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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Big Data and the Intelligence Community — Lessons for Health Care

The New England Journal of Medicine | Published: 16 May 2019.

Kevin Vigilante, Steve Escaravage, Mike McConnell

The recent explosion of health data — driven by increases in clinical, research, payer, and patient-generated data — promises to transform health care by improving care quality and population health and by constraining escalating costs. But substantial obstacles remain. Many of these data are unstructured and the wide variety of taxonomies and formats makes data sharing and integration challenging. The health care industry's legacy data-management technologies require time-consuming and labor-intensive data modeling and cleansing. Moreover, these tools must be designed with a specific set of questions in

mind, and adding or transforming variables or incorporating unstructured objects such as images and audio files into data stores can be difficult.

Human rights and legal dimensions of self care interventions for sexual and reproductive health

BMJ | Published: 13 May 2019.

Laura Ferguson, Susana Fried, Thabo Matsaseng, Sundari Ravindran, Sofia Gruskin

Understanding the user, the health system, and the environment is key to ensuring that self care interventions for sexual and reproductive health are not only available but safe and empowering for all. Evolving technologies are increasing the availability of interventions for sexual and reproductive health that are traditionally offered only in health facilities. Self care interventions for sexual and reproductive health are diverse and include self injection (eg, of contraceptives), self screening or testing (eg, for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and pregnancy), self medication (eg, for abortion and HIV), and self monitoring (eg, of fertility).

Point of care Xpert MTB/RIF versus smear microscopy for tuberculosis diagnosis in southern African primary care clinics: a multicentre economic evaluation

The Lancet Global Health | Published: June 2019.

Anil Pooran, Grant Theron, Lynn Zijenah, Duncan Chanda, Petra Clowes, Lawrence Mwenge, Farirai Mutenherwa, Paul Lecesse, et al

Rapid on-site diagnosis facilitates tuberculosis control. Performing Xpert MTB/RIF (Xpert) at point of care is feasible, even when performed by minimally trained health-care workers, and when compared with point-of-care smear microscopy, reduces time to diagnosis and pretreatment loss to follow-up. However, whether Xpert is cost-effective at point of care remains unclear.

Women's and girls' experiences of menstruation in low- and middle-income countries: A systematic review and qualitative metasynthesis

Plos Medicine | Published: 16 May 2019.

Julie Hennegan, Alexandra K Shannon, Jennifer Rubli, Kellogg J Schwab, GJ Melendez-Torres

Attention to women's and girls' menstrual needs is critical for global health and gender equality. The importance of this neglected experience has been elucidated by a growing body of qualitative research, which we systematically reviewed and synthesised. We undertook systematic searching to identify qualitative studies of women's and girls' experiences of menstruation in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Of 6,892 citations screened, 76 studies reported in 87 citations were included. Studies captured the experiences of over 6,000 participants from 35 countries.

Integrating a brief mental health intervention into primary care services for patients with HIV and diabetes in South Africa: study protocol for a trial-based economic evaluation

BMJ Open | Published: 14 May 2019

Vimbayi Mutyambizi-Mafunda, Bronwyn Myers, Katherine Sorsdahl, Crick Lund, Tracey Naledi, Susan Cleary

Depression and alcohol use disorders are international public health priorities for which there is a substantial treatment gap. Brief mental health interventions delivered by lay health workers in primary care services may reduce this gap. There is limited economic evidence assessing the cost-effectiveness of such interventions in low-income and middle-income countries. This paper describes the proposed economic evaluation of a health systems intervention testing the effectiveness, cost-effectiveness and cost-utility of two task-sharing approaches to integrating services for common mental disorders with HIV and diabetes primary care services.

New vaccine introductions in Africa before and during the decade of vaccines – Are we making progress?

Vaccine | Published: 7 May 2019.

Evanson Z Sambala, Alison B Wiyeh, Ntombenhle Ngcobo, Shingai Machingaidze, Charles S Wiysonge

Vaccines are excellent investments with far-reaching rewards beyond individual and population health, but their introduction into national programs has been historically slow in Africa. We provide an overview of the introduction of new and underutilized vaccines in countries of the WHO African Region by 2017, using data from the WHO-UNICEF Joint Reporting Form. By 2017, all 47 countries had introduced vaccines containing hepatitis B (compared to 11% in 2000 and 98% in 2010) and Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) (compared to 4% in 2000 and 91% in 2010).

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Coca-Cola reformulates drinks in response to tax

Health-e News | 23 May 2019.

According to the beverage manufacturer, more South Africans are choosing its no- and low-calorie range but declined to reveal sales figures.

How to get South Africans to buy into the next big thing in medicine

Bhekisisa | 16 May 2019.

These ATMs can decrease the number of patients in clinics but health workers are not helping to achieve that goal.

Doctor's secrets to a healthy and long life

Health-e News | 21 May 2019.

This rural doctor is used to writing scripts for medication, but he has now written a manuscript. Dr Lutendo

Muremela is prescribing a change in bad eating habits. Having lost many patients to high blood pressure, diabetes, heart attacks and strokes, 59-year-old Muremela has written *Living a Healthy Long Life*

A global survey sheds new light on how bad events affect young people

The Conversation Africa | 21 May 2019.

A major new study based on surveys done in multiple countries – ranging from Vietnam, China, Bolivia, Egypt, India and Kenya to the UK and the US – across five continents provides groundbreaking insights into the impact that adverse events have on children.

Inspired by breath strips, scientists break away from needing a ‘cold chain’ to deliver vaccines

STAT | 21 May 2019.

One of the many challenges in developing and delivering vaccines where they are needed is keeping them at the right temperature at the right price. Most vaccines, especially ones made from weakened forms of living viruses, must be kept cold to be effective. Carlos Filipe and his colleagues from McMaster University offer an affordable, durable solution that protects vaccines without keeping them cold.

Food justice is a pipe dream without tackling industry

Health-e News | 20 May 2019.

The lack of access to healthy food is both a cause and a symptom of South Africa's structural inequalities. In a country like South Africa — with the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality — food justice is only the beginning of a long conversation for addressing socio-economic rights.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Health Informatics for Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Short Course for Health Information System Professionals

Measure Evaluation | 2019.

According to the World Health Organization, digital health, also known as eHealth or health informatics, is the use of information and communications technology (ICT) for health. In its broadest sense, eHealth is concerned with improving the flow of information, by electronic means, to support the delivery of health services and the management of health systems. The curriculum has four units of lectures and interactive activities that can be adapted to meet the objectives of your course. The course materials are listed for download and use. See the course syllabus for more details.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

No Time to Wait: securing the future from drug-resistant infections

Interagency Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance | April 2019.

Antimicrobial resistance is a global crisis that threatens a century of progress in health and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Because the drivers of antimicrobial resistance lie in humans, animals, plants, food and the environment, a sustained One Health response is essential to engage and unite all stakeholders around a shared vision and goals.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Rural Health Conference

5-7 September 2019

Kapenta Bay Hotel & Conference Resort, Port Shepstone, South Africa

3rd National Pharmacy Conference

3-6 October 2019

Sun City, South Africa

Healthcare Innovation Summit Africa 2019

16-17 October 2019

Gallagher Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

m2m: Pricing and Financial Analyst – Cape Town

Closing Date: 7 June 2019

Panagora Group : Short Term Technical Experts

Closing Date: 30 June 2019

Anova Health: Enrolled Nurse

Closing Date: Ongoing

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