

HST Bulletin



CATEGORIES

[HST in the News](#)

[Recent News](#)

[Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles](#)

[Training and Resources](#)

[Publications and Reports](#)

[Conferences and Events](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

HST IN THE NEWS

Emerging Public Health Practitioner Award: manuscript submissions open

Health Systems Trust | 31 May 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.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

RECENT NEWS

NHI: Hard to outlaw private healthcare

Health-e News | 28 June 2018.

Despite government's intention to introduce a single health system with compulsory contributions from all working South Africans, it may be impossible to outlaw private healthcare.

Your medical aid is going to change. Read Aaron Motsoaledi's #NHI speech

Bhekisisa | 21 June 2018.

New legislation will abolish co-payments and may look to go after medical aid scheme reserves. Health minister Aaron Motsoaledi presented the Medical Schemes Amendment and National Health Insurance Bills [on 21 June] in Pretoria.

Serially delayed health inquiry findings now due for release 'very soon'

BD Live | 25 June 2018.

The director of the inquiry, Clint Oellermann, says a notice advising stakeholders of the publication date is likely to be issued on Tuesday.

HIV treatment programme doing well but long way to go

GroundUp | 26 June 2018.

About 60% of South Africans with HIV have started antiretrovirals. Over four million people are on antiretroviral treatment in South Africa. It is possibly the largest chronic care treatment programme in a public health system in the world.

Health department opts to delay HIV drug over safety fears

BD Live | 21 June 2018.

Safety concerns have forced the Department of Health to delay its plans to provide HIV patients with dolutegravir, a cheaper and more tolerable alternative to one of the components currently used in the three-drug cocktail taken by most state patients.

Blood signature could improve early TB diagnosis

Science News | 19 June 2018.

A gene signature in the bloodstream can reveal whether someone is going to develop active tuberculosis (TB) disease months before symptoms begin. This offers the prospect of intervening before individuals pose a risk of transmitting the infection to others.

Why indigenous medicine could play a role in rebuilding health systems

The Conversation Africa | 19 June 2018.

Conflicts do not spare health systems. From Afghanistan to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the effects that wars and state fragility have on health care provision are all too visible.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Tuberculosis infection control practices in a high-burden metro in South Africa: A perpetual bane for efficient primary health care service delivery

African Journal of Primary Health Care and Family Medicine | Published: 30 May 2018.

Michelle C Engelbrecht, Gladys Kigozi, Andre P Janse van Rensburg, Dingie HCJ van Rensburg

Tuberculosis (TB) prevention, including infection control, is a key element in the strategy to end the global TB epidemic. While effective infection control requires all health system components to function well, this is an area that has not received sufficient attention in South Africa despite the availability of policy and guidelines. [The aim of this study was] to describe the state of implementation of TB infection control measures in a high-burden metro in South Africa.

Investigating the interaction between human immunodeficiency virus, nutrition, and disability: A cross-sectional observational study

African Journal of Primary Health Care and Family Medicine | Published: 30 May 2018.

Hellen Myezwa, Jill Hanass-Hancock, Nikolas Pautz

The average lifespan of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) has increased because of the enhanced access to anti-retroviral treatment. This increased longevity has led to a heightened focus on the comorbidities which may arise, allowing a clearer understanding of the contextual, personal, psychological and functional problems and their interrelations. Disability (functional limitations) and insufficient nutritional intake may interact cyclically with HIV and/or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS); however, no research to date has investigated this interaction.

The objective of this article was to report on the nutritional outcomes using albumin and body mass index outcomes as a subset of a larger study among adults living with HIV and/or AIDS.

Trade challenges at the World Trade Organization to national noncommunicable disease prevention policies: A thematic document analysis of trade and health policy space

PlosMedicine | Published: 26 June 2018.

Pepita Barlow, Ronald Labonte, Martin McKee, David Stuckler

It has long been contested that trade rules and agreements are used to dispute regulations aimed at preventing noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). Yet most analyses of trade rules and agreements focus

on trade disputes, potentially overlooking how a challenge to a regulation's consistency with trade rules may lead to 'policy or regulatory chill' effects whereby countries delay, alter, or repeal regulations in order to avoid the costs of a dispute. Systematic empirical analysis of this pathway to impact was previously prevented by a dearth of systematically coded data.

Best Practices for Developing and Validating Scales for Health, Social, and Behavioral Research: A Primer

Frontiers in Public Health | Published: 11 June 2018.

Godfred O Boateng, Torsten B Neilands, Edward A Frongillo, Hugo R Melgar-Quiñonez, Sera L Young
Scale development and validation are critical to much of the work in the health, social, and behavioral sciences. However, the constellation of techniques required for scale development and evaluation can be onerous, jargon-filled, unfamiliar, and resource-intensive. Further, it is often not a part of graduate training. Therefore, our goal was to concisely review the process of scale development in as straightforward a manner as possible, both to facilitate the development of new, valid, and reliable scales, and to help improve existing ones. To do this, we have created a primer for best practices for scale development in measuring complex phenomena.

Clinical mentoring to improve quality of care provided at three NIM-ART facilities: A mixed methods study

African Journal of Primary Health Care and Family Medicine | Published: 14 June 2018.

Chris A Visser, Jacqueline E Wolvaardt, David Cameron, Gert JO Marincowitz

The South African Department of Health implemented the nurse-initiated management of antiretroviral treatment (NIM-ART) programme as a policy to decentralise services. Increasing access to ART through nurse initiation results in significant consequences. This study evaluated the quality of care provided, the barriers to the effective rollout of antiretroviral services and the role of a clinical mentor.

Why high tech needs high touch: Supporting continuity of community primary health care

African Journal of Primary Health Care and Family Medicine | Published: 30 May 2018.

Ellenore D Meyer, Johannes FM Hugo, Tessa S Marcus, Rebaone Molebatsi, Kabelo Komana

Integrated care through community-oriented primary care (COPC) deployed through municipal teams of community health workers (CHWs) has been part of health reform in South Africa since 2011. The role of COPC and integration of information and communication technology (ICT) information to improve patient health and access to care, require a better understanding of patient social behaviour. The study sought to understand how COPC with CHWs visiting households offering health education can support antenatal follow-up and what the barriers for access to care would be.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Southern Africa HIV and AIDS Regional Exchange (SHARE) Research Digest, April—May 2018

The Southern Africa HIV and AIDS Regional Exchange | June 2018.

The Southern Africa HIV and AIDS Regional Exchange (SHARE) is pleased to present the third issue of the project's research digest. The digest offers article abstracts from peer-reviewed literature related to HIV and AIDS in Southern Africa and is designed to keep you in touch with the rapidly expanding evidence base pertaining to HIV in the region.

In this issue [SHARE has] assembled 72 abstracts published April through May 2018 that feature articles from Botswana (4), Lesotho (2), Malawi (7), Mozambique (5), South Africa (43), Swaziland (2), Tanzania (4), Zambia (2) and Zimbabwe (9).

WHO Drug Information: Volume 32, N° 1, 2018

World Health Organisation | 29 March 2018.

The first issue for 2018 includes featured articles on the following topics:

Quality Monitoring

Product information supplied with selected antiretrovirals in five African Countries

Safety of medicines

Pharmacovigilance Programme of India

The **Safety news** section highlights information on adverse drug reactions and recommendations including labelling changes, as well as findings of non-compliance with good practices. The Regulatory news section gives an overview of developments at regulatory authorities, topics under discussion through public consultations, and approvals of products. This is followed by a section on Publications and events related to access, quality and use of medical products in WHO Member States.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Condom and Lubricant Manufacturers Survey

AIDSFree | June 2018.

In 2015, several condom manufacturers joined donor agencies to form a coalition whose main goal is to provide 20 billion condoms to low and middle-income countries by 2020. Between August and October 2017, AIDSFree conducted research on barriers that prevent condom manufacturers from entering the African market. AIDSFree used a self-administered semi-structured questionnaire and in-depth interviews to collect information. This report summarizes and analyzes the survey's findings.

Start Free Stay Free AIDS Free — 2017 progress report

UNAIDS | 27 April 2018.

This progress report reflects achievements made during the first year of implementation (through December 2016), as countries have taken actions in line with new or existing national strategies. The most recent data on country progress in 2016 are based on country-reported data and country-developed models using Spectrum software that were reported to UNAIDS in 2017.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

HIV Research for Prevention (HIVR4P 2018)

21-25 October 2018

Madrid Marriott Auditorium Hotel, Madrid, Spain

Southern African Clinicians Society Conference

24-27 October 2018

Gallagher Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa

Universal Health and Mental Health Coverage for All

12-14 December 2018

Valletta, Malta

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Health Systems Trust: Enrolled Nurse (FRESH)

Closing Date: 29 June 2018

St Luke's Hospice: Community Hospice Sister / Registered Nurse

Closing Date: 30 June 2018

FHI 360: Economic Strengthening Advisor

Closing Date: 13 July 2018

Hospice Plett: Professional Nurse

Closing Date: 16 July 2018

[\(Return to Top\)](#)



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