

## In this issue

- **Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles**
  - Psilocybin with psychological support for treatment-resistant depression: an open-label feasibility study
  - Household HIV Testing Uptake among Contacts of TB Patients in South Africa
  - Antiretroviral therapy to prevent HIV acquisition in serodiscordant couples in a hyperendemic community in rural South Africa.
- **Recent News**
  - Motsoaledi: No more waiting for Aids drugs
  - National Health Insurance: Bring in the specialists
  - Too much work, too few doctors
  - Large-scale HIV vaccine trial to launch in South Africa
  - World: Stop turning your back on TB
  - No excuse not to act now to fight drug resistance, say researchers on superbugs
  - The circus is coming to town - end the Rhetoric, start the Revolution
  - WHO confirms Zika virus strain imported from the Americas to Cabo Verde
  - 69th World Health Assembly: Speakers at high-level side event call for a Fast-Track response to end the AIDS epidemic among women and adolescent girls
  - Is universal access to healthcare possible?
- **Training and Resources**
  - Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers
  - High Care Nursing Course
- **Books, Publications, Reports and Manuals**
  - The European Medicines Agency's (EMA) 2015 Annual Report
  - Tackling Drug-Resistant Infections Globally
- **Conferences and Events**
  - Medecins Sans Frontieres Scientific Day
  - International AIDS Conference
  - Public Health Association of South Africa 2016 Conference
  - Workshop: New Developments in Pharmacoeconomics - value-based, patient-centred healthcare for South Africa
  - All Africa Congress on Pharmacology and Pharmacy
  - South African Medical Association Conference
  - Fourth Global Symposium on Health Systems Research
- **Job Opportunities**
  - Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation: Pharmacist
  - Positive Vibes: National Programme Manager
  - Medecins Sans Frontieres/Doctors Without Borders (MSF): HIV/TB Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator

## Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

### **Psilocybin with psychological support for treatment-resistant depression: An open-label feasibility study**

*Robin L Carhart-Harris, Mark Bolstridge, James Rucker, Camilla M J Day, David Erritzoe, Mendel Kaelen, Michael Bloomfield, James A Rickard, Ben Forbes, Amanda Feilding, David Taylor, Steve Pilling, Valerie H Curran, David J Nutt. Lancet. Published: 17 May 2016.*

Psilocybin is a serotonin receptor agonist that occurs naturally in some mushroom species. Recent studies have assessed the therapeutic potential of psilocybin for various conditions, including end-of-life anxiety, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and smoking and alcohol dependence, with promising preliminary results. Here, we aimed to investigate the feasibility, safety, and efficacy of psilocybin in patients with unipolar treatment-resistant depression. [Read More »](#)

Source: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366\(16\)30065-7/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366(16)30065-7/fulltext) [Accessed: 27 May 2016]

### **Household HIV Testing Uptake among Contacts of TB Patients in South Africa**

Kavindhran Velen, James J. Lewis, Salome Charalambous, Liesl Page-Shipp, Flora Popane, Gavin J. Churchyard, Christopher J. Hoffmann. *PLOS One*. Published: 19 May 2016.

In high HIV prevalence settings, offering HIV testing may be a reasonable part of contact tracing of index tuberculosis (TB) patients. We evaluated the uptake of HIV counselling and testing (HCT) among household contacts of index TB patients and the proportion of newly diagnosed HIV-infected persons linked into care as part of a household TB contact tracing study. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0155688>[Accessed: 27 May 2016]

### **Antiretroviral therapy to prevent HIV acquisition in serodiscordant couples in a hyperendemic community in rural South Africa.**

Catherine E. Oldenburg, Till Barnighausen, Frank Tanser, Collins C. Iwuji, Victor De Gruttola, George R. Seage, Matthew J. Mimiaga, Kenneth H. Mayer, Deenan Pillay, Guy Harling. *Clinical Infectious Diseases*. Published: 20 May 2016.

Antiretroviral therapy (ART) was highly efficacious in preventing HIV transmission in stable serodiscordant couples in the HPTN-052 study, a resource-rich randomized controlled trial. However, minimal evidence exists of the effectiveness of ART in preventing HIV acquisition in stable serodiscordant couples in real-life population-based settings in hyperendemic communities of Sub-Saharan Africa, where health systems are typically resource-poor and overburdened, adherence to ART is suboptimal, and HIV status disclosure to sexual partners is inconsistent. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2016/05/19/cid.ciw335.long>[Accessed: 27 May 2016]

[back to top](#)

## **Recent News**

### **Motsoaledi: No more waiting for Aids drugs**

*IOL*. Published: 11 May 2016.

South Africans who test HIV-positive will no longer have to wait for their CD4 count to drop before they receive antiretroviral (ARV) therapy, but will be started on treatment immediately, Minister of Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi has announced. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.iol.co.za/lifestyle/motsoaledi-no-more-waiting-for-aids-drugs-2020242> [Accessed: 27 May 2016]

[back to top](#)

### **National Health Insurance: Bring in the specialists**

*Health-e News*. Published: 16 May 2016

There's a dire shortage of medical specialists, yet provinces have cut budgets for their training. Specialists need to be involved in planning the NHI roll-out to prevent such things from happening, writes South African Society of Anaesthesiologists CEO Natalie Zimmelman. [Read More »](#)

Source: <https://www.health-e.org.za/2016/05/16/national-health-insurance-bring-in-specialists/>[Accessed: 27 May 2016]

[back to top](#)

### **Too much work, too few doctors**

*Timeslive*. Published: 17 May 2016.

Limpopo health officials staged off a strike by doctors unhappy about work conditions and lack of equipment. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.timeslive.co.za/thetimes/2016/05/17/Too-much-work-too-few-doctors>[Accessed: 27 May 2016]

[back to top](#)

### **Large-scale HIV vaccine trial to launch in South Africa**

*National Institutes of Health*. Published: 18 May 2016.

An early-stage HIV vaccine clinical trial in South Africa has determined that an investigational vaccine regimen is safe and generates comparable immune responses to those reported in a landmark 2009 study showing that a vaccine can protect people from HIV infection. [Read More »](#)

Source: <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/large-scale-hiv-vaccine-trial-launch-south->

[africa](#)[Accessed: 27 May 2016]

[back to top](#)

### **World: Stop turning your back on TB**

*Bhekisisa. Published: 18 May 2016.*

If a new disease epidemic killed 1.5 million people in one year, it would be covered extensively in the news, and all avenues to bring it to an end would likely be explored and funded. But what about an existing disease that kills that many people? [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://bhekisisa.org/article/2016-05-18-inexplicably-a-rampant-tb-epidemic-is-all-but-ignored>[Accessed: 27 May 2016]

[back to top](#)

### **No excuse not to act now to fight drug resistance, say researchers on superbugs**

*BDlive: Published: 19 May 2016.*

10-million people could die every year from 2050 onwards unless sweeping global changes are agreed to tackle increasing resistance to antibiotics, which can turn common ailments into killers, a report warned Thursday. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.bdlive.co.za/life/health/2016/05/19/>[Accessed: 27 May 2016]

[back to top](#)

### **The circus is coming to town - end the Rhetoric, start the Revolution**

*Daily Maverick. Published: 19 May 2016*

In two months the international AIDS jamboree will arrive in Durban for a four-day conference on the state of the global AIDS epidemic ([www.aids2016.org](http://www.aids2016.org)). The last conference was in 2014. It took place in Australia, about as far away as you could imagine from the frontline of the AIDS epidemic. Unsurprisingly, it made little mark. This one takes place in its vortex. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/opinionista/2016-05-19-the-circus>[Accessed: 27 May 2016]

[back to top](#)

### **WHO confirms Zika virus strain imported from the Americas to Cabo Verde**

*World Health Organisation. Published: 20 May 2016.*

Sequencing of the virus in Cabo Verde by Institut Pasteur, Dakar confirms that the Zika virus currently circulating in Cabo Verde is the same as the one circulating in the Americas - the Asian type- and was most likely imported from Brazil. This is the first time that the Zika strain responsible for the outbreaks linked to neurological disorders and microcephaly has been detected in Africa. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2016/zika-cabo-verde/en/>[Accessed: 27 May 2016]

[back to top](#)

### **69th World Health Assembly: Speakers at high-level side event call for a Fast-Track response to end the AIDS epidemic among women and adolescent girls**

*UNAIDS. Published: 23 May 2016*

At a high-level side event held during the 69th session of the World Health Assembly, taking place in Geneva, Switzerland, delegates have urged countries to end gender inequity in the response to HIV by putting women and adolescent girls on the Fast-Track to ending the AIDS epidemic. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/pressreleaseandstatementarchive/>[Accessed: 27 May 2016]

[back to top](#)

### **Is universal access to healthcare possible?**

*Bhekisisa. Published: 24 May 2016.*

The World Bank, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and other international institutions agree that UHC saves lives, boosts economies and stabilises societies. This is why The Elders (an independent association of global leaders, founded by Nelson Mandela) have launched a new initiative to campaign for universal health coverage. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://bhekisisa.org/article/2016-05-19-global-leaders-push-for-universal-healthcare> [Accessed: 27 May

2016]

[back to top](#)

## Training and Resources

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### Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers

SMAB Training Academy, Arcadia, Pretoria

URL: <http://smabtraining.co.za/index.php/training/course-calendar>

28 & 29 June 2016 (registration closes 3rd of June 2016). Please contact 086 111 7622 or 076 888 3962 for further information.

[back to top](#)

### High Care Nursing Course

SMAB Training Academy, Arcadia, Pretoria

URL: <http://smabtraining.co.za/index.php/training/course-calendar>

20 June - 8 July 2016 (registration closes 13 June 2016). Please contact 086 111 7622 or 076 888 3962 for further information.

[back to top](#)

## Books, Publications, Reports and Manuals

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### The European Medicines Agency's (EMA) 2015 Annual Report

European Medicines Agency. Published: 17 May 2016.

The European Medicines Agency's (EMA) 2015 annual report focuses on the Agency's core tasks which include the evaluation of medicines, support to research and development of new and innovative treatments and the monitoring of the benefits and risks of medicines in real life. [Read More »](#)

[back to top](#)

### Tackling Drug-Resistant Infections Globally

Review on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). Published: 19 May 2016.

This report discusses the mounting problem of resistance and why action is needed to combat it and then provides an overview of the solutions that the Review thinks should be implemented to curtail unnecessary use and increase the supply of new antimicrobials. It then looks at the role of public awareness campaigns, the need to improve sanitation and hygiene, reduce pollution from agriculture and the environment, improve global surveillance, introduce rapid diagnostics and vaccines, the need to increase the number of people in this area, and use of market entry rewards and an innovation fund to generate more drugs. Finally the paper examines how these solutions can be funded and looks at ways to build political consensus around them. [Read More »](#)

[back to top](#)

## Conferences and Events

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### Medecins Sans Frontieres Scientific Day

When: 9 June 2016

Venue: New School of Public Health Building, Wits Education Campus

URL: <https://www.msf.org.za/scientific-day-programme>

[back to top](#)

### International AIDS Conference

When: 18-22 July 2016

Venue: International Convention Centre, Durban, South Africa

URL: <http://www.aids2016.org/>

The International AIDS Conference is the premier gathering for those working in the field of HIV, as well as policy makers, persons living with HIV and other individuals committed to ending the pandemic. It is a chance to assess where we are, evaluate recent scientific developments and lessons learnt, and collectively chart a course forward

[back to top](#)

### Public Health Association of South Africa 2016 Conference

When: 19 - 22 September 2016

Venue: East London Convention Centre  
email: [deon.salomo@mrc.ac.za](mailto:deon.salomo@mrc.ac.za)

[back to top](#)

### **Workshop: New Developments in Pharmacoeconomics - value-based, patient-centred healthcare for South Africa**

When: 19-21 October 2016

Venue: University of Pretoria, Sanlam Auditorium, Hatfield Campus

url: [http://www.fundisa-academy.com/downloads/Pharmacoeconomics\\_workshop\\_2016.pdf](http://www.fundisa-academy.com/downloads/Pharmacoeconomics_workshop_2016.pdf)

PHARMACOECONOMICS is a relatively young scientific discipline dealing with the analysis of the costs of drug therapy to healthcare and society, with growing importance in healthcare systems worldwide.

Pharmacoeconomics allows optimal allocation of healthcare resources and explicit decision making based on evidence based healthcare. Pharmacoeconomics is applied in the early development of medicinal products, clinical trials, regulatory affairs, market access strategies, pricing and reimbursement, and post marketing evaluations. As a result, pharmacoeconomics has become an established core element in efficient decision making in many countries. South Africa has introduced PE in its healthcare system.

[back to top](#)

### **All Africa Congress on Pharmacology and Pharmacy**

When: 5 - 8 October 2016

Venue: Misty Hills Hotel and Conference Centre, Muldersdrift, Gauteng, South Africa

email: [www.allafrica2016.co.za/abstracts](http://www.allafrica2016.co.za/abstracts)

Under the theme of 'Evidence in Action', the All Africa Congress of Pharmacology and Pharmacy will be held at Misty Hills Hotel and Conference Centre in Muldersdrift, Gauteng, South Africa, from 5-8 October 2016. The abstract template and example can be downloaded from the conference website. Congress general enquiries: [carla@carlamani.co.za](mailto:carla@carlamani.co.za)

[back to top](#)

### **South African Medical Association Conference**

When: 21 - 23 October 2016

Venue: Sandton Convention Centre

url: [www.samedical.org/events](http://www.samedical.org/events)

[back to top](#)

### **Fourth Global Symposium on Health Systems Research**

When: 14-18 November 2016

Venue: Vancouver, Canada

URL: <http://www.csih.org/en/events/fourth-global-symposium-on-health-systems-research/>

The Global Symposium on Health Systems Research is hosted every two years by HSG to bring together its members with the full range of players involved in health systems and policy research. There is currently no other international gathering that serves the needs of this community. Previous events have been held in Cape Town (2014), Beijing (2012) and Montreux (2010).

[back to top](#)

## **Job Opportunities**

### **Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation: Pharmacist**

Closing date: 30 May 2016

Please view our website for more details

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

### **Positive Vibes: National Programme Manager**

Closing date: 31 May 2016

Please view our website for more details

<http://www.hst.org.za/jobs/national-programme-manager>

### **Medecins Sans Frontieres/Doctors Without Borders (MSF): HIV/TB Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator**

Closing date: 10 June 2016

Please view our website for more details

<http://www.hst.org.za/jobs/hivtb-monitoring-and-evaluation-coordinator>

[back to top](#)

