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HST IN THE NEWS

South African Health Review 2020: Call for Abstracts

Closing Date: 31 October 2019.

The editors are pleased to announce that the call for abstracts for the 2020 edition of the SAHR is now open. The theme for this edition is *equitable health care for people with disabilities in South Africa*.

Abstracts providing fresh insights into health systems strengthening efforts for equitable health care for Persons with Disabilities are particularly sought.

Overall, the 2020 edition will represent an evidence base which can be used to strengthen health systems and services and to inform future policy development in disability and health in South Africa. Preference will be given to manuscripts that take into account the complexities and opportunities for developing and sustaining inclusive health systems, especially in the context of universal health coverage.

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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Improving the cascade of global tuberculosis care: moving from the “what” to the “how” of quality improvement

The Lancet Infectious Diseases | Published: 22 August 2019.

Bruce D Agins, Daniel J Ikeda, Michael J A Reid, Eric Goosby, Madhukar Pai, Adithya Cattamanchi

Tuberculosis is preventable, treatable, and curable, yet it has the highest mortality rate of infectious diseases worldwide. Over the past decade, services to prevent, screen, diagnose, and treat tuberculosis have been developed and scaled up globally, but progress to end the disease as a public health threat has been slow, particularly in low-income and middle-income countries. In this Personal View, [the authors] contend that shifting the focus from the “what” to the “how” of quality improvement will require National Tuberculosis Programmes to change the way they organise, use data, implement, and respond to the needs and preferences of people with tuberculosis and at-risk communities.

Why interventions to prevent intimate partner violence and HIV have failed young women in southern Africa

Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 23 August 2019.

Jenevieve Mannell, Samantha Willan, Maryam Shahmanesh, Janet Seeley, Lorraine Sherr, Andrew Gibbs

Adolescent girls and young women aged 15 to 24 years have some of the highest HIV incidence rates globally, with girls two to four times more likely to be living with HIV than their male peers. High levels of intimate partner violence (IPV) experienced by this age group is a significant risk factor for HIV acquisition. While behavioural interventions to prevent IPV and HIV in southern Africa have seen some success in reducing self-reported experiences of IPV, these interventions have largely failed to achieve similar outcomes for young women.

From primary health care to universal health coverage—one step forward and two steps back

The Lancet | Published: 24 August 2019.

David Sanders, Sulakshana Nandi, Ronald Labonté, Carina Vance, Wim Van Damme

Primary health care (PHC), codified at the historic 1978 Alma Ata Conference, was advocated as the means to achieve health for all by the year 2000. The principles of PHC included universal access and equitable coverage; comprehensive care emphasising disease prevention and health promotion; community and individual participation in health policy, planning, and provision; intersectoral action on health determinants; and appropriate technology and cost-effective use of available resources... In September, 2019, there will be a UN High-Level Meeting on universal health coverage (UHC). UHC is concerned with improved access to quality health services and protection from financial risks associated

with health care. However, UHC, unlike PHC, is silent on social determinants of health and community participation.

Impact of HIV testing and treatment services on risky sexual behaviour in the uMgungundlovu District, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa: a cross-sectional study

BMC AIDS Research and Therapy | Published: 21 August 2019.

Gavin George, Sean Beckett, Cherie Cawood, David Khanyile, Kaymarlin Govender, Ayesha BM Kharsany

The South African public health system plays an important role in the delivery of HIV testing and treatment services. The health system is also an important conduit for targeted behaviour change communication with the expectation that clients who undergo counselling from health personnel, adopt safer sexual practices. Literature remains mixed on the impact these HIV services have on risky sexual behaviour. This analysis examines the sexual behaviour of clients following the utilisation of HIV testing and treatment services in Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa.

Multisystem impairment in South African adolescents with Perinatally acquired HIV on antiretroviral therapy (ART)

Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 23 August 2019.

Lisa J Frigati, Karryn Brown, Sana Mahtab, Leah Githinji, Diane Gray, Liesl Zühlke, Peter Nourse, Dan J Stein, et al

Adolescents with perinatally acquired HIV (PHIV) are at risk of chronic disease due to long-standing immune suppression, HIV disease and antiretroviral therapy (ART) exposure. However, there are few data on multisystem disease in this population. We investigated the overlapping burden of neurocognitive, cardiovascular, respiratory and/or renal impairment among PHIV positive (PHIV+) adolescents.

Breastfeeding, HIV exposure, childhood obesity, and prehypertension: A South African cohort study

PlosMedicine | Published: 27 August 2019.

Brian Houle, Tamsen J Rochat, Marie-Louise Newell, Alan Stein, Ruth M Bland

Evidence on the association between breastfeeding and later childhood obesity and blood pressure (BP) is inconsistent, especially in HIV-prevalent areas where, until recently, HIV-infected women were discouraged from breastfeeding, but obesity is increasingly prevalent.

The Siyakhula cohort (2012–2014), a population-based prospective cohort study, collected data over 3 visits on HIV-negative children ages 7 to 11 years in rural South Africa.

Non-communicable diseases in sub-Saharan Africa: a scoping review of large cohort studies

Journal of Global Health | Published: 6 August 2019.

Kathleen Mudie, Melisa Mei, Jin Tan, Lindsay Kendall, Juliet Addo, Isabel dos-Santos-Silva, Jennifer Quint, Liam Smeeth, et al

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) cause a large and growing burden of morbidity and mortality in sub-

Saharan Africa. Prospective cohort studies are key to study multiple risk factors and chronic diseases and are crucial to our understanding of the burden, aetiology and prognosis of NCDs in SSA. We aimed to identify the level of research output on NCDs and their risk factors collected by cohorts in SSA. [The authors] conducted a scoping review to map the extent of current NCDs research in SSA by identifying studies published after the year 2000 using prospectively collected cohort data on any of the six NCDs (cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, obesity, chronic kidney disease, chronic respiratory diseases, and cancers), ≥ 1 major risk factor (other than age and sex), set only within SSA, enrolled ≥ 500 participants, and ≥ 12 months of follow-up with ≥ 2 data collection points (or with plans to).

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

After the ECHO trial: World Health Organisation updates guidance on contraception

Bhekisisa | 28 August 2019.

'A woman's risk of HIV does not restrict her contraceptive choice', say new guidelines released today in the wake of recent findings that the widely-used birth control injection does not increase a woman's risk of HIV.

NHI: In search of common ground

Daily Maverick | 26 August 2019.

What are the politics of the controversial NHI? What specific concerns do people of South Africa have with the NHI Bill and what it will take for them to find common ground with proponents of the proposal?

At least half of Gauteng's hospitals are without their top managers

Bhekisisa | 27 August 2019.

Two CEOs are still under investigations months after a spate of infant deaths and a high-level probe by the Office of the Premier into alleged maladministration saw them transferred to other offices.

Continued surveillance needed to improve ART safety for pregnant women

Medical Brief | 21 August 2019.

Despite prospective cohort trials not producing evidence of an increased risk of neural tube defects (NTDs) with dolutegravir (DTG), elvitegravir and raltegravir, or bicittegravir, continued surveillance studies with DTG and other contemporary antiretroviral therapies, including provider reporting of pregnancy outcomes, are needed to further evaluate the safety of ART during pregnancy.

Global health still mimics colonial ways: here's how to break the pattern

The Conversation Africa | 18 August 2019.

High income country trainees and experts must learn to listen and be humble.

Political Economy of Non-Communicable Diseases: From Unconventional to Essential

Health Systems & Reform | 26 August 2019.

This commentary argues that political economy should become viewed as a conventional, indeed, an essential outlook for NCDs, and more broadly for global health.

Farmworkers want 67 pesticides banned

GroundUp | 29 October 2019.

Over 200 women farm workers from across the Western Cape marched to Parliament on Wednesday demanding that the Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (DAFF) and the Department of Labour work together to ban 67 pesticides to protect the health of farm workers. They also want farmers to be held accountable if they disobey labour practices.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

HIV Prevention Ambassador toolkit

OPTIONS | 30 July 2019.

The OPTIONS Consortium, in collaboration with Collective Action, has developed an HIV Prevention Ambassador Training Package to support adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) to play a meaningful role in the rollout of oral PrEP in their communities. Through interactive activities, discussion, and action planning, the training prepares Ambassadors to share information with their peers about oral PrEP as part of combination HIV prevention. Ambassadors also gain skills to support peers who are interested in using PrEP and to build community support for AGYW use of oral PrEP. For any Ambassadors who have not been previously trained on sexual and reproductive health and rights, the training also includes foundational sessions on sexual and reproductive health, human rights, gender, violence and HIV transmission. For printed copies of the OPTIONS HIV Prevention Ambassador Training Package, local language translations of the Ambassador Toolkit, or editable graduation certificates and/or local referral directory templates, please contact AmbassadorTraining@optionsconsortium.org.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

RESPECT women: preventing violence against women

WHO, UN Women | 29 May 2019.

Violence against women is a major public health problem rooted in gender inequality, and is a gross violation of women's human rights affecting the lives and health of millions of women and girls. Aiming to end violence against women, a package/framework with infographics on prevention of violence against

women - RESPECT – Preventing violence against women: A framework for policymakers, was developed, based on the UN framework for action to prevent violence against women from 2015 and updated new evidence.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Research Day

13 September 2019

Inkosi Albert Luthuli Hospital, Durban, South Africa

3rd International Workshop on HIV and Adolescence

2-4 October 2019

Nairobi, Kenya

10th International Workshop on HIV & Women

6-7 March 2020

Boston, Massachusetts, USA

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

HSSI Eswatini: HIV Testing Advisor, HIV Care and Treatment Advisor, HIV Adherence and Retention Advisor

Closing Date: 6 September 2019

NACOSA: Monitoring and Evaluation Officer - Eastern Cape and KZN

Closing Date: 31 August 2019

m2m: Systems Integration and Optimisation Specialist

Closing Date: 6 September 2019

GHSC-TA: Provincial Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Coordinator

Closing date: 10 September 2019

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