

HST Bulletin_31 March 2023

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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Fast-tracking progress to End TB: high-level opportunities for investment and action

The Lancet | 23 March 2023

Tereza Kasaeva, Hannah Monica Dias, Madhukar Pai

In September, 2023, heads of state will reconvene at the 2023 UN General Assembly and report back on progress in keeping the promises made at the first UN High-Level Meeting on Tuberculosis in 2018. 1 All three of us were privileged to be a part of this meeting, and still remember the excitement and hope we felt about the pledges made by world leaders to end tuberculosis, and the ambitious targets that were laid out.

Balancing tuberculosis therapy and substance use

The Lancet Infectious Diseases | 23 March 2023

Phoebe Ashley-Norman

Tuberculosis (TB) is a major cause of illness and death globally, the annual WHO Global TB Report stated that 1.6 million people died from TB in 2022. In South Africa, TB remains the leading cause of death. The focal points of this epidemic are institutions like residential hospital DP Marais, in Cape Town, South Africa, which is the principle setting of Anna Versfeld's recent book *Making uncertainty: tuberculosis, substance use, and pathways to health in South Africa*. The lives of the DP Marais patients are messy. Their backstories often share common threads of cramped living conditions, unstable or unsafe work, poor diet, and in the case of women, domestic violence. DP Marais admits these patients through its gates, which are branded by a sign reading 'TB is curable when you complete your treatment'. However, the histories and futures of the patients within those gates do not reflect the simplicity of this statement. As Versfeld puts it, within the gates of DP Marais, "care efforts [...] are framed within biomedicine but respond to social complexities".

Fostering community engagement, participation and empowerment for mental health of adults living in rural communities: a systematic review

Remote and Rural Health | 23 March 2023

Kirsten Russell, Simon Rosenbaum, Sharon Varela, Robert Stanton & Fiona Barnett

Poor mental health is an under-recognised burden in rural locations. This is evident in suicide rates that are 40% higher in rural communities than in urban ones, despite a similar prevalence of mental disorders. The level of readiness and engagement of rural communities to adapt or even acknowledge poor mental health can impact effective interventions. For interventions to be culturally appropriate, community engagement should include individuals, their support networks and relevant stakeholders. Community participation guides people living in rural communities to be aware of and take responsibility for community mental health. Community engagement and participation foster empowerment. This review examines how community engagement, participation and empowerment were used in the development and implementation of interventions aimed at improving mental health of adults residing in rural communities.

Quantifying progression and regression across the spectrum of pulmonary tuberculosis: a data synthesis study

The Lancet Global Health | 23 March 2023

Alexandra S Richards, Bianca Sossen, Jon Emery, Katherine C Horton, Torben Heinsohn, et al

Prevalence surveys show a substantial burden of subclinical (asymptomatic but infectious) tuberculosis, from which individuals can progress, regress, or even persist in a chronic disease state. We aimed to quantify these pathways across the spectrum of tuberculosis disease.

The ISPAD Clinical Practice Consensus Guidelines 2022: how far we have come and the distance still to go

The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology | 23 March 2023

Brittany Bruggeman & Desmond A Schatz

Since publication of the first International Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes (ISPAD) guidelines in 1995, paediatric diabetes care has undergone burgeoning revolutions, from the first attempts at intensive glucose control to the now successful delay of clinical type diabetes and the availability of novel technologies. Indeed, even since publication of the ISPAD 2018 guidelines, groundbreaking developments in insulin delivery, glucose monitoring, and health-care delivery have expanded the available treatment options aimed at improving the lives of all children with type 1 diabetes. Simultaneously, the COVID-19 pandemic amplified the vast health-care disparities already present throughout global and local systems. A growing ability to deliver individualised diabetes care has exposed inequitable access to such care. The ISPAD Clinical Practice Consensus Guidelines 2022 unequivocally highlight how far we have come in the care of children with diabetes, and the progress that we still need to make to deliver this care in an equitable and person-centred way.

Adolescent and young adult research across the HIV prevention and care continua: an international programme analysis and targeted review

Journal of International AIDS Society | 23 March 2023

Samantha Calabrese, Matt Perkins, Sonia Lee, Susannah Allison, Gina Brown, et al.

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) continues to rise in young people among low- and middle-income countries (LMIC). The US National Institutes of Health (NIH) supports the largest public investment in HIV research globally. Despite advancements in the last decade, adolescents and young adults (AYA) remain underrepresented in research to improve HIV prevention and care. We undertook a programme analysis of NIH grants and conducted a targeted review of linked publications on international AYA research across the HIV prevention and care continuum (HPCC) to inform new initiatives to address the needs of AYA in these settings.

New tricks for an old dog: opportunities for better tuberculosis control

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 23 March 2023

Digby F Warner & Robin Wood

Tuberculosis (TB) remains an enigmatic disease. Consistently among the leading causes of annual global mortality, its impact is greatest in a limited number of high-burden countries, many of which are marked by poverty, stark internal inequalities, societal instability and, since the late 20th century, high HIV prevalence. An ancient disease which has plagued humanity for millennia, TB often defies definitive diagnosis, especially in those most at risk, such as children and people living with HIV, where presentation can be complicated owing to immature or deficient immune function. Declared a global emergency in 1993, TB struggles perennially to secure a position in the popular consciousness (in contrast to COVID-

19), and consistently fails to attract the funds necessary to drive preventative and therapeutic interventions, as well as the research required to develop innovative new programmes.

Perceived Barriers and Use of Evidence-Based Practices for Adolescent HPV Vaccination among East Texas Providers

MDPI Vaccines | 25 March 2023

Sarah Kim, Kelvin Zhou, Susan Parker, Kimberly N. Kline, and R. Montealegre

Adolescents living in rural areas are less likely to be up to date on the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, which can prevent cervical cancer. We administered a telephone survey to 27 clinics in rural East Texas to assess perceived barriers to HPV vaccination and current use of evidence-based interventions to promote HPV vaccination. Perceived barriers were assessed using a 5-point Likert scale and clinical implementation of evidence-based practices was determined. Findings are reported using descriptive statistics. The most commonly reported barriers were missed vaccination opportunities due to the pandemic (66.7%), followed by vaccine hesitancy due to the pandemic (44.4%) and due to the HPV vaccine specifically (33.3%). Fewer than a third of clinics reported using the evidence-based strategies of use of a “refusal to vaccinate” form (29.6%), having an identified HPV vaccine champion (29.6%), and recommending the HPV vaccine at age 9 (22.2%). While many clinics surveyed currently implement evidence-based practices to promote HPV vaccination, there is a need and desire for additional HPV vaccination interventions in East Texas clinics.

The prevalence of cervical abnormalities: Comparison of youth with perinatally acquired HIV and older women in Botswana

Southern African Journal of HIV Medicine | 28 March 2023

Thabo Phologolo, Mogomotsi Matshaba, Bathusi Mathuba, Keboletse Mokete, Ontibile Tshume, et al.

Cervical cancer burden and prevalence of precursor lesions is unknown among young women living with HIV in high prevalence settings. Current cervical cancer screening guidelines in resource-limited settings with high HIV prevalence typically exclude adolescents and young women. After observing two cases of advanced cervical cancer among young women with perinatally acquired HIV, a pilot screening programme was established in Botswana. To compare the prevalence of cervical abnormalities in young women with perinatally acquired HIV with women aged 30–49 years, regardless of HIV status. We conducted a cross-sectional study of 30–49-year-old women who had visual inspection with acetic acid screening through the Botswana public sector programme, and youth (aged 15–24 years) with perinatally acquired HIV, at a single referral site between 2016 and 2018. We describe the prevalence of cervical abnormalities in each group as well as the crude prevalence ratio.

Response to COVID-19 recommended preventive behavioral messages among Guraghe zone communities, South Ethiopia: using constructs of the Extended Parallel Process Model (EPPM)

BMC Infectious Diseases | 28 March 2023

Abdurezak Kemal, Kenzudin Assfa, Bisrat Zeleke, Mohammed Jemal, Musa Jemal, et al.

The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 is a pandemic disease. Countries should take standard measures and responses to battle the effects of the viruses. However, little is known in Ethiopia regarding the recommended preventive behavioral messages responses. Therefore, the study aimed to assess the response to COVID-19 recommended preventive behavioral messages. Community-based cross-sectional study design was carried out from 1 to 20, July 2020. We recruited 634 respondents by using a systematic sampling method. Data were analyzed using Statistical Package Software for Social Sciences version 23. Association between variables were explored using a bivariable and multi variable logistic regression model. The strength of the association is presented using odds ratio and regression coefficient with 95% confidence interval. A p-value of less than 0.05 was declared statistically significant.

Viral load suppression after intensive adherence counselling among adult people living with HIV at Kiswa health centre, Kampala: a retrospective cohort study. Secondary data analysis

AIDS Research and Therapy | 30 March 2023

Catherine Nakaye, Nelson Mukiza, Denis Mawanda, Hajira Kataike, Hellen Kaganzi, et al.

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS through the 95-95-95 target requires 95% of people living with HIV (PLHIV) on antiretroviral treatment (ART) to be virally suppressed. Viral Load (VL) non-

suppression has been found to be associated with suboptimal ART adherence, and Intensive Adherence Counselling (IAC) has been shown to lead to VL re-suppression by over 70% in PLHIV on ART. Currently, there is data paucity on VL suppression after IAC in adult PLHIV in Uganda. This study aimed to evaluate the proportion of VL suppression after IAC and associated factors among adult PLHIV on ART at Kiswa Health Centre in Kampala, Uganda.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

WHO Hopes to Fast-Track Testing Candidate Vaccines for Marburg Amid Outbreaks in Tanzania and Equatorial Guinea

Health Policy Watch | 23 March 2023

The World Health Organization (WHO) hopes to be able to fast-track the testing of various Marburg candidate vaccines following outbreaks of this rare and deadly viral haemorrhagic fever in Tanzania and Equatorial Guinea. “WHO is leading an effort to evaluate candidate vaccines and therapeutics in the context of the outbreak,” WHO Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a media briefing on Thursday. “The developers are on board the clinical trial protocols are ready. The experts and donors are ready. Once the national government and the researchers give the green light,” he added.

Tuberculosis cases nearly back to pre-pandemic levels, data show

Stat News | 23 March 2023

Early in the Covid-19 pandemic, new diagnoses of tuberculosis dropped like a stone in the United States. Data released Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggest the pandemic effect has pretty much worn off; TB is nearly back to pre-2020 levels.

Three years on, there is a new generation of lockdown sceptics – and they're rewriting history

The Guardian | 23 March 2023

Was the pain worth it? Between March 2020 and March 2021, the UK had three national lockdowns. The goal was to control the spread of Covid-19. Essential businesses were closed, as were schools and universities, and “stay at home” orders meant families and friends were often kept apart. At the time, the government was unenthusiastic about lockdown and many Tories opposed it. Lord Sumption, for example, insisted that if it weren't for lockdown, people could have “a perfectly normal life.”

Experts call for action on the commercial determinants of health and health equity

WHO | 23 March 2023

The private sector has a major influence on health through its products and practices. Commercial actors influence health in varied and complex ways. They have been fundamental in developing and delivering essential health goods and services, but some of their products and practices are responsible for escalating ill-health and health inequity worldwide. The frameworks for understanding and an agenda for responding to these influences on health are set out in The Lancet Series on the Commercial Determinants of Health published today. Its three papers show the way to a world where health comes before profit and all people live free from harms caused by commercial forces.

New agenda sets sail with bold action as UN Water Conference closes

UN | 23 March 2023

The UN 2023 Water Conference closed on Friday with the adoption of the Water Action Agenda, a “milestone” action plan containing almost 700 commitments to protect “humanity's most precious global common good”. The Agenda sets out a series of action-oriented game changing commitments, from making smarter food choices to re-evaluating water as a powerful economic driver, and part of the Earth's cultural heritage.

DA leaders should follow Premier Winde's example on vaccines

GroundUp | 23 March 2023

During the height of the Covid pandemic there was one outstanding leader holding political office in South

Africa: Western Cape Premier Alan Winde. His messages were clear and science-based. He supported the provincial health department's initiatives which involved making sure hospitals had the capacity to deal with the surges in Covid cases.

Experts call for action on the commercial determinants of health and health equity

WHO | 24 March 2023

The private sector has a major influence on health through its products and practices. Commercial actors influence health in varied and complex ways. They have been fundamental in developing and delivering essential health goods and services, but some of their products and practices are responsible for escalating ill-health and health inequity worldwide. The frameworks for understanding and an agenda for responding to these influences on health are set out in The Lancet Series on the Commercial Determinants of Health published today. Its three papers show the way to a world where health comes before profit and all people live free from harms caused by commercial forces.

How good is your province at curing the most drug resistant TB?

Bhekisisa | 24 March 2023

- Six out of ten people who were diagnosed with drug-resistant TB in South Africa, got treatment and beat the TB bug in 2017. This is six times more than in 2010, according to the District Health Barometer for 2019/2020.
- This is the most updated provincial data that's publicly available, although fresh statistics could be coming soon since South Africa's new TB action plan says it will collect data for every target in the document (many of which include boosting prevention and treatment for people with all kinds of TB).
- In partnership with Media Hack, we've compiled an interactive map to show how each province fared in 2017.

You might be getting antidepressants from a professional nurse soon. Here's why

Bhekisisa | 24 March 2023

- The health department plans to train professional nurses to prescribe pills for mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression, according to the government's new five-year (2023-2028) action plan for HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Mental health disorders make it easier for people to get infected with HIV and TB and harder to keep taking their medicine regularly.
- Currently, professional nurses cannot legally prescribe psychiatric medicines in South Africa, so Health Minister Joe Phaahla will have to change the country's nursing laws before this plan can become a reality.
- But the HIV plan is short of more than R7.2-billion to achieve its goals by 2028. Meanwhile, international donors such as the US government's Aids fund, Pefar, have already indicated that they'd be decreasing their contributions in the near future.

The forgotten form of TB that can carry on forever

Bhekisisa | 24 March 2023

- Just like with COVID, there's a long version of TB, called post-TB lung disease. This condition can emerge even after people with TB have finished their courses of treatment.
- Post-TB lung disease causes damage to someone's lungs and makes it hard to breathe. It affects up to 30% of TB survivors.
- Yet long COVID has gotten much more attention than the long shadow of TB, even though the TB germ was identified 140 years ago. Almost four times as many papers have been published about long COVID than have ever been written about persistent lung disease after TB.

UNAIDS Executive Director Message on World TB Day – Yes, we shall and we can end TB among people living with HIV!

UNAIDS | 24 March 2023

Today, on World TB Day, we must recognize the urgent need to end the TB epidemic around the world,

especially among people living with HIV. TB remains a leading cause of severe illness and death among people with HIV. According to the World Health Organization Global TB Report 2022, people with HIV are 14-18 times more likely to fall ill from TB compared to people without HIV. About one in three AIDS related deaths were in 2021 were due to TB. We cannot allow this to continue. We must ensure that all people living with HIV and those vulnerable to TB have access to TB prevention, diagnosis, and treatment services. We continue to miss opportunities to deploy the tools we have against HIV / TB co-infection. Almost half of people living with HIV who developed TB in 2021 were not diagnosed or reported to have TB and coverage of TB preventive therapy among eligible HIV positive persons remains at only 42%.

Face to face: Prof Muki Shey on his journey from Cameroon to doing cutting-edge TB research

Spotlight | 24 March 2023

It was his own background including childhood sickness that inflamed Professor Muki Shey's passion for finding health solutions in resource-constrained settings. "Because of where I come from, helping people with limited resources has always interested me," he says. "I mean, in the Cameroon, it is payment before service. So even if people succeed in getting to health centers they often don't have the money to pay for medical help when they get there. So it piqued my interest from early on to see how can we make this better – how do we improve health, especially in such remote areas?"

SA'S TB EPIDEMIC: TURNING HOPE INTO HEALING

Health-e News | 27 March 2023

It is preventable.

And it's curable.

But tuberculosis remains the leading cause of death in South Africa.

Statistics South Africa's 2018 report on Mortality and Cause of death in South Africa, indicated that TB was the main cause of death in the previous three years, from 6.5% of total deaths in 2016 to 6.0% in 2018.

It is alarming that TB continues to result in more deaths than diabetes, cerebrovascular diseases, heart disease and HIV.

While the statistics about TB infection rates – especially among youth – raise grave concerns, the hope of ending TB is emerging on many horizons as the struggle to eradicate the tiny bacteria intensifies.

But the efforts to build the youth with the capacity to take South Africa boldly into the future cannot be applied in one area alone.

In a sceptical era, understand this: vaccines do work - and our children need them

The Guardian | 27 March 2023

In 1959, at the age of 29, the promising England footballer Jeff Hall died of polio. His death sent shock waves across Britain, and caused an immediate change in attitudes towards vaccination, from complacency to a sudden rush to clinics. A polio vaccine had been available for three years, but takeup was low. After Hall's death, the demand was so high that vaccines had to be flown in from the US. As the Daily Express put it: "In the past 10 years over 3,000 people have died of polio in England and Wales. But it took the death of one footballer to get [people] pouring into the clinics." More than half a century later, we may be returning to complacency when it comes to getting children vaccinated.

OPINION: We need more dedicated investment to address TB in children

Spotlight | 27 March 2023

The theme of last year's World Tuberculosis (TB) Day was 'Invest to end TB' – an apt theme acknowledging the critical shortfall in funding for TB if we are to meet the 2035 goal of eliminating TB globally. South Africa is one of the highest TB-burdened countries and has the additional burden of a high proportion of HIV co-infected TB patients, and a high prevalence of drug-resistant TB.

Quadripartite call to action for One Health for a safer world

WHO | 27 March 2023

Recent international health emergencies such as COVID-19 pandemic, mpox, Ebola outbreaks, and continued threats of other zoonotic diseases, food safety, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) challenges, as well as ecosystem degradation and climate change clearly demonstrate the need for resilient health systems and accelerated global action. One Health is seen as the main approach for tackling these

pressing and complex challenges facing our society.

Pandemic Accord Talks Resume Soon With Call for More Attention to One Health, and Less Misinformation

Health Policy Watch | 27 March 2023

Negotiations on a global pandemic accord resume next Monday at the fifth meeting of the World Health Organization (WHO)'s Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) amid calls for more attention to be paid to a One Health approach, and less to organised misinformation campaigns. The meeting agenda is an extension of the INB meeting that ended on 3 March, as it will continue with the text-based negotiations, with member states rushing to meet the 14 April deadline for the submission of textual proposals.

Millions of People Living with HIV Are Alive, Thanks to a 20-Year Public Health Effort

Scientific American | 27 March 2023

After two decades, a massive U.S. governmental effort has reached a new milestone in its battle to defang the global HIV/AIDS epidemic: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced earlier this month that, by 2022, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) had provided lifesaving antiretroviral therapy treatment to more than 20 million people around the world with HIV—a 300-fold increase from the 66,500 people the program treated in 2004.

Africa's access to life-saving medicines — The challenges of operationalising the African Medicines Agency

Daily Maverick | 27 March 2023

The vision of the AMA is to consolidate regulation of medicines across the continent and to be the overarching oversight agency for the regulation of medicines in all countries in Africa. However, what will it take to operationalise this agency and get all countries aligned with implementation at a national level?

In-Depth: Mostly positive responses to SA's new HIV, TB and STI plan

Spotlight | 28 March 2023

South Africa's National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs (2023 – 2028) was launched on Friday at Tlhabane Stadium in Rustenburg, North West as the world commemorated World TB Day. Nthusang Lefafa attended the event and spoke to experts and activists about the state of TB and HIV and the work that lies ahead with the new NSP.

Health Beat #6 | 'Suddenly you become anxious and angry': How loadshedding impacts mental health

Bhekisisa | 28 March 2023

- This year could be the worst year for loadshedding on record.
- The South African Depression and Anxiety Group (Sadag) used an online survey to find out how blackouts impact our state of mind.
- The survey revealed loadshedding-related increases in anxiety, work-related stress, depression and suicidal thoughts among South Africans.
- For the March edition of our television show, Health Beat, we travel to a chicken farmer in Nigel, southeast of Johannesburg, whose business was brought to its knees because of power cuts. Plus, Mia Malan speaks to Sadag's Cassey Chambers and asks the psychologist, Tholinhlanhla Dlamini-Ngcoya, what we can do to keep our heads above water during this difficult time.

Cancer treatment: long and expensive wait

Health-e News | 28 March 2023

Cancer patients' constitutional right to access healthcare services is under threat, and cheaper generics are prevented from entering the market due to patent barriers, says non-profit organisations advocating for cancer patients' rights and treatment. Patent barriers are the main reason why people that access the public health sector cannot access treatments that are already available in the private sector. The Fix the Patent Law Campaign has been advocating for patent law since 2012 with no success. A health manager at the Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSAs), Lorraine Govender says life-saving drugs are priced out of reach.

Measles campaign ends soon, what you should know

IOL | 29 March 2023

The National Institute for Communicable Disease (NICD) has declared a measles outbreak in all South African provinces, except for the Eastern Cape. Measles is a highly contagious disease caused by the measles virus. Signs and symptoms include fever, rash, cough, red eyes, and runny nose. At the time of going to print, more than 800 laboratory-confirmed cases were reported in the country. In the provinces where an outbreak has been declared, the most affected age groups are still the 5 to 9-year-olds (43%) with a considerable proportion of cases reported among the 1 to 4 (24%) and 10 to 14 age groups (19%), said the NICD.

Nigeria: World Tuberculosis Day 2023 - Yes, We Can End TB

AllAfrica | 29 March 2023

Zainab (not her real name) first learned about latent tuberculosis (TB) when she was 16 and her doctor informed her that she had it. Despite the doctor's assurance that it was an inactive form of TB, Zainab failed to complete her prescribed medication regimen. She also nursed her grandfather before he died of TB, putting her at greater risk of infection.

How to End Bias and Taboos in Women's Health Care

Wired | 29 March 2023

WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE is still nowhere near equity: Biases, taboos, and sexism remain pervasive in medicine, with ripple effects across all aspects of a woman's life. But there was a pervading note of optimism at WIRED Health last week during a panel about the future of women's health care. Taboos are being shattered—particularly around topics like menstruation, menopause, and women's bodies. “There's a sea change right now,” says Jennifer Garrison, cofounder and director of the Global Consortium for Reproductive Longevity and Equality at the Buck Institute in California.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust Bulletin

The Health Systems Trust (HST) produces a weekly bulletin on Fridays focusing on key public health news, peer-reviewed journal articles and other important primary healthcare resources.

Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust 60percent

HST produces a weekly online publication, 60percent, which keeps subscribers abreast with the latest news and developments pertaining to HIV-related maternal, adolescent, child and youth health. The name 60percent signifies that southern Africa is responding to a feminised HIV/AIDS epidemic, with at least 60% of those living with HIV being women. Subscribe to 60percent by simply visiting HST's website (<https://www.hst.org.za>), scroll to the bottom of the page, hit the SUBSCRIBE button, and follow the prompts. Let's keep you posted!

The Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) – calling all public health champions!

PHASA is a voluntary organisation of individuals passionate about population health improvements and the reduction of health inequities, and whose work focuses on the prevention of disease, the promotion of health, and the improved functioning of the country's health care system. Are you passionate about improving the health and wellbeing of communities? Do you want to expand your professional network and stay current in the field of public health? Do you want to be part of the movement to improve Public Health? Then join the Public Health Association of South Africa today to make a difference and enhance your career!

As a member, you will:

- Gain access to cutting-edge research, resources, and best practices
- Connect with public health professionals from around the country
- Participate in educational events and conferences
- Contribute to shaping the future of public health

- Have access to mentors in the field
- Be at the forefront of advocacy initiatives.

To become a member, simply visit our website and complete the membership application. Don't miss this opportunity to advance your career and improve public health.

SARETI Masters Degree MSocSc (Health Research Ethics) Scholarships Call for Applications: 2024

The South African Research Ethics Training Initiative (SARETI) based at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa is an African programme in health research ethics that offers a mix of online and face-to-face modular and applied training as

part of a structured Social Science Masters specialising in health research ethics. Trainees are capacitated with expertise to ensure that health research in Africa prioritises the welfare of research participants, individuals and communities as its primary focus. A key focus of this training programme is to build research ethics expertise. SARETI has been awarded competitive funding from the Fogarty International Center (FIC) of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), to offer Masters-level training in research ethics, beginning 2024. This two-year programme is aimed at lawyers, social scientists and other professionals in the early stages of their career whose work relates to health-related research and/or research ethics. The programme will offer comprehensive advanced multidisciplinary Masters-level training in research ethics to a cohort of candidates from across Africa. Applicants must complete the application form with specified attachments available at sareti.ukzn.ac.za.

USAID High Potential Grants for NGO-led Development Projects in 2023

Deadline: 11 May 2023

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has launched new grant opportunities to support organizations, individuals, and communities worldwide. Check out the list below and start applying!

Sub-Saharan Africa - Call for Application 2023

To submit applications/nominations for this program, you must be logged in to your account. If you are unable to access the form once you are logged in, please refer to the "How do I apply for a program?" section of the FAQ.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

South African Health Review 2021

Health Systems Trust | 2021

When it comes to service delivery and access in both the public and private health sectors, COVID-19 has put everything to the test. It has demonstrated how central public health security is to health and livelihoods, and how pandemic health emergencies expose the weaknesses and vulnerabilities of health systems, costing lives and causing immeasurable damage to economies. Few could have imagined the impact of COVID-19 when this pandemic reached our shores in March 2020.

This edition considers the government's and broader health sector's response to COVID-19, explores the current challenges facing the health system at this unprecedented time, and reflects on lessons learnt for future for public health emergencies. The chapters offer information on, inter alia, the challenges of balancing lives with livelihoods, and the impact of COVID-19 on different cadres of healthcare workers, especially Community Health Workers who found themselves at the forefront of our COVID-19 response. Other areas covered include the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations like children, persons with disabilities, farmworkers, migrants, and the poorest in our society.

National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB, and STIs 2023-2028

The National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB, and STIs serves as a blueprint and roadmap to guide and inform the country's response to HIV, TB and STI epidemics. Through the implementation of the four previous

National Strategic Plans, South Africa has made notable progress with respect to the HIV prevention and treatment programme, with over 5.7 million people on treatment. Of those on treatment and tested for viral load suppression, about 92% were virally suppressed, as of November 2022.

Call to Action: Shorter and more effective treatment for all people suffering from drug-resistant TB

Reliefweb | 22 March 2023

The World Health Organization (WHO) and its partners are calling on governments and other stakeholders to accelerate the implementation of the novel, 6-month all-oral regimen for the treatment of drug-resistant tuberculosis. This Call to Action highlights WHO's latest guidelines on drug-resistant TB treatment recommend rapid roll-out of the novel BPaLM/BPaL regimen that has the potential to dramatically increase cure rates due to its high efficacy, allow broader access due to its lower cost and improve patient quality of life as this regimen is all-oral and significantly shorter than conventional treatment regimens.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Fifth Global Forum on Human Resources for Health

Date: 3 – 5 April 2023

Venue: Geneva, Switzerland

The Fifth Global Forum on Human Resources for Health will be held from 3 to 5 April 2023, during World Health Worker Week. The Forum will be held under the theme of Protecting, safeguarding, and investing in the health and care workforce. Marking more than five years since the adoption of the Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030, the Forum will provide updates on progress in its implementation and share evidence and experiences on workforce development, as well as opportunities for a post COVID-19 era that will inform the implementation of the Working for Health 2022-2030 Action Plan. It will examine the required policy solutions, investments, and multi-sectoral partnerships to address health and care workforce challenges and advance health systems towards universal health coverage and health security. The outcomes of the Forum will inform the United Nations General Assembly's High-Level Meeting on UHC in September 2023.

TeleECHO™ on Pediatric and Adolescent HIV Treatment and Care

TeleECHO™ is a webinar series on Pediatric & Adolescent HIV Treatment & Care, hosted by WHO and partners, in collaboration with PATA. These regular TeleECHO bring together health and care providers into the spotlight for strategic discussions, sharing of best practices and updated guidelines, offering practical recommendations in the treatment and care of children and adolescents living with HIV. Join the TeleECHO™ series in 2023 on Pediatric and Adolescent HIV treatment and care. Upcoming dates for 2023 TeleECHO™ series:

Date: 4 April 2023

Time: 2PM SAST

Psychosocial interventions for adolescents: New insights and experiences

World Health Day 2023: 75 years of improving public health

On 7 April 2023 – World Health Day – the World Health Organization will observe its 75th anniversary. In 1948, countries of the world came together and founded WHO to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable – so everyone, everywhere can attain the highest level of health and well-being. WHO's 75th anniversary year is an opportunity to look back at public health successes that have improved quality of life during the last seven decades. It is also an opportunity to motivate action to tackle the health challenges of today – and tomorrow. Join WHO on a journey to achieve Health For All. #HealthForAll #WHO75

Reaching the 95-95-95 targets: How can industry contribute?

Learning from both the success and failures towards reaching the 2020 targets is essential to increase the chance of ending AIDS as a global public health threat by 2030. Success will require commitment from all

stakeholders in the HIV response. The Industry Liaison Forum at IAS – the International AIDS Society – is organizing a series of online roundtables to explore important gaps and how the biomedical industry can actively contribute to achieving the 95-95-95 target by 2025.

The series will have three events, each focusing on one of the specific 95-95-95 targets:

Session 1: "HIV testing strategies to reach key populations"

Session 2: "Ensuring linkage to and retention in care"

Session 3: "Overcoming global challenges: Achieving and sustaining viral suppression"

Time

Apr 18, 2023 04:00 PM

May 4, 2023 04:00 PM

May 23, 2023 04:00 PM

Time shows in Zurich

The 5th Paediatric and Adolescent HIV Learning Collaborative for Africa (PAHLCA) Meeting in Maputo Mozambique

Dates: 7 - 8 May 2023

Time: 9:00pm - 5:00pm

The Paediatric and Adolescent HIV Learning Collaborative for Africa (PAHLCA) is hosting its first face-to-face event in Maputo from 7-8 May 2023. With the theme "Prevention of Vertical Transmission of HIV: A Key Pivot in Ending Paediatric HIV and AIDS," PAHLCA aims to:

1. Fostering learning, innovation, and collaboration among MOH programming teams and partners in African countries.
2. Providing a platform for sharing guidelines, implementation frameworks, curricula, toolkits, job aids, and client/caregiver information/education/communication materials that can be used to improve paediatric and adolescent HIV programs.
3. Maintaining an updated directory of Ministry of Health paediatric and adolescent HIV focal persons to facilitate communication, coordination, and sharing across countries.
4. Facilitating networking among country teams to form research collaborations for multi-country studies to improve paediatric and adolescent HIV services.

South African Nursing Council Indaba

Date: 18-19 May 2023

The South African Nursing Council (SANC) is pleased to welcome you to this key event where we will focus on The Future of Nursing. The SANC is a statutory body entrusted to set and maintain standards of Nursing Education and Practice in the Republic of South Africa, to protect the public. It is an autonomous, financially independent, statutory body operating under the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act No. 33 of 2005). The Council of the SANC is constituted in terms of the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act No. 33 of 2005). The tenure of the current and 16th Council of the SANC is from 2018 – 2023 and will end in August 2023. The Indaba program thus contains a focus on the milestones achieved by the 16th Council, and in addition, provides a wide variety of topics that affect Nursing as a whole.

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Enrolled Nurses: Global VAX Project

Closing Date: 2023-04-07

Vaccine Ambassadors (X14)

Closing Date: 2023-04-07

Data Capturers (6): Global VAX Project

Closing Date: 2023-04-10

Project Co-ordinator: Global VAX Project

Closing Date: 2023-04-10

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