

CATEGORIES

Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

Recent Public Health News

Training and Resources

Publications and Reports

Conferences and Events

Job Opportunities

ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Listening to stakeholders in the prevention of gender-based violence among young people in Spain: a qualitative study from the positivMasc project

BMC Women's Health | 26 July 2023

Jorge Marcos-Marcos, Krizia Nardini, Erica Briones-Vozmediano & Carmen Vives-Cases

This study seeks to deepen current knowledge of the phenomenon of gender-based violence (GVB) among young people in Spain, identifying the main challenges in terms of prevention from the perspective of key stakeholders in the field.

<https://bmcwomenshealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12905-023-02545-3>

Staying in or out? COVID-19-induced healthcare utilization avoidance and associated socio-demographic factors in rural India

BMC Public Health | 27 July 2023

Michael Safo Oduro, Prince Peprah, Anthony Kwame Morgan & Williams Agyemang-Duah

Although evidence on healthcare utilization avoidance during COVID-19 pandemic is emerging, such knowledge is limited in rural settings. An effective policy to the COVID-19 shocks and stresses in rural settings require empirical evidence to inform the design of health policies and programmes. To help overcome this evidence gap and also contribute to policy decisions, this study aimed at examining COVID-19-induced healthcare utilization avoidance and associated factors in rural India.

<https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-023-16282-7>

Models of integration of TB and HIV services and factors associated with perceived quality of TB-HIV integrated service delivery in O. R Tambo District, South Africa

BMC Health Services Research | 27 July 2023

Ntandazo Dlatu, Benjamin Longo-Mbenza and Teke Apalata

This is a qualitative study design using principles of ethnography and the application of aggregate complexity theory. A total of 54 individual interviews with healthcare workers and patients took place in five primary healthcare facilities in the O.R. Tambo district. The participants were purposively

selected until the data reached saturation point, and all interviews were tape-recorded. Quantitative analysis of qualitative data was used after coding ethnographic data, looking for emerging patterns, and counting the number of times a qualitative code occurred. A Likert scale was used to assess the perceived quality of TB/HIV integration. Regression models and canonical discriminant analyses were used to explore the associations between the perceived quality of TB and HIV integrated service delivery and independent predictors of interest using SPSS® version 23.0 (Chicago, IL) considering a type I error of 0.05.

<https://bmchealthservres.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12913-023-09748-2>

Promises and potential pitfalls of long-acting injectable pre-exposure prophylaxis

Southern African Journal of HIV Medicine | 27 July 2023

Carey Pike, Elzette Rousseau, Linda-Gail Bekker

The number of products that can provide pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention is expanding, with three now approved in South Africa (oral Tenofovir-based PrEP, injectable Cabotegravir, and a Dapivirine-based vaginal ring) and more in the development pipeline. Although highly effective and safe, oral PrEP products have not reduced HIV incidence in South Africa to the extent seen in other countries, primarily due to adherence challenges, rapidly diminishing persistence over time, and insufficient scale-up of PrEP service delivery. The Dapivirine vaginal ring, which provides 1-month-long protection, provides women with a new and discreet choice for PrEP; however, it is Cabotegravir long-acting (CAB LA) that is anticipated to land the largest impact. Administered as an intramuscular injection given every 2 months, CAB LA is safe, highly efficacious, and expected to become available in South Africa in late 2023. Yet, clinical and implementation questions remain, including the need to understand and characterise breakthrough HIV infections amongst CAB LA users, knowledge of how to package each PrEP product in a new context of PrEP choice, and how to avoid the remedicalisation of PrEP access following extensive efforts to make oral PrEP delivery differentiated and community based.

<https://sajhivmed.org.za/index.php/hivmed/article/view/1497>

Trajectories of PrEP use among men who have sex with men: a pooled analysis of two prospective, observational cohort studies

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 27 July 2023

Vita W. Jongen, Thijs Reyniers, Maarten Schim van der Loeff, Tom Smekens, Elske Hoornenborg, et al.

Daily and event-driven oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) reduce the risk of HIV acquisition. PrEP use can vary over time, yet little is known about the trajectories of PrEP use irrespective of the chosen PrEP regimens among men who have sex with men (MSM).

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/jia2.26133>

Job loss and psychological distress during the COVID-19 pandemic: a national prospective cohort study

BMC Public Health | 28 July 2023

Jonathan Wörn, Bjørn-Atle Reme & Vegard Skirbekk

The COVID-19 pandemic caused substantial increases in unemployment; however, the association between these job losses and psychological distress is not well documented. Our study reports on this association from a cohort study, with a particular focus on educational differences in both the likelihood of job loss and its potential implications for mental health.

<https://bmcpublihealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-023-16303-5>

Adherence to antiretroviral and cancer chemotherapy, and associated factors among patients with HIV–cancer co-morbidity at the Uganda Cancer Institute: a cross sectional study

BMC Public Health | 28 July 2023

Caroline Achieng, Nelson Bunani, Joseph Kagaayi & Fred Nuwaha

Human Immunodeficiency Virus is a major global public health issue affecting millions of people, and sub-Saharan Africa where Uganda lies is disproportionately affected. There has been an increase in cancer among HIV patients which has resulted into use of co-medications that sometimes affect ART and cancer chemotherapy adherence. We aimed to determine adherence to antiretroviral and cancer chemotherapy and the associated factors among patients with HIV-cancer co-morbidity at the Uganda Cancer Institute.

<https://bmcpublihealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-023-16387-z>

Violence against women and associated factors among female construction workers in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

BMC Psychiatry | 28 July 2023

Kidist Asratie Asegu, Anteneh Mengist Dessie, Tizita Degifie Tilahun, Gizachew Worku Dagne & Denekew Tenaw Anley

Violence against Women (VAW) is a global public health problem; almost one in three global women experienced one form of violence. Violence free environment is the one that everyone cherishes. However, millions of women worldwide suffer from violence. In Ethiopia, VAW is very common and considered a private matter though it has serious consequences for girls and women. Studies pointed out that it varies by workplace, and hence important to assess it among female construction workers in Addis Ababa.

<https://bmcp psychiatry.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12888-023-05002-5>

The impact of COVID-19 and associated public health restrictions on trends in police-recorded violence in an English police force area

BMC Public Health | 28 July 2023

Carly Lightowers, Kerri Coomber & Zara Quigg

The COVID-19 pandemic, and associated public health measures, had a marked impact on a number of health and wellbeing outcomes, including alcohol use and violence. Current literature presents a mixed view of the impact of the pandemic on violence trends. The current study utilises police offence data from a region of northern England to examine the impact of lockdowns, and subsequent relaxation of restrictions, on trends in violent offences.

<https://bmcpublihealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-023-16366-4>

Correlates of Recent HIV Testing Among People Who Inject Drugs in Rural Areas: A Multi-site Cross-Sectional Study, 2018–2020

AIDS and Behavior | 29 July 2023

Umedjon Ibragimov, Melvin D. Livingston, April M. Young, Judith Feinberg, P. Todd Korthuis, et al.

The Rural Opioid Initiative surveyed 2693 people who inject drugs (PWID) in eight rural U.S. areas in 2018–2020 about self-reported HIV testing in the past 6 months. Correlates of interest included receipt of any drug-related services, incarceration history, and structural barriers to care (e.g., lack of insurance, proximity to syringe service programs [SSP]). Overall, 20% of participants reported receiving an HIV test within the past 6 months. Multivariable generalized estimating equations showed that attending substance use disorder (SUD) treatment (OR 2.11, 95%CI [1.58, 2.82]), having health insurance (OR 1.42, 95%CI [1.01, 2.00]) and recent incarceration (OR 1.49, 95%CI [1.08, 2.04]) were positively associated with HIV testing, while experiencing a resource barrier to healthcare (inability to pay, lack of transportation, inconvenient hours, or lack of child care) had inverse (OR 0.73, 95%CI [0.56, 0.94]) association with HIV testing.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10461-023-04140-x>

An agent-based model of binge drinking, inequitable gender norms and their contribution to HIV transmission, with application to South Africa

BMC Infectious Diseases | 29 July 2023

Leigh F. Johnson, Mmampudi Kubjane, Alex de Voux, Julius Ohrnberger and Mpho Tlali

Binge drinking, inequitable gender norms and sexual risk behaviour are closely interlinked. Binge drinking is strongly associated with transactional, casual and condomless sex and multiple and concurrent partnerships. Inequitable gender norms are associated with male partner concurrency unprotected sex binge drinking and male perpetration of intimate partner violence (IPV). Indeed, binge drinking, IPV and HIV risk behaviour are often described as forming a ‘Substance Abuse, Violence and AIDS’ (SAVA) syndemic.

<https://bmcinfectdis.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12879-023-08470-y>

Protective factors for adolescent sexual risk behaviours and experiences linked to HIV infection in South Africa: a three-wave longitudinal analysis of caregiving, education, food security, and social protection

BMC Public Health | 29 July 2023

William E. Rudgard, Maria Granvik Saminathen, Mark Orkin, Boladé Hamed Banounin, Yulia Shenderovich & Elona Toska

Structural interventions are endorsed to enhance biomedical and behavioural HIV prevention programmes for adolescents. Aiming to inform future interventions, we evaluated longitudinal associations between six protective factors that link closely to existing structural HIV prevention interventions, and five sexual risk behaviours for HIV transmission in a cohort of adolescents in South Africa.

<https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-023-16373-5>

Protective factors for adolescent sexual risk behaviours and experiences linked to HIV infection in South Africa: a three-wave longitudinal analysis of caregiving, education, food security, and social protection

BMC Public Health | 29 July 2023

William E. Rudgard, Maria Granvik Saminathen, Mark Orkin, Boladé Hamed Banougnin, Yulia Shenderovich et al.

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<https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-023-16373-5>

Perceived work-ability and its associated factors among nurses working in the Northwest of Amhara regional state Referral Hospitals, Northwest Ethiopia, 2022

BMC Public Health | 31 July 2023

Gebremeskel Kibret Abebe, Kibret Asimare Melkie, Addis Wondmagegn Alamaw, Alemu Birara Zemariam & Belayneh Shetie Workneh

Nurses with reduced work ability had a high risk of disability pension, sickness absences, retirement intention, and leave their job and profession early. Nurses frequently suffer from job related stress, occupational fatigue and sleep problems, which can further compromise their work ability.

<https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-023-16386-0>

Levels and determinants of overprescribing of antibiotics in the public and private primary care sectors in South Africa

BMJ Global Health | 31 July 2023

Mylene Lagarde and Duane Blaauw

Although overprovision of antibiotics in primary care is a key driver of antibiotic resistance, little is known about its determinants in low-income and middle-income countries. Patient demand and financial incentives for providers are often held responsible for overprovision. Yet, inadequate provision exists in their absence and could be fuelled by quality of care issues and incorrect beliefs of providers regarding patients' expectations. We explored these issues in the private and public sector in South Africa, by conducting a cross-sectional study using standardised patients (SPs)—healthy individuals trained to portray a scripted clinical case to providers—presenting with symptoms of a viral respiratory infection in a sample of public and private sector clinics. We linked data from SP visits to rich survey data to compare the practices and their predictors in the two sectors.

<https://gh.bmj.com/content/8/7/e012374>

Ethical priorities for international collaborative adaptive platform trials for public health emergencies

BMJ Global Health | 31 July 2023

Katharine Wright, Joseph Ali, Alun Davies, Paul Glasziou, Nina Gobat, et al.

Public health emergencies caused by new or re-emerging infectious diseases demand urgent answers regarding effective medical countermeasures. In past pandemics, standard trial designs proved unable to produce results in time to support effective response. Adaptive platform trials, using a master protocol across numerous sites, multiple intervention arms and adaptive methodologies, offer a promising design solution. Several such trials, including RECOVERY, Solidarity, PRINCIPLE and REMAP-CAP, played a significant role in the global research response to COVID-19. Their size and their flexible ability to add and remove arms in response to emerging information helped generate rapid evidence on the effectiveness of both repurposed and novel interventions for COVID-19, and saved many lives. Importantly, they also generated rapid evidence to show some widely-used interventions were not effective, limiting harm to patients and unnecessary costs to health systems.

<https://gh.bmj.com/content/8/7/e012930>

Pathways to Poor Adherence to Antiretroviral Therapy Among People Living with HIV: The Role of Food Insecurity and Alcohol Misuse

AIDS and Behavior | 31 July 2023

Hugo Perazzo, Juliana L. Gonçalves, Sandra W. Cardoso, Beatriz Grinsztejn, Valdilea G. Veloso et al.

Daily adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART) increases the length and quality of life of people living with HIV (PLHIV). We explored whether socioeconomic status directly impacts ART adherence and whether part of the effect is mediated by pathways through alcohol misuse or food insecurity. A cross-sectional study was conducted in Rio de Janeiro/Brazil (November/2019 to March/2020) with PLHIV aged ≥ 18 years. Validated instruments were used to measure alcohol use, food insecurity, and ART adherence. Using structural equation modeling we assessed the direct and indirect effects of variables on ART adherence. Participants reported significant challenges: hunger: 12%, alcohol use: 64%, and missing ART doses: 24%. Results showed that lower socioeconomic status increased poor adherence and that this effect was mediated through higher food insecurity. Alcohol misuse also increased poor adherence through a strong direct effect. Providing socio-economic support coupled with interventions to mitigate alcohol's harmful impact can aid HIV care.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10461-023-04141-w>

The Impacts of HIV-Related Service Interruptions During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Protocol of a Mixed Methodology Longitudinal Study

AIDS and Behavior | 1 August 2023

Shan Qiao, Jijia Zhang, Zhenlong Li, Bankole Olatosi, Sharon Weissman et al.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has imposed unprecedented pressure on health systems and has interrupted public health efforts for other major health conditions, including HIV. It is critical to comprehensively understand how the pandemic has affected the delivery and utilization of HIV-related services and what are the effective strategies that may mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19 and resultant interruptions. The current study thus aims to comprehensively investigate HIV service interruptions during the pandemic following a socioecological model, to assess their impacts on various outcomes of the HIV prevention and treatment cascade and to identify resilience resources for buffering impacts of interruptions on HIV treatment cascade outcomes.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10461-023-04138-5>

Incorporating the HIV Infant Tracking System into standard-of-care early infant diagnosis of HIV services in Kenya: a cost-effectiveness analysis of the HITSystem randomised trial

The Lancet Global Health | August 2023

Sarah Finocchiaro-Kessler, Kathy Goggin, Catherine Wexler, May Maloba, Brad Gautney, et al.

The HITSystem efficacy trial showed significant improvements in early infant diagnosis retention, return and notification of infant test results, and earlier antiretroviral therapy (ART) initiation compared with standard-of-care early infant diagnosis services in Kenya. This study aimed to analyse data from the HITSystem trial to assess the cost-effectiveness of the intervention in Kenya.

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(23\)00216-4/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(23)00216-4/fulltext)

Elevated blood pressure among adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa: a systematic review and meta-analysis

The Lancet Global Health | August 2023

Alexander Chen, Laura Waite, Ana O Mocumbi, Yih-Kai Chan, Justin Beilby, et al.

More people from sub-Saharan Africa aged between 20 years and 60 years are affected by end-organ damage due to underlying hypertension than people in high-income countries. However, there is a paucity of data on the pattern of elevated blood pressure among adolescents aged 10–19 years in sub-Saharan Africa. We aimed to provide pooled estimates of high blood pressure prevalence and mean levels in adolescents aged 10–19 years across sub-Saharan Africa.

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(23\)00218-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(23)00218-8/fulltext)

Impact and cost-effectiveness of short-course tuberculosis preventive treatment for household contacts and people with HIV in 29 high-incidence countries: a modelling analysis

The Lancet Global Health | August 2023

Theresa Ryckman, Jeff Weiser, Makaita Gombe, Karin Turner, Priyanka Soni, et al.

Guidelines and implementation of tuberculosis preventive treatment (TPT) vary by age and HIV status. Specifically, TPT is strongly recommended for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and household contacts younger than 5 years but only conditionally recommended for older contacts. Cost remains a major barrier to implementation. The aim of this study was to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of TPT for household contacts and PLWHA.

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(23\)00251-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(23)00251-6/fulltext)

RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Coercive reproductive healthcare practices reported by many women living with HIV

Aidsmap | 26 July 2023

Women with HIV are at an increased risk of reproductive coercion by healthcare professionals across sub-Saharan Africa, eastern Europe and central Asia. Sex workers, women who use drugs and migrants who are also HIV positive are more likely to receive sub-standard and stigmatising reproductive care. This was reported by Dr Carrie Lyons from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health at the 12th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2023) in Brisbane, Australia.

<https://www.aidsmap.com/news/jul-2023/coercive-reproductive-healthcare-practices-reported-many-women-living-hiv>

HIV Vaccines, bNAbs and an Update from NIH's Office of AIDS Research

Poz | 26 July 2023

On Tuesday at the International AIDS Society's 12th Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2023), HIV.gov continued our conversations about research highlights, including a focus on the latest about HIV vaccines. We also heard an update from the NIH Office of AIDS Research. NIH's Carl Dieffenbach, PhD, Director of the Division of AIDS at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), spoke with Louis Shackelford, MPH, about HIV vaccine studies being discussed at IAS 2023 and potential roles for broadly neutralizing antibodies (or bNAbs). Louis is the Acting Director for External Relations at the NIH-supported HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN) and COVID-19 Prevention Network.

<https://www.poz.com/blog/hiv-vaccines-bnabs-update-nihs-office-aids-research>

Statins and HIV: how can the REPRIEVE findings be implemented in the real world?

Aidsmap | 27 July 2023

Findings from the landmark REPRIEVE trial, which tested a daily statin medication for people living with HIV, were presented on Monday at the 12th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2023) and published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*. The results were presented at a symposium that also included a discussion of cardiovascular disease among people with HIV and the study's implications for clinical practice.

<https://www.aidsmap.com/news/jul-2023/statins-and-hiv-how-can-reprieve-findings-be-implemented-real-world>

Addressing violence against women sex workers in Peru

UNAIDS | 27 July 2023

Ángela Villón Bustamante has been a sex worker and human rights activist for her community in Peru for almost 25 years. She has experienced first-hand the violence against sex workers. After she was beaten by a policeman in 1996, she began her activism. "I don't want anyone else to end up almost dead like I did. The organization Miluska Vida y Dignidad (Miluska Life and Dignity, in English) is the organisation I created almost 30 years ago to find justice for those of us violated by public forces", recalls Ángela. "It was the first sex workers' organisation in Peru, and its name is in honour of my dear friend Miluska, who died after being beaten by one of them." In the same years, transgender woman Alejandra Fang also was imprisoned for sex work, and a police officer asked her to have sex to be released. "I was forced into sex because, as a trans woman, I had no alternative. As a result of that traumatic situation, I decided to become an activist," says Alejandra.

https://unaid.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2023/july/20230727_Peru-sexworkers-plan

A wearable ultrasound scanner could detect breast cancer earlier

Medical Xpress | 28 July 2023

When breast cancer is diagnosed in the earliest stages, the survival rate is nearly 100%. However, for tumors detected in later stages, that rate drops to around 25%. In hopes of improving the overall

survival rate for breast cancer patients, MIT researchers have designed a wearable ultrasound device that could allow people to detect tumors when they are still in early stages. In particular, it could be valuable for patients at high risk of developing breast cancer in between routine mammograms.

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2023-07-wearable-ultrasound-scanner-breast-cancer.html>

Difficulties with on-demand PrEP highlighted by two studies

Be In The Know | 27 July 2023

Two studies into on-demand PrEP use among men who have sex with men suggest the majority are likely to encounter difficulties with taking it and would still be at risk of HIV.

<https://www.beintheknow.org/news-and-blogs/difficulties-demand-prep-highlighted-two-studies>

Health needs heighten as the Sudan conflict displaces millions of people

African Science News | 27 July 2023

The conflict in Sudan that has forced 3.4 million people to flee for safety within the country and across its borders is rapidly intensifying health threats, with cases of infectious diseases and other afflictions reported among the displaced population who have sought refuge in hard-to-reach locations, with limited health services.

<http://africasciencenews.org/2023/07/27/health-needs-heighten-as-the-sudan-conflict-displaces-millions-of-people/>

Anti-gay law erodes Uganda's gains in HIV fight -PEPFAR chief

Monitor | 28 July 2023

Since its inception, the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has invested more than \$100 billion in the global HIV/Aids response. With the recent signing of the Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023, Uganda stands to lose funding of about \$400 million from PEPFAR as annual support to HIV/Aids care and treatment. On Tuesday, Amb Dr. John Nkengasong, the US Global AIDS Coordinator and Special Representative for Global Health Diplomacy, addressed African journalists in Washington DC on the gains of PEPFAR.

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/anti-gay-law-erodes-uganda-s-gains-in-hiv-fight-pepfar-chief-4318590>

Mental Health Awareness Month: Navigating the challenges of OCD

IOL | 28 July 2023

During Mental Health Awareness Month, Shai Friedland, a clinical psychologist who specialises in cognitive-behavioural therapy, is on a mission to raise awareness about OCD's (Obsessive compulsive disorder) impact on relationships. Having personally experienced the transformative power of therapy, Friedland is passionate about helping others navigate the challenges posed by this often misunderstood disorder.

<https://www.iol.co.za/sunday-tribune/lifestyle/mental-health-awareness-month-navigating-the-challenges-of-ocd-0eff5b31-476d-4f17-979a-842a002fd91b>

Africa: WHO Launches 'One Life, One Liver' Campaign On World Hepatitis Day

allAfrica | 28 July 2023

To mark World Hepatitis Day, WHO is calling for scaling up testing and treatment for viral hepatitis, warning that the disease could kill more people than malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV combined by 2040, if current infection trends continue. Hepatitis causes liver damage and cancer and kills over a million people annually. Of the 5 types of hepatitis infections, hepatitis B and C cause most of the disease and deaths. Hepatitis C can be cured; however, only 21% of people living with hepatitis C infection are diagnosed and only 13% have received curative treatment. Just 10% of people living with chronic hepatitis B are diagnosed, and only 2% of those infected are receiving the lifesaving medicine.

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202308010526.html>

Menstrual cups may help prevent infection and improve vaginal health, new study finds

IOL | 29 July 2023

Many girls in low- and middle-income nations struggle to afford period products, causing them to miss school. As a result, it is vital that they have access to menstrual products. A new Kenya-based study from University of Illinois Chicago researchers shows that the benefits of one kind of menstrual product — a menstrual cup — extend well beyond educational access.

<https://www.iol.co.za/lifestyle/health/menstrual-cups-may-help-prevent-infection-and-improve-vaginal-health-new-study-finds-59ce9e23-46b8-59c0-ae0f-4e998ca73a4f>

CAN THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BILL HELP CURB CORRUPTION WITHIN THE NHI?

Health-e News | 31 July 2023

A recently launched report by the Rural Health Advocacy Project (RHAP) places a spotlight on possible corruption within the National Health Insurance (NHI) fund. The report highlights critical gaps in the health sector's procurement and spending, and a lack of clarity and potential challenges in implementing the NHI procurement provisions. The current analysis of procurement entities associated with the NHI reveals vulnerabilities that could expose the scheme to corruption, mismanagement and irregular practices.

<https://health-e.org.za/2023/07/31/can-the-public-procurement-bill-help-curb-corruption-within-the-nhi/>

This vaccine at birth can save thousands of lives

GroundUp | 31 July 2023

5% of South Africans are estimated to have chronic hepatitis B. Testing for hepatitis B is difficult to access and few people in South Africa know their status. Hepatitis B can be curbed by vaccinating infants at birth and other targeted interventions, experts say.

<https://www.groundup.org.za/article/this-vaccine-at-birth-can-save-thousands-lives/>

Devastating harms of criminalisation laid bare by UNAIDS advisory group

Be In The Know | 31 July 2023

An advisory group to UNAIDS has released “overwhelming and undeniable” evidence on the harm that criminalisation is having on public health and the goal of ending AIDS by 2030.

<https://www.beintheknow.org/news-and-blogs/devastating-harms-criminalisation-laid-bare-un aids-advisory-group>

People with HIV remain at higher risk of dying from COVID-19 in the Omicron era

Aidsmap | 31 July 2023

Deaths from COVID-19 have fallen much less sharply in people with HIV compared with the rest of the population since the arrival of the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported last week at the 12th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2023) in Brisbane. The study found that one in five people with HIV admitted to hospital with COVID-19 died during the Omicron wave compared to one in ten people without HIV.

<https://www.aidsmap.com/news/jul-2023/people-hiv-remain-higher-risk-dying-covid-19-omicron-era>

Questions Still Unanswered

Poz | 31 July 2023

When the HIV epidemic began in the 1980s, we knew very little about the disease and the possibilities of living a long life with HIV. The focus was on saving lives and trying to survive. More than 40 years later, people who have been living with HIV are asking new questions: What toll has it taken on my body? How will the countless medications that I’ve taken over the years impact my organs, my memory, my lifespan?

<https://www.poz.com/article/questions-still-unanswered>

Inspired and Uplifted by U=U

POZ | 1 August 2023

Mark Grantham has a zest for life now. The retired English and history teacher, 62, who lives in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and was diagnosed with HIV in the mid-1980s, still works as a substitute teacher “for the passion and love of education,” he says. He has a 9-year-old dachshund-beagle mix, Sir Rufus, that he calls “a wonderful companion, full of energy and comical, and he still acts like a puppy.” And he loves knitting, reading, listening to opera, cooking and, in his words, “advocating for both long-term survivors of HIV as well as those with HIV living in rural areas.”

<https://www.poz.com/article/inspired-uplifted-uu>

People with HIV are not at greater risk for severe mpox unless they are immunosuppressed

Aidsmap | 1 August 2023

People living with HIV are not more likely to be hospitalised with severe mpox (formerly known as monkeypox) unless they have advanced immune suppression, according to study findings presented at the 12th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2023).

<https://www.aidsmap.com/news/aug-2023/people-hiv-are-not-greater-risk-severe-mpox-unless-they-are-immunosuppressed>

Here is what transgender women across Asia want in PrEP

Aidsmap | 1 August 2023

If PrEP were free, injectable, had no side effects, could be accessed through peer-led community clinics every 6-12 months, and STI testing was offered as an additional service at the clinics, the uptake among transgender women in Asia could increase to up to 87%. This was reported by Warittha Tieosapjaroen from the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre at the 12th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2023) in Brisbane last week.

<https://www.aidsmap.com/news/jul-2023/here-what-transgender-women-across-asia-want-prep>

Why hospital security guards can't keep doctors and nurses safe — and how to fix it

Bhekisisa | 1 August 2023

To deal with dangerous situations at hospitals and clinics, like when patients or visitors become aggressive, security guards are on hand. Different facilities have different security needs, though, and so they require guards that are trained for handling their specific issues. Yet guards are often ill equipped for their roles — because their training doesn't always prepare them for what they might have to deal with. In the Western Cape, a training programme that teaches security guards to diffuse dangerous situations the right way can help security personnel feel more confident about keeping health facilities safe.

<https://bhekisisa.org/health-news-south-africa/2023-08-01-why-hospital-security-guards-cant-keep-doctors-and-nurses-safe-and-how-to-fix-it/>

'Hepatitis is a silent killer'

UCT | 1 August 2023

"It's silent, it's there, and there are simple interventions to turn the tide; that is why we are here today," said Professor Mark Sonderup of the University of Cape Town (UCT) at a media briefing held in Cape Town on Friday, 28 July, to mark World Hepatitis Day – and to raise awareness about a disease that is widely viewed among healthcare professionals as a "silent killer". Arranged by Professor Sonderup, a hepatologist based at Groote Schuur Hospital and UCT, in association with the Gastroenterology and Hepatology Association of Sub-Saharan Africa, the briefing featured a panel of medical experts who issued an urgent call to accelerate testing and treatment for viral hepatitis.

<https://www.news.uct.ac.za/article/-2023-08-01-hepatitis-is-a-silent-killer>

A study for multiple sclerosis might be an underestimate for SA cases – experts

City Press | 1 August 2023

Neurologists say a study that suggested that only one in 700 people in South Africa stood a chance of contracting multiple sclerosis (MS) might be an underestimate as more cases of people diagnosed and living the diseases in the country. The recent diagnosis of multiple sclerosis in high profile individuals such as American actors Selma Blair and Christina Applegate has brought attention to this little-understood disease. What exactly is multiple sclerosis, and how does it affect South Africans? Moreover, what are the warning signs?

<https://www.news24.com/citypress/news/a-study-for-multiple-sclerosis-might-be-an-underestimate-for-sa-cases-experts-20230801>

Two modelling studies ask: will injectable PrEP ever be cost-effective at achievable prices?

Aidsmap | 1 August 2023

Two studies of switching from oral to injectable PrEP (regular medication to prevent HIV infection) in upper middle-income countries have found that the price of injectable long-acting cabotegravir (CAB-LA) would have to drop to considerably less than \$100 a year for it to be cost-effective in terms of stopping more infections, and saving more money in future healthcare costs, than using oral tenofovir/emtricitabine (TDF/FTC) pills. The studies were presented at the 12th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2023) in Brisbane, Australia.

<https://www.aidsmap.com/news/aug-2023/two-modelling-studies-ask-will-injectable-prep-ever-be-cost-effective-achievable>

Adherence counselling reverses viral rebound on dolutegravir in 95% of cases

Aidsmap | 1 August 2023

Ninety-five per cent of people who experienced viral load rebound while taking dolutegravir in a large clinical trial in South Africa were able to re-suppress viral load with the help of adherence counselling and did not need to switch treatment, Dr Andrew Hill of the University of Liverpool reported last week at the 12th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2023) in Brisbane, Australia. The findings suggest that if people are having adherence difficulties when taking the world's most commonly prescribed antiretroviral drug, switching treatment may not prove helpful, whereas addressing their adherence difficulties ensures that people with HIV can stay on a simple, affordable antiretroviral regimen for longer.

<https://www.aidsmap.com/news/aug-2023/adherence-counselling-reverses-viral-rebound-dolutegravir-95-cases>

Africa's High Cancer Deaths Can Be Addressed by Improved Access to Key Medicines

Health Policy Watch | 1 August 2023

Africa has one of the highest cancer death rates in the world, yet this could be markedly improved by better access to treatments already widely available in high-income countries for the continent's biggest killers – breast, cervical, lung and prostate cancers and Kaposi sarcoma. This is according to a

recent study by the Botswana-Rutgers Partnership for Health, which researched which cancer treatments that are effective in other regions could have an impact in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) – but are not available or hard to get. Cancer is in the top three causes of premature death in the vast majority of countries in SSA. Without significant intervention, annual deaths are projected to nearly double between 2020 and 2030, reaching about one million by 2030.

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/africas-high-cancer-deaths-can-be-addressed-by-improved-access-to-key-medicines/>

To End the AIDS Epidemic by 2030: “Ubugeni Bwomora,” ~ Art that Heals, a Call for Collaborative Initiatives Led by Youth Living with HIV

Plos Global Public Health | 1 August 2023

In 2015, the ALL IN End Adolescent AIDS initiative was launched by UNICEF and UNAIDS with a global mission to eliminate the AIDS epidemic among adolescents by 2030. Despite commendable efforts, the worldwide number of young people living with HIV continues to rise, particularly impacting adolescents. In 2021 alone, there were 160,000 newly HIV-infected adolescents aged between 10 and 19. These disheartening statistics shed light on the stories of young individuals who often go unnoticed by society, emphasizing the urgent need to involve those with lived experiences in shaping the response to the AIDS epidemic.

<https://speakingofmedicine.plos.org/2023/08/01/to-end-the-aids-epidemic-by-2030-ubugeni-bwomora-art-that-heals-a-call-for-collaborative-initiatives-led-by-youth-living-with-hiv/>

World Breastfeeding Week: Micronutrient found in breast milk has ‘considerable positive effects’ on newborns' growing brains

IOL | 1 August 2023

Researchers at Tufts University's Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Centre on Ageing (HNRCA) suggested that micronutrients in human breast milk have considerable positive effects on newborns' growing brains. The finding provides new information on the connection between nutrition and brain health and could advance infant formulas used in instances where breastfeeding is not an option.

<https://www.iol.co.za/lifestyle/family/baby/world-breastfeeding-week-micronutrient-found-in-breast-milk-has-considerable-positive-effects-on-newborns-growing-brains-c686cded-5864-55ff-9dc4-291eaa84dbcc>

Scientists develop breath test that rapidly detects COVID-19 virus

Medical Xpress | 1 August 2023

Scientists at Washington University in St. Louis have developed a breath test that quickly identifies those who are infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. The device requires only one or two breaths and provides results in less than a minute. The study has been published online in the journal ACS Sensors. The same group of researchers recently published a paper in the journal Nature Communications about an air monitor they had built to detect airborne SARS-CoV-2—the virus that causes COVID-19—within about five minutes in hospitals, schools and other public places.

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2023-08-scientists-rapidly-covid-virus.html>

New HIV drug formulation could improve treatment outcomes for children worldwide

Medical Xpress | 2 August 2023

Researchers at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus have helped confirm the dosing, safety and effectiveness of a drug formulation designed for treating children with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). The study was published today in *The Lancet HIV* and reveals a new dispersible formulation and an immediate-release tablet containing three medications—dolutegravir, abacavir and lamivudine—in a single fixed dose combination (FDC) formulation is safe, well tolerated, and effective for treating children with HIV. The dosing based on the concentrations of each medication in the blood was also appropriate.

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2023-08-hiv-drug-treatment-outcomes-children.html>

Why developing the world's first malaria vaccine has taken so long

Mint | 2 August 2023

On July 5th the World Health Organisation, UNICEF and Gavi, an organisation promoting vaccination, announced that 12 African countries would receive 18m doses of the world's first malaria vaccine. Mosquirix, developed by GSK, a British pharma firm, will be deployed over two years with deliveries starting at the end of 2023. It is expected to save tens of thousands of lives each year, mostly of very young children. Around 95% of malaria cases and deaths are in Africa, and at least 28 countries there have expressed an interest in the new jab; by 2026 demand is expected to reach 40m-60m doses. Why has it taken so long to develop a malaria vaccine?

<https://www.livemint.com/science/health/why-developing-the-world-s-first-malaria-vaccine-has-taken-so-long-11690965091764.html>

Are People With HIV at Risk for Severe Mpox?

Poz | 2 August 2023

People living with HIV are not more likely to be hospitalized with severe mpox (formerly known as monkeypox) unless they have advanced immune suppression, underscoring the importance of prompt antiretroviral treatment, according to study findings presented at the International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science (#IAS2023). To that end, experts recommend that people who present for mpox vaccination, testing or treatment should be tested for HIV if they do not already know their status and linked to care if they are not on antiretroviral therapy.

<https://www.poz.com/article/people-hiv-risk-severe-mpox>

Health Beat #10 | What SA's dirty water does to your health

Bhekisisa | 2 August 2023

A broken sewerage system in Bophelong near the Vaal River in Gauteng, forces people to live "like pigs", says environmental activist Lawrence Majoro. The department of water and sanitation

acknowledges the Vaal is “one of the worst polluted rivers in South Africa”, leaving residents anxious about diseases like cholera. In this episode of our monthly television show, Health Beat, we take you to see the Emfuleni municipality in Vanderbijlpark’s rundown sewers. Mia Malan speaks to an infectious diseases expert and a water scientist to find out how bad things can get if water treatment services don’t improve.

<https://bhekisisa.org/bhekisisa-tv/2023-08-02-health-beat-10-what-sas-dirty-water-does-to-your-health/>

Opinion: There are paths to quality universal healthcare besides NHI

Spotlight | 2 August 2023

One of the most damaging aspects of our public discourse on National Health Insurance (NHI) is the mistaken notion that the only two options are NHI and the status quo. Often implicitly, sometimes explicitly, defenders of NHI suggest that any argument against NHI is one for maintaining the current system. Since the current system doesn’t work very well for most people, this line of argument gets some purchase, even though it is based on a false premise.

<https://www.spotlightnsp.co.za/2023/08/02/opinion-there-are-paths-to-quality-universal-healthcare-besides-nhi/>

Injectable HIV treatment unlikely to be arriving soon in the global south

Aidsmap | 2 August 2023

While there is a path to injectable PrEP becoming available in the next five years, the widespread use of injectables to treat people living with HIV in low- and middle-income countries is unlikely in the near future. The combination of injectable cabotegravir and rilpivirine has only been approved by a handful of countries, it’s not clear whether rilpivirine will be available as a generic, and the regimen has complexities which make it less attractive than the preferred oral regimens.

<https://www.aidsmap.com/news/aug-2023/injectable-hiv-treatment-unlikely-be-arriving-soon-global-south>

Breast Cancer Now-funded research aims to improve quality of care for black women with breast cancer

News Medical Life Science | 2 August 2023

The research and support charity has awarded £129,795, to Professor Robert Horne and Dr Zoe Moon at University College London, to understand the challenges faced by black women during treatment and care, particularly their experience of hormone therapy. Black women are less likely to get breast cancer than white women. But if they do, they are more likely to be diagnosed with advanced breast cancers and breast cancers that are more difficult to treat, like triple negative breast cancer. They can also be less likely to survive the disease than white women, even if they are diagnosed early.

<https://www.news-medical.net/news/20230802/Breast-Cancer-Now-funded-research-aims-to-improve-quality-of-care-for-black-women-with-breast-cancer.aspx>

Culture Wars Threaten U.S. Global AIDS Program PEPFAR

Poz | 2 August 2023

Launched by Republican President George W. Bush in 2003, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has saved an estimated 25 million lives, mostly in Africa. One of the most successful global health programs ever, PEPFAR has also enjoyed two decades of bipartisan support. That is, until now. The fight over abortion rights threatens the HIV program's future, as Republican lawmakers claim that PEPFAR funding is indirectly supporting abortions, reports The Washington Post. PEPFAR officials and Democrats deny the allegations.

<https://www.poz.com/article/culture-wars-threaten-us-global-aids-program-pepfar>

Numsa ordered to pay R100,000 in damages after supervisor disclosed staffer's HIV status in meeting

IOL | 2 August 2023

The Bloemfontein High Court has ordered the National Union of Metalworkers of SA and two others, including a supervisor, to pay R100,000 in damages to a staffer whose HIV status was revealed during a grievance meeting. The order was made by Judge Sharon Chesiwe last week after the staffer approached the court seeking R1,000,000 in damages.

<https://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-and-courts/numsa-ordered-to-pay-r100000-in-damages-after-supervisor-disclosed-staffers-hiv-status-in-meeting-19f15722-bcde-4f04-831b-15b731f23e82>

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.

<https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Subscription.aspx>

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!

<https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Subscription.aspx>

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](https://phasa.org.za/index.php/get-involved/membership) and complete the membership application. Don't miss this opportunity to advance your career and improve public health.

<https://phasa.org.za/index.php/get-involved/membership>

THE OLIVER TAMBO FELLOWSHIP (OTFP) PROGRAMME: A POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH LEADERSHIP

An Opportunity to Grow

- To HR components - This value-for-money health leadership programme directly relates to the manager's workplace within the health system. Acquired skills and competencies have been well-researched. Nominating people from the same team offers the possibility of greater impact, including across successive cohorts.
- To Line managers - Students develop capabilities to lead and to bring improvements in their workplaces. Nominate teams.
- To Health Care Workers and Health System Influencers - Invest in yourself to show up as a leader who lead with confidence.

Why the OTFP?

- Affiliated to the internationally renowned University of Cape Town.
- Proudly bears the name of an exceptional African Leader.
- Nearly 30 years' experience of growing health leaders.
- Offers a unique perspective on leadership, rooted in systems thinking & policy analysis, tailored to the complex challenges of our health system.

What Does the Programme Entail?

- Four sequenced and interrelated 6-day learning blocks, covering:
 - The complex nature of health systems and their challenges.
 - Leading everyday health system strengthening.
 - Engaging health system hard- and software resources for implementing improvement.
 - Sustaining workplace-based interventions for system improvement.
 - Mentorship during and after the course.
 - Direct engagement with senior health leaders, other experts with national and international insights, as well as peer leaders.

What Will You Learn?

- Personal, relational, and technical competencies to lead across the system complexities.

- How to show up as a leader for your team and the wider system.

Who Should Attend?

- Mid- and senior level leaders (managers and clinicians) in the public health sector.
- Mid- and senior level leaders in NGOs and the private sector with public value goals.
- Teams of leaders from the same setting.

Fees and Registration

- The fees for 2024/25 intake is approximately R65 505, thus an average cost of R32 500 per year.
- Students arrange own travel and accommodation.
- Registration open until 9 December 2023.
- The course commences in February 2024.
- How to register? Apply online by clicking on [Application Link](#)

Contact

- Contact Fahiema.titus@uct.ac.za or the Program Convener at Maylene.shungking@uct.ac.za or visit us at <https://health.uct.ac.za/school-public-health>

The University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) is committed to meeting the objectives of Employment Equity to improve representativity within the Institution. Preference will be given to applicants from the designated groups in accordance with Employment Equity.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES Doctoral Scholarship (3-year appointment)

Centre for Rural Health SCHOOL OF NURSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH HOWARD COLLEGE

Mental Health Integration for Recovery (MhINT Recovery) is an ongoing study that aims to develop, adapt and test a systems intervention to support people living with severe mental illness (SMI) in community settings. More specifically, the study aims to generate an integrated psychosocial support programme following acute psychiatric hospitalization and community discharge. This investigation will be undertaken in Town Hill Hospital and the uMgungundlovu District, KwaZulu-Natal, and consists of formative qualitative research with a range of stakeholders, participatory development of an integrated programme, and a pilot trial of the feasibility of the programme. MhINT Recovery is led by a multidisciplinary team of researchers and policymakers, from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, University of Cape Town, University of Antwerp, Columbia University, and the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health.

| Scholarship | Location | Duration of Full-Time Study |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Doctoral Scholarship | Pietermaritzburg | 3 years |

Eligibility criteria:

- A master's degree obtained within the past five years from an accredited tertiary institution, in a health-related field, including (but not limited to) psychology, psychiatry, social work, occupational health, sociology, or anthropology, with a final mark of 70% or

- more.
- Demonstrated experience in research in South Africa.
- Moderate to advanced skills in qualitative research, and preferably basic skills in quantitative research.
- Fluency in isiZulu.
- A South African driver's license, and willingness to travel in the uMgungundlovu District, as well as between Pietermaritzburg and Durban.
- Preference will be given to South African nationals.

NB: Doctoral scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis, considering the applicant's academic achievements, experience, as well as the quality of the proposed programme and its potential for enhancing general research activity in the host School, College of Health Sciences and the University.

Desirable attributes:

- An interest in severe mental illness and community-based care.
- Experience in health systems or public mental health research and/or practice.
- Willingness and skill to undertake qualitative fieldwork with people living with SMI and their caregivers in community settings.
- Co-authorship of peer-reviewed journal papers.
- Capabilities in research project and/ or data management.

Comprehensive applications are invited, comprising of:

- A 1-page letter of motivation, including the earliest possible starting date;
- A full curriculum vitae, including a detailed description of research experience, a list of publications and all qualification certificates (certified);
- A brief 1-page concept note for a doctoral study in the development of psychosocial support for people living with SMI and their caregivers;
- Copies of South African ID and driver's license.

Required Outputs:

The successful applicant will be expected to:

- be involved in the planning, data collection, analysis and dissemination processes of the project;
- conduct a doctoral research study under the supervision of Dr A J van Rensburg, Prof I Petersen and Prof A Bhana;
- participate in all related planning workshops and activities of the Centre for Rural Health.

NB: Applicants are required to submit a CV and letter outlining their suitability which must be emailed to Dr André J van Rensburg at jansevanrensburga@ukzn.ac.za with the subject line "Doctoral Scholarship" and advert reference number in the subject line.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 11 August 2023. The University reserves the right not to make any appointment.

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.

<https://www.hst.org.za/publications/Pages/South-African-Health-Review-2021.aspx>

Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) is creating a Guidance Document on Climate Change and Health for Healthcare professionals in South Africa. This guidance document highlights the intersection between climate change and health outlining the impacts of climate change on health. It is intended to:

1. Assist healthcare professionals continue to think around climate change and health impacts.
2. Highlight information that can be considered when healthcare professionals prepare for media interviews, engagements with policymakers.
3. Detail the impacts of climate change on health to be used by healthcare professionals in their daily engagements with their colleagues, clients, and communities.

This document is adapted from “No Vaccine For Climate Change” (<https://healthyenergyinitiative.org/no-vaccine/>).

To ensure that the information most needed is included in the guidance documents, healthcare professionals are invited to participate in a consultation process. The guidance document, in its draft form, will be share with those who are interested in engaging with it from the 1st of August until the 11th of August 2023. Participants will be required to leave comments on the document for consideration in the finalization of the guidance document. The comments are limited to the content of the guidance document, editing is being done separately.

If you are a healthcare professional (nurse, community health worker, physician etc) and are interested in participating, please email, Tlameo M Mothudi, at tlameo.mothudi@atlanticfellows.org outlining the following:

- Your details (name, surname, and current occupation); and
- An email address for purposes of sharing the guidance document.

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

The Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) hosts an annual conference, with the aim of engaging public health practitioners from around the country, region and world to share their experiences and research, discuss topical public health issues, and mentor public health students and young researchers.

This year it will be from 10 – 13 September in Qheberha, Eastern Cape. The theme is, **Transforming Research Translation, Reimagining Public Health Evidence, Policies and Practice.**

The 2023 Public Health Association of South Africa’s conference will provide an opportune setting for engaging with the most recent public health research and evidence, for rethinking current models of research translation, for identifying barriers and opportunities for change, and for exploring new strategies for knowledge exchange and dissemination.

Join fellow public health experts, academics, researchers, students, non-governmental organisations, and civil society members at this year's annual PHASA Conference; as we transform the ways we think about and approach priority areas of public health research, policy, and practice, to ultimately improve health outcomes for all.

<https://phasa.samrc.ac.za/about.html>

World Congress of Epidemiology – WCE 2024 – 24 to 27 September 2024

WCE is well-known for bringing epidemiologists and public health experts working in different sectors together in an atmosphere designed to promote dialogue, the interchange of ideas, and state-of-the-art scientific research. The theme of WCE2024 is **“Epidemiology and complexity: challenges and responses”** which will engage the full depth and breadth of methods and practice in contemporary epidemiology. The meeting will feature top-calibre invited speakers presenting plenary lectures, workshops and interactive sessions. The abstract-driven programme will include oral and poster presentations including theory and application from every sub-discipline of epidemiology. With more than 1000 delegates expected, WCE2024 promises to be a unique opportunity to share experiences and expertise – the opportunities to learn, grow and network within the field will be phenomenal. This is the first time the congress will be hosted on the African continent and the Cape Town International Convention Centre provides a world-class venue for this meeting.

<https://www.wce2024.org/>

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

There are currently no vacancies.