Director Dr Hans Kluge told the launch that suicide was the leading cause of death in children and adolescents aged 10 to 19 living in low- and middle-income countries in the region and that over 4000 young people in this age group had killed themselves in 2015.

Black Women's Health Imperative Releases 2022 National Diabetes Agenda

PR Newswire | 22 March 2022

The Black Women's Health Imperative (BWHI) released today its 2022 National Diabetes Agenda. The agenda arrives on the American Diabetes Association's annual Alert Day, which aims to raise awareness about the dangers of diabetes. "We hope that the information and resources in our new National Diabetes Agenda will help our fellow Black women beat back the epidemic of type 2 diabetes that is plaguing our community," said Dr. Angela Ford, Chief Programs Officer at the Black Women's Health Imperative.

Ramaphosa keeps state of disaster but eases Covid rules to placate critics

BusinessDay | 22 March 2022

President Cyril Ramaphosa on Tuesday dashed hopes of an immediate end to the national state of disaster but moved to appease critics by easing coronavirus restrictions that have dampened key economic sectors, scrapping testing requirements for vaccinated visitors to SA and loosening rules on the size of sporting and cultural events. In a push to promote local vaccine uptake, which has flagged sharply among younger people, the government has agreed events that require patrons to provide proof of immunisation or negative test results will be allowed to run up to 50% of capacity, opening the way for the resumption of large sporting, religious and cultural events.

Ramaphosa announces new COVID-19 regulations on gatherings (video)

eNCA | 22 March 2022

Masks are no longer required when outdoors but they will still be required at indoor facilities. President Cyril Ramaphosa announced regulation changes during an address to the nation on Tuesday night. Ramaphosa also announced that the state of disaster will end after the public has commented on proposed new regulations. The president is also urging the unvaccinated to get the COVID-19 jab.

Cyber censorship of women's health is being called out in The Menstrual Revolution campaign

Stylist Wellbeing | 22 March 2022

Did you know that the word 'vagina' is one of the most frequently flagged terms by Facebook? Or that all women's health companies surveyed by the Centre for Intimacy Justice have had an advert rejected by Facebook and Instagram, and 50% of the brands had experienced suspension of their entire account. This type of digital silencing is called 'cyber censorship' – and a new campaign is calling for an end to it. The Menstrual Revolution has been launched by women's health brand FEWE in a letter to Nick Clegg, president for global affairs at Instagram and Facebook's parent company Meta. In it, FEWE's CEO Rebekah Hall has called for the platforms to "address this inequality and injustice".

Facebook's Censorship of Health Ads for Women and People of Diverse Genders

Center for Intimacy Justice | 22 March 2022

Of the 60 health businesses studied that serve women's health and health for people of diverse genders, all (100%) had experienced Facebook rejecting an advertisement at some point. Even more concerning,

Facebook was also found to have suspended half (50%) of survey respondents' advertising accounts.
Read the full report: <https://docsend.com/view/phfstt65wzta5nw7>

The incoherent and illogical new government Covid-19 regulations are the real state of disaster

Daily Maverick | 22 March 2022

On 15 March 2022, the government published new draft regulations relating to the surveillance and control of notifiable medical conditions and public health measures at points of entry to South Africa, allowing 30 days for comment. These draft regulations are seemingly an ill-conceived and misdirected attempt to continue preventing SARS-CoV-2 infections and appear to be oblivious to the new realities of Covid-19, two years into a pandemic. Despite the low coverage of Covid-19 vaccinations in South Africa and failure to vaccinate the targeted 40 million people (or administer 40 million doses of vaccine) by the end of 2021, there has been evolution of widespread population immunity and resultant protection, particularly against severe Covid-19 and death in South Africa.

Vaccine mandates are critical – Karim (video)

eNCA | 23 March 2022

Now, currently, the mask mandate remains in place as do the restrictions on gatherings. Only 2000 people were allowed to gather outdoors and indoors 1000. Let's speak to Professor Salim Abdool Karim, who has served as the chair of the ministerial advisory committee on COVID-19 and is of course the director of Caprisa the centre for the aids programme of research in South Africa.

Why a new approach is needed in the fight against South Africa's number one killer

Daily Maverick | 23 March 2022

Today is World TB Day. It's time to take stock of the effectiveness of our tuberculosis (TB) prevention and treatment programmes and to ask why (after Covid-19 subsides) TB will still be the leading cause of death in South Africa. At the height of any one of the four Covid-19 pandemic waves over the past two years, no one can argue they did not know the status quo around this deadly virus. Regular televised country briefings by President Cyril Ramaphosa were accompanied by daily maps and infographics telling us which provinces were hardest hit. A USSD Covid-19 line was swiftly set up and data about caseloads was just a *120* away. Regular tweets delivered regulations and warnings about mask-wearing, hand washing and restaurant occupation rates.

New Covid rules for workplaces in South Africa – and what it means for vaccine mandates

BusinessTech | 23 March 2022

The Department of Employment and Labour has listed SARS CoV2 (Covid-19) as a group 3 hazardous biological agent (HBA) under South Africa's Hazardous Biological Agents regulations, which has important implications for employers and businesses in South Africa, say experts at legal firm Bowmans. The regulations were published by the department on 16 March 2022 in terms of section 43 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) and categorise HBAs into four risk groups according to their hazard and categories of contaminant. They also require employers to control the exposure to HBAs in the workplace via various reasonably practicable measures.

Low funding, COVID-19 curtail tuberculosis fight in Africa

WHO | 24 March 2022

Inadequate investment and funding for tuberculosis (TB) control in Africa is jeopardizing the efforts to meet the global target of ending the disease by 2030, while the COVID-19 pandemic threatens to roll back progress made so far in the continent, an assessment by World Health Organization (WHO) finds. Every year the African region requires at least US\$ 1.3 billion for TB prevention and treatment. However, countries contribute 22% of the needed budget while external funding accounts for 34%. The rest of the budget remains unfunded, seriously undermining the efforts to eliminate the disease. This year, World TB Day is being marked under the theme "Invest to end TB. Save Lives." Underfunding for TB programmes has a significant impact on disease detection, for example.

The Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) South Africa director Professor Yogan Pillay weighs in on World TB Day (radio recording)

702 | 24 March 2022

Have you been impacted or affected by TB? Today marks world TB day which is commemorated annually to raise awareness around the disease and aimed at strengthen efforts to prevent its spread. Bongani Bingwa chats to the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) South Africa director Professor Yogan Pillay to give more insight on the day.

Analysis: Is SA on course to solve its TB diagnosis problem?

Spotlight | 24 March 2022

In February 2021, findings from South Africa's first National Tuberculosis Prevalence Survey were made public after delays of about a year. The survey confirmed something that has been suspected for some time – that large numbers of people who fall ill with TB in South Africa are not being diagnosed. This is firstly harmful to the health of the people who are not being diagnosed, but it is also a major obstacle to reducing the rate of new infections in the country since people who are not diagnosed and not on treatment remain infectious for much longer. According to Dr Norbert Ndjeka, Director of Drug-Resistant TB, TB, and HIV in the National Department of Health, just over 208 000 cases of TB were diagnosed in South Africa in 2020.

Profile: I view the doctor-patient relationship as sacred, says leading TB doctor

News24 | 24 March 2022

Dr Jennifer Furin has fought drug-resistant tuberculosis since 1995, when she worked as a student in a poverty-stricken suburb in Lima, Peru. Since then, she has roamed the world, treating TB and HIV patients in under-resourced countries, including Haiti, Russia, Tajikistan, Bangladesh, eSwatini, Lesotho, and South Africa. Treating drug-resistant forms of TB, she has been at the forefront of advocacy efforts to replace hearing loss-causing injections (for example, kanamycin) with a new and better drug called bedaquiline that is taken in pill form. Speaking to Spotlight this month, she lauded South Africa as a “global beacon of hope” for mostly eliminating the use of such injections.

Tackling TB: Three lessons the COVID-19 pandemic taught us

Bhekisisa | 24 March 2022

The World Health Organisation (WHO) **reports** that in 2020 the number of TB deaths reached levels last seen in 2017 despite the number of cases **falling by 1.3-million** between 2019 and 2020. This, they say, means that the **world is unlikely to reach its targets** of reducing TB infections by 20% or ending TB deaths **by 2030**.

What should the TB priorities be in the new NSP?

Spotlight | 24 March 2022

The period covered by South Africa's National Strategic Plan (NSP) for HIV, TB, and STIs 2017 – 2022 will soon come to an end and a new NSP will have to be developed for the next five years. Against the backdrop of World TB Day (24 March), Spotlight asked several local TB experts what they think should be the tuberculosis (TB) priorities in the new plan. The plan is being developed in the context of a COVID-19 pandemic that has **severely impacted** the TB response in South Africa and elsewhere. In South Africa, the impact was particularly clear in a **reduction in TB diagnoses** in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic. While TB catch-up plans are in place, it is **unclear** to what extent those plans are currently being implemented and succeeding.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust Bulletin

The Health Systems Trust (HST) produces a weekly bulletin on Fridays focusing on key public health news, peer-reviewed journal articles and other important primary healthcare resources.

Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust 60percent

HST produces a weekly online publication, 60percent, which keeps subscribers abreast with the latest news and developments pertaining to HIV-related maternal, adolescent, child and youth health. The name

60percent signifies that southern Africa is responding to a feminised HIV/AIDS epidemic, with at least 60% of those living with HIV being women. Subscribe to 60percent by simply visiting HST's website (<https://www.hst.org.za>), scroll to the bottom of the page, hit the SUBSCRIBE button, and follow the prompts. Let's keep you posted!

HSTi offers accredited and non-accredited short courses and full programmes

The Health Systems Training Institute (HSTi) is the training arm of the Health Systems Trust (HST), a leading force in the South African public health sector. HST was established in 1992, on the brink of democracy in South Africa, and has since played a significant role in strengthening the national primary health system through health research, informatics, clinical support, capacity-building and training.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Guidelines for drinking-water quality: Fourth edition incorporating the first and second addenda

WHO | 21 March 2022

The fourth edition incorporating the first and second addenda, of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Guidelines for drinking-water quality (GDWQ) builds on over 60 years of guidance by WHO on drinking-water quality, which has formed an authoritative basis for the setting of national regulations and standards for water safety in support of public health. It is the product of significant revisions to clarify and elaborate on ways of implementing its recommendations of contextual hazard identification and risk management, through the establishment of health-based targets, catchment-to-consumer water safety plans and independent surveillance. Updates in this latest edition reflect new evidence and further, provides additional explanations to support better understanding and application of the guidance. More details on the updates are included in the GDWQ preface.

The Mental State of the World Report

The Mental State of the World Report is an annual publication of the Mental Health Million Project that provides a view of the evolving mental wellbeing of the global Internet-enabled population. Each year the report presents the mental state of populations over the year, trends relative to previous years, and insights into key drivers of these trends. In addition, Rapid Reports published through the year provide insight and perspectives on various aspects of mental wellbeing based on the data. The 2021 Report is based on 223,000 responses from 34 countries in four languages.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

ICOEH 2022: 16. International Conference on Occupational and Environmental Health

When: 14 – 15 April 2022

Where: Cape Town

The International Research Conference is a federated organization dedicated to bringing together a significant number of diverse scholarly events for presentation within the conference program. Events will run over a span of time during the conference depending on the number and length of the presentations. With its high quality, it provides an exceptional value for students, academics and industry researchers.

International Conference on Occupational and Environmental Health aims to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results on all aspects of Occupational and Environmental Health. It also provides a premier interdisciplinary platform for researchers, practitioners and educators to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns as well as practical challenges encountered and solutions

adopted in the fields of Occupational and Environmental Health.

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING UNIT (HSS): District Monitoring and Evaluation Officer: Cervical Cancer Prevention, Access and Control (CCPAC) Project

Closing date: 5 April 2022

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING UNIT (HSS): FACILITY TEAM LEADERS (2) - Zululand District

Closing Date: 6 April 2022

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING UNIT (HSS): Area Co-ordinator - Zululand District

Closing Date: 6 April 2022

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING UNIT (HSS): Facility Team Leaders (3) - uMgungundlovu District

Closing Date: 6 April 2022

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