

HST Bulletin



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RECENT NEWS

A properly implemented NHI can help bridge divides in a fractured country

Daily Maverick | 31 August 2018.

What is the NHI and what does it have in common with land expropriation? Both have the potential to build social solidarity across race, gender and class. Structural mechanisms of redistribution are vital to ensure we move beyond the ideals of transformation, towards a society that really does benefit everyone who lives in it.

It's a stick-up. Your money or your health!

Daily Maverick | 6 September 2018.

The Health Market Inquiry report has been published at a rare moment of opportunity for a new dawn in health reform in South Africa. In the context of a crisis in the public and private health systems, it is the time for active citizenship – or forever hold your peace.

When it comes to vaccines, there really is safety in numbers. Here's why

Bhekisisa | 4 September 2018.

Turns out it takes a village to raise a child but also to protect them.

Plans underway to help nourish SA's hungry children

Health-e News | 6 September 2018.

Heavily overweight or badly undernourished – a large number of South Africans fall into the categories of people suffering over- and under-nutrition.

Higher levels of natural killer cells associated with latent TB

Medical Brief | 29 August 2018.

Higher levels of natural killer cells in blood are associated with tuberculosis (TB) latency, reports a University of Cape Town study in collaboration with Stanford University, published in Nature.

Ebola Attacked Congo Again. But Now Congo Seems to Be Winning

New York Times | 2 September 2018.

New cases are dropping sharply, vaccination is going well and schools are about to open. But it is too soon to declare victory, experts said.

Obituary: Bongani Mayosi

The Lancet | 1 September 2018.

Cardiologist Bongani Mayosi was, according to the South African Parliament, “one of the finest brains and passionate health experts who still had so much more to offer the nation”.

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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Missing knowledge of gendered power relations among non-governmental organisations doing right to health work: a case study from South Africa

BMC International Health and Human Rights | Published: 30 August 2018.

Mayara Fontes Marx, Leslie London, Alex Müller

Despite 20 years of democracy, South Africa still suffers from profound health inequalities. Gender roles and norms are associated with individuals' vulnerability that lead to ill-health. For instance, gender inequality influences women's access to health care and women's agency to make health-related decisions. This paper explores gender-awareness and inclusivity in organisations that advocate for the right to health in South Africa, and analyses how this knowledge impacts their work?

The evolution of non-communicable diseases policies in post-apartheid South Africa

BMC Public Health | Published: 15 August 2018.

Catherine Ndinda, Tidings P Ndhlovu, Pamela Juma, Gershim Asiki, Catherine Kyobutungi

Redressing structural inequality within the South African society in the post-apartheid era became the central focus of the democratic government. Policies on social and economic transformation were guided by the government's blueprint, the Reconstruction and Development Programme. The purpose of this paper is to trace the evolution of non-communicable disease (NCD) policies in South Africa and the extent to which the multi-sectoral approach was utilised, while explicating the underlying rationale for “best buy” interventions adopted to reduce and control NCDs in South Africa. The paper critically engages with the political and ideological factors that influenced design of particular NCD policies.

The influence of peer mentoring on critical care nursing students' learning outcomes

International Journal of Workplace Health Management | Published: 2018.

Maureen Nokuthula Sibiyi, Thembelihle Sylvia Patience Ngxongo, Somavathy Yvonne Beepat

The purpose of this paper is to explore the influence of peer mentoring on critical care nursing students' learning outcomes in critical care units.

A qualitative exploratory research design was used to conduct the study. Ten critical care nursing students were recruited from critical care units in the five private and two public hospitals. Descriptions of their experiences were gained through individual face-to-face interviews.

A Commitment to HIV Diagnostic Accuracy – a comment on “Towards more accurate HIV testing in sub-Saharan Africa: a multi-site evaluation of HIV RDTs and risk factors for false positives ‘and’ HIV misdiagnosis in sub-Saharan Africa: a performance of diagnostic algorithms at six testing sites”

Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 31 August 2018.

Amy S Kravitz Del Solar, Bharat Parekh, Meaghan O'Keefe Douglas, Dianna Edgil, Joel Kuritsky, John Nkengasong

As part of the global response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) is committed to the provision of high-quality services and ensuring testing accuracy. Two recently published papers focusing on HIV testing and misdiagnosis in sub-Saharan Africa by Kosack et al. report on evaluations of HIV rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) and found lower than expected specificity and sensitivity on some tests when used in certain geographic locations. We take the opportunity to address concerns raised about the potential implications that these findings could have on real-world HIV testing accuracy.

Qualitative assessment of facilitators and barriers to HIV programme implementation by community health workers in Mopani district, South Africa

PlosOne | Published: 30 August 2018.

Nireshni Naidoo, Nkosinathi Zuma, N Sellina Khosa, Gert Marincowitz, Jean Railton, Nthabiseng Matlakala, Geoffrey A Jobson, Jude O Igumbor

South Africa has implemented a community-based HIV programme (CBHP) in its primary healthcare (PHC) re-engineering strategy that aims to improve public healthcare delivery. This CBHP is delivered by ward-based outreach teams (WBOTs); provision of community HIV services comprises an important component of this programme. We conducted an exploratory study to determine the facilitators and barriers to successful implementation of this CBHP in rural Mopani District, South Africa.

Factors associated with retention intentions among Isibindi child and youth care workers in South Africa: results from a national survey

BMC Human Resources for Health | Published: 29 August 2018.

Tonya R Thurman, Tory M Taylor, Johanna Nice, Brian Luckett, Myra Taylor, JD Kvalsvig

Child and youth care workers (CYCWs) are a crucial and growing component of South Africa's national response to HIV and AIDS and other issues affecting children and families. CYCWs use the community-centred Isibindi model of care to reach the most vulnerable with key services including psychosocial, health, economic and education support. Like others in similar professions, they may be at risk for occupational challenges affecting retention.

Influence of the WHO framework convention on tobacco control on tobacco legislation and policies in sub-Saharan Africa

BMC Public Health | Published: 15 August 2018.

Jennifer P Wisdom, Pamela Juma, Beatrice Mwagomba, Catherine Ndinda, Clarisse Mapa-Tassou, Felix Assah, Misheck Nkhata, Shukri F Mohamed, et al

The World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, enforced in 2005, was a watershed international treaty that stipulated requirements for signatories to govern the production, sale, distribution, advertisement, and taxation of tobacco to reduce its impact on health. This paper describes the timelines, context, key actors, and strategies in the development and implementation of the treaty and describes how six sub-Saharan countries responded to its call for action on tobacco control.

Repositioning Africa in global knowledge production

The Lancet | Published: 30 August 2018.

Sharon Fonn, Laban Peter Ayiro, Philip Cotton, Adam Habib, Peter Mulwa Felix Mbithi, Alfred Mtenje, PhD Barnabas Nawangwe, Eyitope O Ogunbodede, et al

Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for 13.5% of the global population but less than 1% of global research output. In 2008, Africa produced 27 000 published papers—the same number as The Netherlands. Informed by a nuanced understanding of the causes of the current scenario, we propose action that should be taken by African universities, governments, and development partners to foster the development of research-active universities on the continent.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Primary Healthcare Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List (2018)

National Department of Health | September 2018.

Strengthening Primary Healthcare services is a priority of the Department of Health and a critical component of this process is to ensure equitable access to effective and safe medicines at all primary health care facilities. [Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi is] proud to present this sixth edition of the Primary Health Care Level Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Mental Health Atlas 2017

World Health Organisation | 6 June 2018.

WHO's Mental Health Atlas 2017 reveals that although some countries have made progress in mental health policy-making and planning, there is a global shortage of health workers trained in mental health and a lack of investment in community-based mental health -based mental health facilities.

Crossing the Global Quality Chasm: Improving Health Care Worldwide

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine | 28 August 2018.

With support from 7 sponsors, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine undertook a study to examine the global impacts of poor-quality health care and to recommend ways to improve quality while expanding UHC, particularly in low-resource areas. The resulting report, Crossing the Global Quality Chasm: Improving Health Care Worldwide, builds on the work of the landmark 2001 Institute of Medicine (IOM) report Crossing the Quality Chasm by calling attention to the gaps in health care quality that still remain globally and suggesting approaches to bridge them.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

2nd International Workshop on HIV Adolescence

10-12 October 2018

Cape Town, South Africa

HIV Research for Prevention (HIVR4P 2018)

21-25 October 2018

Madrid Marriott Auditorium Hotel, Madrid, Spain

Universal Health Congress

12-14 December 2018

Valletta, Malta

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

CSVR: Psychosocial Professionals

Closing Date: 11 September 2018

African Disability Alliance: 2x Vacancies

Closing Date: 17 September 2018

Lambano Sanctuary: Hospital Case Manager

Closing Date: 3 October 2018

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