

HST Bulletin



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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Building a tuberculosis-free world: The Lancet Commission on tuberculosis

The Lancet | Published: 20 March 2019.

Michael J A Reid, Nimalan Arinaminpathy, Amy Bloom, Barry R Bloom, Catharina Boehme, Richard Chaisson, Daniel P Chin, Gavin Churchyard, et al

Tuberculosis can be treated, prevented, and cured. Rapid, sustained declines in tuberculosis deaths in many countries during the past 50 years provide compelling evidence that ending the pandemic is feasible. Yet this disease—which has plagued humanity since before recorded history and has killed hundreds of millions of people over the past two centuries—remains a relentless scourge. In 2017, 1.6 million people died from tuberculosis, including 300 000 people with HIV, representing more deaths than any other infectious disease. Moreover, in many parts of the world, drug-resistant forms of tuberculosis threaten struggling control efforts. The world can no longer ignore the enormous pall cast by the

tuberculosis epidemic. Going forward, the global tuberculosis response must be an inclusive, comprehensive response within the broader sustainable development agenda. No one-size-fits-all approach can succeed.

The impact and cost-effectiveness of community-based HIV self-testing in sub-Saharan Africa: a health economic and modelling analysis

Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 25 March 2019.

Valentina Cambiano, Cheryl C Johnson, Karin Hatzold, Fern Terris-Prestholt, Hendy Maheswaran, Harsha Thirumurthy, Carmen Figueroa, Frances M Cowan, et al

The prevalence of undiagnosed HIV is declining in Africa, and various HIV testing approaches are finding lower positivity rates. In this context, the epidemiological impact and cost-effectiveness of community-based HIV self-testing (CB-HIVST) is unclear. We aimed to assess this in different sub-populations and across scenarios characterized by different adult HIV prevalence and antiretroviral treatment programmes in sub-Saharan Africa.

How accurately do routinely reported HIV viral load suppression proportions reflect progress towards the 90-90-90 target in the population on antiretroviral treatment in Khayelitsha, South Africa?

South African Medical Journal | Published: 26 February 2019.

J Euvrard, T Schulz, K Hilderbrand, M Bosland, M Osler, A Boulle, M-A Davies

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) third 90-90-90 target requires 90% of patients on antiretroviral treatment (ART) to be virally suppressed (<1 000 copies/mL). In Khayelitsha, Cape Town, South Africa viral load (VL) suppression of <400 copies/mL was reported as 89% in 2016, but only 56% of patients had a result recorded in routine data. We conceived a VL 'cascade' to represent the steps required for an expected VL to be reported as complete in routine data and thus contribute to reported VL suppression: among those for whom a VL is 'expected', a sample must be collected and tested ('done'), a result must be 'filed' in the patient folder, 'noted' by a clinician and electronically 'captured'.

Neglected tropical diseases and the sustainable development goals: an urgent call for action from the front line

BMJ Global Health | Published: 1 March 2019.

Ayewew Addisu, Wim Adriaensen, Arega Balew, Mekuria Asfaw, Ermias Diro, Amadou Garba Djirmay, Desalegn Gebree, Getahun Seid, et al

The international community has pledged through the Sustainable Development Goals to eliminate neglected tropical diseases by 2030. Authors from 19 institutions around the world call for urgent reflection and a change in mind-set to garner support and hasten progress towards achieving this fast approaching target. They advocate for an empowering approach that will propel political momentum, milestones and targets for accountability, new science in drug development and increased funding particularly from G20 countries.

Setting the global research agenda for community health systems: literature and consultative review

Human Resources for Health | Published: 21 March 2019.

Smisha Agarwal, Karen Kirk, Pooja Sripad, Ben Bellows, Timothy Abuya, Charlotte Warren

Globally, there is renewed interest in and momentum for strengthening community health systems, as also emphasized by the recent Astana Declaration. Recent reviews have identified factors critical to successful community health worker (CHW) programs but pointed to significant evidence gaps. This review aims to propose a global research agenda to strengthen CHW programs. [The authors] We conducted a search for extant systematic reviews on any intermediate factors affecting the effectiveness of CHW programs in February 2018.

Global Epidemiology of Tuberculosis and Progress Toward Achieving Global Targets — 2017

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report | Published: 22 March 2019.

Worldwide, tuberculosis (TB) is the leading cause of death from a single infectious disease agent and the leading cause of death among persons living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, accounting for approximately 40% of deaths in this population. The United Nations' (UN) Sustainable Development Goals and the World Health Organization's (WHO's) End TB Strategy have defined ambitious targets for 2020–2035, including a 35% reduction in the absolute number of TB deaths and a 20% reduction in TB incidence by 2020, compared with 2015. Since 2000, WHO has produced annual TB estimates for all countries. Global and regional disease estimates were evaluated for 2017 to determine progress toward meeting targets.

Feeling Under Pressure: Perspectives of the Meaning of Love and Sexual Relationships Amongst Young Men in KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

American Journal of Men's Health | Published: 21 March 2019.

Thabang Manyapelolo, Sibusiso Sifunda, Robert AC Ruiter, Anam Nyembezi, Bart van den Borne, Priscilla Reddy

This study aimed to explore perspectives on the meaning of love and sexual relations amongst young men in KwaZulu-Natal province of South Africa. Gaining insights into these perspectives will help to understand the sexual behaviors of these young men better and to eventually develop more effective HIV prevention interventions. Focus group discussions were conducted in two study areas using a predetermined semistructured discussion guide.

Investing in health R&D: where we are, what limits us, and how to make progress in Africa

BMJ Global Health | Published: 4 March 2019.

Victoria Simpkin, Evelyn Namubiru-Mwaura, Lorcan Clarke, Elias Mossialos

Global research and development (R&D) pipelines for diseases that disproportionately affect African countries appear to be inadequate, with governments struggling to prioritise investment in R&D. This article provides insights into the sources of investment in health science research, available research capacity and level of research output in Africa. The African region comprises 15% of the world's population, yet only accounted for 1.1% of global investments in R&D in 2016. There were substantial disparities within the continent, with Egypt, Nigeria and South Africa contributing 65.7% of the total R&D spending. In most countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the largest source of R&D funding is the private sector. R&D in Africa is mainly funded by the public sector, with significant proportions of financing in many countries coming from international funding.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

#HumanRightsDay: NHI bill not a cure-all for ailing healthcare system

IOL | 21 March 2019.

South Africa's Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi has finally gazetted the bill detailing an ambitious plan to roll out universal health care in the country through a National Health Insurance. The bill responds to a global campaign spearheaded by the World Health Organisation and linked to the UN's sustainable development goals to make sure that no-one is left behind in accessing quality health care.

Water crises sweep country

Health-e News | 26 March 2019.

Forget power cuts. What is happening to our water supply is much more serious. After two decades of little or no maintenance of municipal sewerage plants, corruption and indifference, South Africans are vulnerable to medieval, water-borne diseases and something even more serious: thirst.

Wider use of antibiotics could stem the spread of TB, say experts

BD Live | 21 March 2019.

Failure to implement TB prevention strategies is one of the key reasons we still have not made enough progress against tuberculosis.

New WHO recommendations to accelerate progress on TB

World Health Organisation | 20 March 2019.

WHO has issued new guidance to improve treatment of multidrug resistant TB (MDR-TB). WHO is recommending shifting to fully oral regimens to treat people with MDR-TB. This new treatment course is more effective and is less likely to provoke adverse side effects. WHO recommends backing up treatment with active monitoring of drug safety and providing counselling support to help patients complete their course of treatment.

How long will drug-resistant TB patients have to wait for a shorter, kinder cure?

Bhekisisa | 22 March 2018.

For years, catching this drug-resistant bacteria meant painful treatment that risked your hearing and mental health. Now, that could be changing.

Faeces in the kitchen: South Africans call for better sewage systems

Thompson Reuters Foundation | 21 March 2019.

Access to water is a hot topic in South Africa - and a growing number of countries hit by climate change, burgeoning populations and poor governance. Raw excrement, condoms and sanitary products regularly spill into homes and parks, South Africans said ahead of Friday's World Water Day - just some of about 4.5 billion people globally without safe sanitation, promised for all by 2030.

Obesity Is Now Africa's Health Care Crisis, Too

Bloomberg | 19 March 2019.

Tackling non-communicable disease requires far better preventive care such as health checks.

Noncommunicable diseases among women: a 'slow motion disaster'

STAT | 21 March 2019.

Childbirth and infectious diseases were once the leading causes of death among women around the globe. That's changed over the last three decades. Today, noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), once considered diseases of affluence, are, along with injuries, the leading causes of death and disability among women in developing and developed countries alike.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

National Health Research Database (NHRD) Webinar: episode 2

Health Systems Trust and KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health | March 2019.

Health Systems Trust, together with the South African National Department of Health, is hosting a series of webinars on the National Health Research Database. This, the second episode, was presented by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health. The Provincial Health Research Committee Secretariat, KZN DoH, lead us in discussing two topics:

The application process for obtaining permission to conduct research within the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health

and

The use of the NHRD as a tool to assist the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Health Research & Ethics Committee in fulfilling its mandate

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Special Issues: Realizing the potential of HIV self-testing for Africa: lessons learned from the STAR project, Guest Editors: Vincent J Wong, Nathan Ford, Kawango Agot

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 25 March 2019.

This supplement, coordinated by WHO with STAR Initiative, presents new and key findings and provides clear routes for improved implementation moving forward. Guided by guest editors Vincent J. Wong (USAID), Nathan Ford (WHO) and Kawango Agot (Impact-RDO), this supplement features 11 high impact articles covering issues relevant to HIVST program design, distribution, linkages, costs, cost-effectiveness, regulation, quality assurance and ethical considerations to inform global scale-up of HIVST.

Hit and Miss: An assessment of targeting effectiveness in social protection

Church of Sweden | March 2019.

If countries and international agencies are truly committed to 'leaving no-one behind,' social protection schemes must be able to accurately identify their target populations. Therefore, the mechanisms chosen to target the intended recipients of social protection schemes need to be effective (or, some would say, effective enough). Yet, debates on the most effective means of targeting can generate strong emotions, with committed advocates on different sides of the argument. Therefore, the aim of the research outlined in this paper was to test the relative effectiveness of different approaches to targeting.

Gender equity in the health workforce: Analysis of 104 countries

World Health Organisation | 20 March 2019.

The health and social sector, with its 234 million workers, is one of the biggest and fastest growing employers in the world, particularly of women. Women comprise seven out of ten health and social care workers and contribute US\$ 3 trillion annually to global health, half in the form of unpaid care work. While gender issues have been at the top of the global agenda, few comprehensive studies on gender in the health and social workforce have been conducted at the global level. This brief is based on an analysis of WHO NHA data for 104 countries over the last 18 years.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

IEA-Africa Region 5th Regional Conference

14-17 April 2019

Maputo, Mozambique

PainSA Congress 2019

3-5 May 2019

Champagne Sports Resort, Drakensburg, South Africa

Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) Conference 2019

16-18 September 2019

College of Cape Town, Athlone, Cape Town, South Africa

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

South African Breastmilk Reserve: Auxiliary Nurse

Closing Date: 31 March 2019

mothers2mothers : Lesotho - Various Posts

Closing Date: 31 March 2019

Health Systems Trust: Tropical Epidemiology Group (TEG) Fellowship

Closing Date: 19 April 2019

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