

HST Bulletin



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HST IN THE NEWS

Emerging Public Health Practitioner Award: manuscript submissions open

Health Systems Trust | Submissions close 3 August 2018.

The South African Health Review's Emerging Public Health Practitioner Award (EPHPA) is open to young public health practitioners or student researchers in the fields of health sciences, medicine or public health who are currently studying for their Masters or Honours degree, or are in the final year of their Bachelor's degree. To apply, please submit your complete chapter along with a copy of your South African ID and EPHPA Entry form to sahr@hst.org.za no later than 3 August 2018.

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RECENT NEWS

Why the Aids conference still matters at this point in the HIV Epidemic

Daily Maverick | 23 July 2018.

There are many reasons why the end of the Aids epidemic is not yet in sight and why the International Aids Conference still matters. Here is a case in support of this important bi-annual meeting on the eve of the largest gathering of the HIV/Aids "world" in Amsterdam from Monday night.

Fauci: HIV remission free of antiretroviral therapy is a feasible goal

US National Institutes of Health | 25 July 2018.

NIAID director will give special session lecture at AIDS 2018 Conference.

Countries Pressured to Drop Language on Protecting Access to Affordable Meds from TB Summit Declaration Negotiations

Medecins sans Frontiers | 21 July 2018.

US government exerting extreme pressure, threatening not to endorse declaration.

Family of ten live with TB in one shack

GroundUp | 25 July 2018.

“All I need is a healthy place where I can live with my children. I have given up hope of the RDP home promised 24 years ago. I just need, even a temporary structure to move into with my family,” says 72-year-old Nomathamsanqa Delihlazo.

SA negotiates cheaper TB drug for entire world

Health-E News | 25 July 2018.

The entire world will benefit from a price cut of a TB wonder drug, following successful negotiations between South Africa and pharmaceutical company Johnson & Johnson.

Countries step up to tackle antimicrobial resistance

World Health Organisation | 18 July 2018.

Countries are making significant steps in tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR), but serious gaps remain and require urgent action, according to a report released... by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

#AIDS2018: 'No contraception, no ARVs', governments tell women

Bhekisisa | 26 July 2018.

A new drug could save 25 000 women living with HIV but could it come at the cost of their babies lives?

Adherence to PrEP, the HIV prevention drug, is low. A new study suggests a pill with a tiny sensor might help

STAT | 24 July 2018.

With a daily pill, people who face an elevated risk of exposure to HIV can dramatically lower their chances of contracting the virus. But that protection is only effective if people adhere to a strict regimen with their prescription.

Many do not.

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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Advancing global health and strengthening the HIV response in the era of the Sustainable Development Goals: the International AIDS Society—Lancet Commission

The Lancet | Published: 19 July 2018.

Linda-Gail Bekker, George Alleyne, Stefan Baral, Javier Cepeda, Demetre Daskalakis, David Dowdy, Prof Mark Dybul, Prof Serge Eholie, et al

Inspired by unprecedented improvements in human health and development in recent decades, our world has embarked on a quest that only a generation ago would have been considered unreachable—achieving sustainable health and development for all. Improving the health and wellbeing of the world's people is at the core of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), reflected in targets that call for ending the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria; achieving enormous improvements in maternal and child health; and tackling the growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Attaining universal health coverage is the means by which these ambitious health targets are to be achieved.

Gaps and opportunities: measuring the key population cascade through surveys and services to guide the HIV response

Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 22 July 2018.

Avi Joseph Hakim, Virginia MacDonald, Wolfgang Hladik, Jinkou Zhao, Janet Burnett, Keith Sabin, Dimitri Prybylski, Jesus Maria Garcia Calleja

The UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets to diagnose 90% of people living with HIV, put 90% of them on treatment, and for 90% of them to have suppressed viral load have focused the international HIV response on the goal of eliminating HIV by 2030. They are also a constructive tool for measuring progress toward reaching this goal but their utility is dependent upon data availability. Though more than 25% of new infections are among key populations (KP)- sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgender people, people who inject drugs, and prisoners- and their sex partners, there is a dearth of treatment cascade data for KP. We

assess the availability of cascade data and review the opportunities offered by biobehavioral and programme data to inform the HIV response.

Investing in sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls to reach HIV and UHC goals

The Lancet Global Health | Published: 18 July 2018.

Manjulaa Narasimhan, Manjulaa Narasimhan, Yogan Pillay, Patricia J Garcia, Pascale Allotey, Robin Gorna, Alice Welbourn, Michelle Remme, Ian Askew, Anders Nordström, Bernard Haufiku on behalf of participants at the Wilton Park Consultation

Each year, 200 million women have an unmet need for modern contraception, more than 45 million women receive inadequate or no antenatal care, 1 million women and girls acquire HIV, and 25 million abortions are unsafe.^{1, 2} These numbers illustrate huge gaps in access to basic sexual and reproductive health services, posing serious challenges to achieving universal health coverage (UHC) by 2030.

A longitudinal perspective on boys as victims of childhood sexual abuse in South Africa: Consequences for adult mental health

Child Abuse and Neglect | Published: 20 July 2018.

Linda M Richtera, Shanaaz Mathews, Engelbert Nonteraha, Lee Anne Masilela

Childhood sexual abuse of boys was examined in a longitudinal cohort in South Africa, with data on abuse collected at six age points between 11 and 18 years. Potential personal and social vulnerability of male sexual abuse victims was explored and mental health outcomes of sexually abused boys were examined at age 22–23 years. Reports of all sexual activity – touching, oral and penetrative sex – increased with age and sexual coercion decreased with age. Boys who experienced childhood sexual abuse tended to be smaller (shorter) and from poorer families. No relationships to measured childhood intelligence, pubertal stage, marital status of mother or presence of the father were found. There was no significant association between reports of childhood sexual abuse and mental health in adulthood and when personal and social vulnerabilities were taken into account.

Undetectable = Untransmittable and Your Health: The personal benefits of early and continuous therapy for HIV infection

The Journal of Infectious Diseases | Published: 19 July 2018.

Mark J Siedner, Virginia Triant

In 2016, the Prevention Action Campaign launched the “U=U” (Undetectable=Untransmittable) campaign to publicize the preventative benefits of HIV antiretroviral therapy (ART) (1). Based on accruing evidence from randomized clinical trials (2) and observational cohorts (3), the campaign intends to widely disseminate the message that an undetectable viral load means the virus is untransmittable to sexual partners and offspring. Yet, it remains to be seen if the “U=U” campaign will be sufficient to promote early and uninterrupted HIV treatment to an extent requisite to curb the epidemic.

Prevalence and seasonality of common viral respiratory pathogens, including Cytomegalovirus in children, between 0–5 years of age in KwaZulu-Natal, an HIV endemic province in South Africa

BMC Pediatrics | Published: 21 July 2018.

Temitayo Famoroti, Wilbert Sibanda and Thumbi Ndung'u

Acute respiratory tract infections contribute significantly to morbidity and mortality among young children in resource-poor countries. However, studies on the viral aetiology of acute respiratory infections, seasonality and the relative contributions of comorbidities such as immune deficiency states to viral respiratory tract infections in children in these countries are limited.

New strategies for inpatients with HIV and tuberculosis

The Lancet | Published: 19 July 2018.

Ruvandhi R Nathavitharana, Madhukar Pai

Decreasing tuberculosis-related mortality—particularly in people living with HIV infection, who account for 22% of all tuberculosis deaths—is a pressing global health concern. Tuberculosis cascade-of-care analyses show that diagnosis is the weakest link. There is an urgent need for a non-sputum based, point-of-care diagnostic test for tuberculosis, particularly for groups such as those living with HIV infection who are often unable to produce sputum.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Country progress in the implementation of the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance: WHO, FAO and OIE global tripartite database

World Health Organisation | July 2018.

This database provides access to information on the status of countries' regarding the implementation of the global action plan and actions to address antimicrobial resistance across all sectors. Information captured in this database is a result of the country self-assessment questionnaire disseminated to countries by WHO, FAO and OIE. Countries were asked to assess their progress in: developing their national antimicrobial resistance action plans; working with multiple sectors; and implementing key actions to address antimicrobial resistance. The database currently contains data for the reporting year 2016-17 and 2017-18.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

JAIDS supplement: Post-program learning and knowledge from the Accelerating Children's HIV/AIDS Treatment (ACT) Initiative

Journal of the International AIDS Society | August 2018.

Baylor-Malawi, with USAID funding, has developed a special JAIDS supplement featuring 11 articles which highlight lessons and best practices from the Accelerating Children's HIV/AIDS Treatment (ACT) Initiative, a public-private partnership that expanded pediatric HIV services in nine sub-Saharan African countries from 2014-2016, providing treatment to more than 560,000 children living with HIV.

Implementation of the HIV Prevention 2020 Road Map - First progress report, March 2018

UNAIDS | 22 May 2018.

This first progress report shows that members of the Global HIV Prevention Coalition have mobilized around strengthening HIV primary prevention. There are clear signs of renewed political commitment and strengthened institutional arrangements for planning and managing prevention programmes. Most member countries have moved fast to develop HIV prevention action plans, and there are many examples of excellent and innovative new initiatives. Furthermore, interest in the HIV prevention agenda and the Coalition is growing. A global accountability process has been set up, with score cards that track progress across a range of high-priority prevention programme areas.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

5th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research

8-12 October 2018

Liverpool, United Kingdom

HIV Clinicians Society Conference 2018

24-27 October 2018

Gallagher Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa

Free State Annual Provincial Health Research Day

8-9 November 2018

Bloemfontein, Free State

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Health Systems Trust: Graphic Designer/ Layout Artist

Closing Date: 3 August 2018

Treatment Action Campaign: District Organiser

Closing Date: 30 July 2018

Treatment Action Campaign: Research Officer

Closing Date: 31 July 2018

Christel House: Enrolled Nurse

Closing Date: 31 August 2018

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