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## HST IN THE NEWS

### **South African Health Review 2019 Call for Abstracts: Now Open**

The editors are pleased to announce that the call for abstracts for the 2019 edition of the SAHR is now open. Abstracts providing fresh insights into health systems strengthening efforts supporting the realisation of universal health coverage in South Africa are particularly sought. Preference will be given to manuscripts that take cognisance of the World Health Organization's six building blocks for an effective, efficient and equitable health system.

### **Aids centre cuts HIV stigma in communities**

*News24 | 28 November 2018.*

World Aids Day is celebrated around the globe on December 1 to raise awareness about the HIV/Aids

pandemic. On this day, people around the world unite in remembering those who have died from HIV/Aids.

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## ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

### **Southern African HIV Clinicians Society Guidance on the use of dolutegravir in first-line antiretroviral therapy**

*Southern African Journal of HIV Medicine | Published: 17 October 2018.*

*Michelle A Moorhouse, Sergio Carmona, Natasha Davies, Siphon Dlamini, Cloete van Vuuren, Thandekile Manzini, Moeketsi Mathe, Yunus Moosa, et al*

The Southern African HIV Clinicians Society would like to update all HIV-treating clinicians with regard to the use of dolutegravir in women of childbearing potential (WOCP).

### **Guidelines to support HIV-affected individuals and couples to achieve pregnancy safely: Update 2018**

*Southern African Journal of HIV Medicine | Published: 18 October 2018.*

*Natasha E.C.G. Davies, Gail Ashford, Linda-Gail Bekker, Nomathemba Chandiwana, Diane Cooper, Silker J. Dyer, Lauren Jankelowitz, et al*

In June 2011, the Southern African HIV Clinicians' Society, together with an expert working group, developed the Guidelines on Safer Conception in Fertile HIV-Infected Individuals and Couples.<sup>1</sup> Since then, interventions to manage and prevent HIV have evolved and, similarly, options for safer conception have expanded. These updated guidelines provide healthcare providers with up-to-date information to support efforts to optimise safer conception care.

### **Men's perspectives on the impact of female-directed cash transfers on gender relations: Findings from the HPTN 068 qualitative study**

*PlosOne | Published: 26 November 2018.*

*Makhosazane Nomhle Khoza, Sinead Delany-Moretlwe, Fiona Scorgie, Jennifer Hove, Amanda Selin, John Imrie, Rhian Twine, Kathleen Kahn, et al*

HIV is an inherently gendered disease in eastern and southern Africa, not only because more women than men are infected, but also because socially constructed gender norms work to increase women's HIV-infection risk. The provision of cash transfers to young women alone in such a context adds another dimension to already existing complex social relations where patriarchal values are entrenched, gender inequality is the norm, and violence against women and girls is pervasive. It raises concerns about complicating young women's relationships with their male partners or possibly even setting them up for more violence. In our attempt to understand how cash transfers influence social relations in the context of a trial among young women in South Africa, we used qualitative data collected during the trial to explore

men's perceptions of the impact of cash transfers on male-female relationships, both intimate and platonic, peer relationships.

### **Investigating risk factors for under-five mortality in an HIV hyper-endemic area of rural South Africa, from 2000-2014**

*PlosOne* | Published: 26 November 2018.

*B Tlou, B Sartorius, F Tanser*

Despite global progress, there remains a disproportionate burden of under-five year old deaths in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), where four out of five child deaths occur. Substantial progress has been made in improving sanitation, controlling communicable diseases and the spread of HIV in most parts of the world. However, significant strides to address some key risk factors related to under-five mortality are still needed in rural SSA if they are to attain relevant 2030 SDG targets. The aim of this study is to investigate the risk factors for under-five mortality in an HIV hyper-endemic area of rural South Africa, from 2000–2014.

### **Social support, disclosure and stigma and the association with non-adherence in the six months after antiretroviral therapy initiation among a cohort of HIV-positive adults in rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa**

*AIDS Care* | Published: 25 November 2018.

*S George, N McGrath*

The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends antiretroviral treatment (ART) initiation at human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) diagnosis. As ART programmes expand, addressing barriers to adherence is vital. Past mixed findings on the association between social support, stigma and non-disclosure with ART adherence highlights the need for further research. The primary aim of this study was to examine how these factors are associated with ART non-adherence in the six months after ART initiation. The secondary aim was to explore how other factors are associated with non-adherence. We conducted secondary analysis of prospective data from HIV-positive adults initiating ART.

### **Transforming the workplace environment to prevent non-communicable chronic diseases: participatory action research in a South African power plant**

*Global Health Action* | Published: 26 November 2018.

*Darcelle Schouw, Robert Mash, Tracy Kolbe-Alexander*

The workplace is an important setting for the prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Policies for transformation of the workplace environment for occupational health and safety in South Africa have focused more on what to do and less on how to do it. There are no guidelines and little evidence on workplace-based interventions for NCDs.

### **Global, regional, and national estimates of pneumonia morbidity and mortality in children younger than 5 years between 2000 and 2015: a systematic analysis**

*The Lancet Global Health* | Published: 26 November 2018.

*David A McAllister, Li Liu, Ting Shi, Yue Chu, Craig Reed, John Burrows, Davies Adeloye, Igor Rudan, et al*

Global child mortality reduced substantially during the Millennium Development Goal period (2000–15).

We aimed to estimate morbidity, mortality, and prevalence of risk factors for child pneumonia at the global, regional, and national level for developing countries for the Millennium Development Goal period.

### **Prioritization of risk groups for influenza vaccination in resource limited settings – A case study from South Africa**

*Vaccine* | Published: 22 November 2018

*Meredith L McMorrow, Stefano Tempia, Sibongile Walaza, Florette K Treurnicht, Wayne Ramkrishna, Eduardo Azziz-Baumgartner, Shabir A Madhi, Cheryl Cohen*

Due to competing health priorities, low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) may need to prioritize between different influenza vaccine risk groups. Risk group prioritization may differ in LMIC based upon programmatic feasibility, country-specific prevalence of risk conditions and influenza-associated morbidity and mortality.

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## **RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS**

### **Nurses will help turn the promise of universal health care into a reality**

*Stat* | 23 November 2018.

Health is a political choice — and nurses need to be where these choices are made. More nurses are ascending to higher political office than ever before, and they are also rising up the ranks of global health policy workers.

### **NHI Bill being pushed for elections?**

*Health-e News* | 27 November 2018.

The Presidency and Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi seem intent on pushing the National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill through Parliament before next year's election despite major unanswered questions.

### **New FHI study reveals connected care technology could be the missing link in South African value-based healthcare**

*Business Day* | 26 November 2018.

SA's health system value measure is below the 16-country average.

### **Why the HIV epidemic is not over**

*World Health Organisation* | November 2018.

Fear, stigma and ignorance. That is what defined the HIV epidemic that raged through the world in the

1980s, killing thousands of people who may only have had a few weeks or months from diagnosis to death - if they even managed to be diagnosed before they died.

### **Letter to President Cyril Ramaphosa: Send a message to world leaders to commit financially to fighting Aids**

*Daily Maverick | 29 November 2018.*

The Treatment Action Campaign and SECTION27 have called on Cyril Ramaphosa to make a strong statement on World AIDS day that includes a call on the leaders at the 2018 G20 meeting to ensure that funding for HIV prevention and treatment increases.

### **Could your favourite birth control put you at risk of HIV?**

*Bhekisisa | 23 November 2018.*

We could be just months away from knowing whether Depo-Provera use is linked to a higher risk of HIV infection in women.

### **DRC: Ebola clinical trials begin as UN warns of newborns infected Authorities allow clinical trials even as a fresh WHO warning about babies becoming infected raises new fears.**

*Al Jazeera | 24 November 2018.*

Authorities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have approved clinical trials for four experimental Ebola treatments, even as the deadly disease's outbreak among newborn babies raises new fears.

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## **TRAINING AND RESOURCES**

### **Free online course: Global Health and Disability: Leaving no one behind**

*International Centre for Evidence in Disability | 3 December 2018.*

Around 15% of the world's population, or 1 billion people, live with some form of disability, with numbers continuing to rise over the coming decades.

People with disabilities are often overlooked in national and international development, and can face widespread barriers in accessing services, including health and rehabilitation services, even though simple initiatives are available to enable access.

This three week course aims to raise awareness about the importance of health and well-being of people with disabilities in the context of the global development agenda: Leaving no one behind.

### **PrEP Communications Accelerator**

*USAID/ PEPFAR | 2018.*

The PrEP Communications Accelerator is a free interactive, digital resource that supports national

governments, program implementers, and health practitioners to develop marketing and communications that drive demand for PrEP in sub-Saharan Africa. Both easy-to-use and information-rich, the Accelerator offers tested guidance throughout the lifecycle of a PrEP communications campaign and can be applicable across all PrEP formulations.

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## **PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS**

### **Knowledge is power — Know your status, know your viral load**

*UNAIDS | 22 November 2018.*

For people who may have been exposed to HIV, knowledge is critical to making informed decisions about their future. An HIV test is a serious event with potentially serious outcomes. But no matter the result, the test provides vital information. A negative result is an opportunity to take deliberate steps to prevent future acquisition through prevention methods tailored to that individual's risks. A positive test result—and a confirmatory diagnosis—is never welcome news, but for people living with HIV, it is a necessary first step towards a long and healthy life.

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## **CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

### **9th South African Child Health Priorities conference**

29 November - 1 December 2018

School of Public Health Auditorium, University of the Witwatersrand

### **FutureHealth Basel**

28 January 2018

Basel, Switzerland

### **The Future of Food Safety: Transforming knowledge into action for people, economies and the environment**

12-13 February 2018

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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## **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

Please click on the job title for more information.

**Health Systems Trust: Clinician**

Closing Date: 7 December 2018

**Health Systems Trust: Team Leader**

Closing date: 7 December 2018

**Health Systems Trust: Radiographer**

Closing Date: 7 December 2018

**Health Systems Trust: Driver**

Closing Date: 7 December 2018

**Health Systems Trust: Junior IT Technician**

Closing Date: 7 December 2018

**Health Systems Trust: Lab Technician**

Closing Date: 7 December 2018

**Health Systems Trust: Director - Health Systems Research**

Closing Date: 10 December 2018

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[hst@hst.org.za](mailto:hst@hst.org.za)

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