

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

Experience Sharing on Continuity of Healthcare Services in Internally Displaced Peoples: The Case of Tigray War Crisis

Dove Press | 20 October 2023

Haftu H, Weledegebriel MG, Gebre-egziabher A, Gebrehiwot T, Zenebe D, et al.

The war and siege in Tigray led millions to displace internally. More than three-fourths of the health facilities were either destroyed or not functional as the equipment and other resources were stolen. Furthermore, the remaining functioning health facilities were flooded beyond their capacity, resulting in many patients received treatment late, and ending with complications including life loss. Mekelle City is one of the largest towns with many internally displaced people from different areas of Tigray. To provide services for the most vulnerable populations, 11 IDP clinics were opened for internally displaced people and the surrounding host community in Mekelle. A total of 6732 patients received clinical services, of which 3465 were males. The age of the patients was in ranged of 24 days to 95 years.

<https://www.dovepress.com/experience-sharing-on-continuity-of-healthcare-services-in-internally--peer-reviewed-fulltext-article-RMHP>

Awareness of and willingness to use oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention among sexually active adults in Malawi: results from the 2020 Malawi population-based HIV impact assessment

BMC Infectious Diseases | 20 October 2023

Alinune Nathanael Kabaghe, Victor Singano, Danielle Payne, Alice Maida, Rose Nyirenda, et al.

The World Health Organization recommends Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for all populations at substantial risk of HIV infection. Understanding PrEP awareness and interest is crucial for designing PrEP programs; however, data are lacking in sub-Saharan Africa. In Malawi, oral PrEP was introduced in 2018. We analyzed data from the 2020 Malawi Population-based HIV Impact Assessment (MPHIA) to assess PrEP awareness and factors associated with PrEP interest in Malawi.

<https://bmcinfectdis.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12879-023-08683-1>

Preventative behaviours and COVID-19 infection in a Canadian cohort of people living with HIV

AIDS Research and Therapy | 20 October 2023

Keely Hammond, Terry Lee, Branka Vulesevic, Joel Singer, Judy Needham, et al.

Few studies have examined preventative behaviour practices with respect to COVID-19 among people living with HIV (human immunodeficiency virus). Using a cross-sectional survey from a Canadian Institutes of Health Research Canadian HIV Trials Network study (CTN 328) of people living with HIV on vaccine immunogenicity, we examined the relationships between participant characteristics and behavioural practices intended to prevent COVID-19 infection. Participants living in four Canadian urban centers were enrolled between April 2021–January 2022, at which time they responded to a questionnaire on preventative behaviour practices.

<https://aidsrestherapy.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12981-023-00571->

Intersecting Epidemics: The Predictors of Continued Utilization of HIV Care and Treatment Services During the COVID-19 Outbreak Among People Living with HIV in ZIMBABWE

Aids and Behaviour | 20 October 2023

Talent Tapera, Clifford Odimegwu, Tatenda Makoni, Waraidzo Mukuwapasi, Vivian Chitiyo, et al.

Globally, there have been considerable achievements towards HIV care and treatment. AIDS-related deaths have been reduced by 60% since the peak in 2004. Potentially, the fight against the HIV epidemic was made more difficult with the outbreak of COVID-19. Thus, this study examined the implications of COVID-19 in the utilization of HIV care and treatment services among people living with HIV on antiretroviral therapy (ART) in Zimbabwe. The study aimed to identify the critical factors defining the utilization of HIV services at the advent of COVID-19 using the fifth revision of the Anderson Behavioral Model of Healthcare Utilization.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10461-023-04194-x>

Understanding adherence to self-isolation in the first phase of the COVID-19 pandemic in England: a cross-sectional mixed-methods study

BMC Public Health | 23 October 2023

Charlotte Robin, Rosy Reynolds, Helen Lambert, Matthew Hickman, G. James Rubin, et al.

During the early “containment” phase of the COVID-19 response in England (January–March 2020), contact tracing was managed by Public Health England (PHE). Adherence to self-isolation during this phase and how people were making those decisions has not previously been determined. The aim of this study was to gain a better understanding of decisions around adherence to self-isolation during the first phase of the COVID-19 response in England.

<https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-023-16674-9>

Prevalence and associated factors of early initiation of sexual intercourse among youth in Ethiopia: systematic review and meta-analysis

BMC Public Health | 23 October 2023

Natnael Kebede, Fekade Demeke Bayou, Fanos Yeshanew Ayele, Bereket Kefale, Asnakew Molla, et al.

Early sexual initiation refers to engaging in sexual activity at a young age, typically before the age of 18. Even though many studies have been conducted in Ethiopia, the result is inconsistent between studies. In the study area, the pooled prevalence and associated factors of early initiation of sexual intercourse among youth were not done before. Therefore, this study aimed to determine the pooled prevalence and associated factors of early initiation of sexual intercourse among Youth in Ethiopia.

<https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-023-16968-y>

The effect of albumin and hemoglobin levels on the prognosis of early-stage cervical cancer: a prospective, single-center–based cohort study

BMC Women's Health | 24 October 2023

Xinmei Wang, Juan Xu, Hongyuan Zhang & Pengpeng Qu.

Serum albumin (ALB) and hemoglobin (HGB) are important serum biochemical indices of the nutritional status of patients and are associated with cancer development. We investigated the relationship between ALB and HGB levels and clinicopathologic characteristics of early-stage cervical cancer to determine the influence of ALB and HGB on the prognosis of early-stage cervical cancer.

<https://bmcwomenshealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12905-023-02713-5>

Factors affecting depression among married adults: a gender-based household cross-sectional study

BMC Public Health | 24 October 2023

Abdul Wadood, Rezaul Karim, Sheikh Abu Hena, Mostafa Alim, Masud Rana & Golam Hossain, et al.

Depression is a common mental health problem all over the world including Bangladesh. World Health Organization included it in the Mental Health Gap Action Programme as one of its priority conditions. Research on this issue is scanty in Bangladesh. Therefore, we designed to a gender-based household study on associated factors of depression among married adults in Rajshahi City of Bangladesh.

<https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-023-16979-9>

Physician–Patient Interaction Quality Mediates the Association Between HIV-Related Stigma and HIV-Prevention Behaviors Among Sexual Minority Men in Zambia

Aids and Behaviour | 24 October 2023

Abhishek Aggarwal, Ran Zhang, Shan Qiao, Bo Wang, Clementina Lwatula, et al.

HIV-related stigma is a major challenge to HIV prevention for sexual minority men (SMM) in Zambia, but little is known about the underlying mechanisms. This study aimed to investigate whether physician–patient interaction quality mediates the relationship between HIV-related stigma and HIV-prevention behaviors among SMM. Data were collected using a cross-sectional survey from 194 SMM (aged: mean = 24.08, SD = 4.27) across four districts in Zambia between February and November 2021. Participants were asked about their demographic characteristics, HIV-related stigma, SMM-related stigma, physician–patient interaction quality, HIV-testing intention, and use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10461-023-04171-4>

Mixed Methods Analysis of Telehealth Experience, Satisfaction, and Quality of Care During the COVID Pandemic Among Persons with HIV in Washington, DC

Aids and Behaviour | 24 October 2023

Shannon K. Barth, Kacie J. Saulters, Gayle P. Balba, Anne K. Monroe, Michael A. Horberg et al.

The purpose of this study is to describe telehealth experiences and quality of HIV care provided to an urban population of people with HIV (PWH) in Washington, DC. We used self-reported survey data from a cohort of PWH in the DC Cohort longitudinal study linked to medical records (October 26, 2020–December 31, 2021). Analyses followed a mixed-methods approach, including prevalence estimates and multivariable logistic regression of telehealth use by demographic and HIV characteristics.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10461-023-04198-7>

Residential status and household wealth disparities in modern contraceptives use among women in Ghana: a cross-sectional analysis

BMC Women's Health | 24 October 2023

Anthony Mwinilanaa Tampah-Naah, Elijah Yendaw & Joshua Sumankuuro

Modern contraceptive refers to “a product or medical procedure that interferes with reproduction from acts of sexual intercourse”. The aim of this study was to assess the relationship between residential status and wealth quintile, and modern contraceptive use among women in Ghana.

<https://bmcwomenshealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12905-023-02684-7>

PDL1-Based Nomogram May Be of Potential Clinical Utility for Predicting Survival Outcome in Stage III Breast Cancer

Dove press | 25 October 2023

Xi Zhang, Ruzhe Li and Guonian Wang

Breast Cancer (BC) Incidence Trends on the basis of the current statistics, breast cancer (BC) represents the most common malignant tumor with the highest mortality in female worldwide, as the main cause of global cancer incidence, seriously endangers women's health on the face of the earth. Currently, the incidence of breast cancer is showing an upward trend with each passing year, and onset age becomes younger in average age. Compared with patients aged ≥ 65 years, young patients diagnosed with metastatic cancer under the age of 35 have a significantly lower 5-year disease-free survival rate and a significantly higher incidence of distant metastasis. Compared with the data in 2012, the global cancer statistics in 2020 indicated that the mortality of BC in China had significantly increased.

<https://www.dovepress.com/pdl1-based-nomogram-may-be-of-potential-clinical-utility-for-predictin-peer-reviewed-fulltext-article-BCTT>

Prevalence and predictors of post-COVID-19 symptoms in general practice - a registry-based nationwide study

BMC Infectious diseases | 25 October 2023

Øystein Hetlevik, Knut-Arne Wensaas, Valborg Baste, Knut Erik Emberland, Türküler Özgümüş, et al.

With Norwegian national registry data, we assessed the prevalence of post-COVID-19 symptoms at least 3 months after confirmed infection, and whether sociodemographic factors and pre-pandemic health problems were risk factors for these symptoms.

<https://bmcinfectdis.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12879-023-08727-6>

A new agenda to control tuberculosis

The Lancet Infectious diseases | November 2023

Editorial

Tuberculosis remains one of the deadliest infectious diseases in the world, particularly in low-income and middle-income countries. An estimated global total of 10.6 million people fell ill with the disease and 1.6 million succumbed to it in 2021. The rise of multidrug-resistant and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis, together with slow development of new drugs and vaccines, co-infection with HIV, a partially effective vaccine, and stagnant funding, continue to impede the fight against this disease. The only licensed vaccine for tuberculosis, BCG, was first used in 1921 but has variable effectiveness, and the immunity conferred wanes with age, leading to inadequate protection in adolescents and adults.

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(23\)00636-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(23)00636-9/fulltext)

RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Picture this – living with HIV

Aidsmap | 18 October 2023

Visibility is a powerful tool in the fight against HIV stigma, so when we decided to refresh the photography on our website, we turned to the HIV community asking for volunteers to represent themselves and their lives. Within a few hours of putting a call out on Instagram we were overwhelmed by the generosity of people willing to give up their time and share their lives and stories on camera, becoming our very visible faces of HIV. Not everyone wants their status to be known, but a lot do, and those were the people we wanted to photograph. Our goal was to create relaxed 'everyday' imagery that reflects the reality of people living with HIV. I was tired of seeing imagery where the faces of people living with HIV were being obscured, or photographed from an angle that hid their identity, as it was thought that HIV was something to be ashamed of.

<https://www.aidsmap.com/news/oct-2023/picture-living-hiv>

COVID-19 raises the risk of cardiovascular disease in people with HIV

Aidsmap | 20 October 2023

People with HIV who were diagnosed with COVID-19 had a 35% higher risk of a major cardiovascular event in the following year compared to other people with HIV, a Spanish study presented on Thursday at the 19th European AIDS Conference (EACS 2023) in Warsaw reported. The difference in risk was concentrated in three types of cardiovascular problem: thrombosis (disorders caused by blood clots), heart failure (failure of the heart to pump sufficient blood) and other heart disorders including aneurysms (where a blood vessel balloons and may suddenly rupture). People with HIV with a diagnosis of COVID-19 did not have higher rates of heart attack or stroke.

<https://www.aidsmap.com/news/oct-2023/covid-19-raises-risk-cardiovascular-disease-people-hiv>

With breast cancer risks, where you live matters, researchers find

Medical Xpress | 20 October 2023

Inadequate health care access, unhealthy diets and not enough exercise are all well-known risk factors for the number one cause of cancer-related deaths in women—breast cancer—but what was never clear is why death rates for the disease differ regionally. But now, researchers from the University of Maryland with collaborators from George Mason University have identified patterns of breast cancer survival that link social and environmental factors with geographic regions across the United States.

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2023-10-breast-cancer.html>

The waiting game: Could SA's poor policies be behind our organ donation crisis?

Bhekisisa | 20 October 2023

In 2021, about 4 700 people in South Africa were waiting for organ transplants. But with donor organs coming from less than 2 out of every million people in the country, demand far outstrips supply. Although there's much focus on encouraging people to sign up as organ donors, confusing law and gaps in policy mean that very few organs actually make it into the transplant system.

<https://bhekisisa.org/health-news-south-africa/2023-10-20-the-waiting-game-could-sas-poor-policies-be-behind-our-organ-donation-crisis/>

Screening and Early Treatment for Anal Cancer in People With HIV

Poz | 22 October 2023

HIV-positive people treated with topical trichloroacetic acid were about equally likely to experience improvement or resolution of precancerous anal cell changes as those who underwent electrocautery, but they were less likely to experience pain and other side effects, according to study results presented at the European AIDS Conference (EACS 2023). Another study, presented at IDWeek 2023, found that many gay men living with HIV are not receiving screening to detect anal cancer at an early, more treatable stage.

<https://www.poz.com/article/screening-early-treatment-anal-cancer-people-hiv>

Body mass index is sufficient to predict diabetes or metabolic syndrome, Italian study finds

Aidsmap | 23 October 2023

Body mass index predicts the risk of developing diabetes or metabolic syndrome as reliably as more precise tests of body fat distribution in people with HIV, an Italian study presented last week at the 19th European AIDS Conference (EACS 2023) in Warsaw has found. However, the study did not report on the ethnicity of participants or analyse changes in weight and body composition according to ethnicity, so it is not clear if the findings are applicable in all settings. Body mass index (weight in kilograms divided by the square of the height in metres) can be used to predict the risk of developing diabetes or metabolic syndrome (any three of dyslipidaemia, raised glucose levels, high blood pressure or obesity).

<https://www.aidsmap.com/news/oct-2023/body-mass-index-sufficient-predict-diabetes-or-metabolic-syndrome-italian-study-finds>

Expanding PrEP Coverage in the U.S. to Help End the HIV Epidemic

Poz | 23 October 2023

Today, as part of CDC's quarterly HIV Surveillance Data Tables*, CDC published preliminary data on pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) coverage. These preliminary data (Tables 3A-3C) indicate that in 2022, for the first time, more than one-third of people in the U.S. who could benefit from PrEP had been prescribed it. Increasing PrEP coverage is one of the key prevention strategies outlined in the Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. (EHE) initiative.

<https://www.poz.com/blog/expanding-prep-coverage-us-help-end-hiv-epidemic>

NOW YOU SEE ME: HOW A NGO IS TACKLING CORNEAL BLINDNESS

Health-e News | 23 October 2023

Sesona Mehlala has dealt with poor eyesight for most of her life. The 27-year-old started wearing glasses at nine. But even with the spectacles she struggled to see. In 2015 she buckled under the financial and mental strain of frequent changes to her prescription spectacles. She just stopped wearing glasses and contact lenses.

<https://health-e.org.za/2023/10/23/now-you-see-me-how-a-ngo-is-tackling-corneal-blindness/>

Should nurses be allowed to hand out psychiatric drugs?

Bhekisisa | 23 October 2023

By 2028, trained nurses in South Africa should be able to prescribe psychiatric medicines — if lawmakers move fast enough. This will make antidepressants and drugs to deal with anxiety easier to get, especially for people with HIV, who are about five times more likely than those without the virus to have depression, and eight times more likely to experience anxiety.

<https://bhekisisa.org/multimedia/2023-10-23-should-nurses-be-allowed-to-hand-out-psychiatric-drugs/>

Cervical cancer cases rising in regions with health inequity

Contemporary OB / GYN | 23 October 2023

Cervical cancer incidence and mortality have significantly increased from 2009 to 2019 in Appalachian Kentucky, according to a recent study published in JAMA Network Open. From 2015 to 2019, the greatest incidence of cervical cancer in the United States was observed in Kentucky. Cervical cancer screening and care is especially lacking in the central Appalachian region, where high economic distress, health inequity, and persistent poverty cause isolation, lack of transportation, and health care shortages.

<https://www.contemporaryobgyn.net/view/cervical-cancer-cases-rising-in-regions-with-health-inequity>

PrEP Adherence and Depression Screening in LGBTQ+ Communities

Infectious Diseases Advisor | 24 October 2023

A visit to a sexual health community clinic may be the best place to screen LGBTQ+ patients for depression. In a quality improvement project, the rate of depression screening for LGBTQ+ patients increased 3-fold after the implementation of this program in Austin and Dallas, Texas. There was a 4-fold increase in patients who scored greater than 9 on the PHQ-9 screening tool and a 5-fold increase in referrals to behavioral health teams, according to the results of a study presented at the DNPs of Color meeting, held October 19-22, in Washington DC.

<https://www.infectiousdiseaseadvisor.com/home/topics/hiv-aids/prep-adherence-and-depression-screening-in-lgbtq-communities/>

How reactive oxygen species impact cervical cancer risk

Contemporary OB/GYN | 24 October 2023

Oxidation of the vaginal space may reduce the risk of cervical cancer, according to a recent study published in Open Medicine. In 2020, 604,127 new cases and 341,831 deaths from cervical cancer were reported, 35,000 and 30,000 greater than in 2018, respectively. This indicates cervical cancer as a global health problem, highlighting the need for solutions.

<https://www.contemporaryobgyn.net/view/how-reactive-oxygen-species-impact-cervical-cancer-risk>

Maternal comorbidity associated with cesarean birth

Contemporary OB/GYN | 24 October 2023

There is an association between maternal comorbidity and cesarean delivery, according to a recent study published in JAMA Network Open. Higher cesarean delivery rates, which have been observed since the early 2000s, have been associated with an increased risk of severe maternal morbidity (SMM). Cesarean delivery also increases the risks of complications in future pregnancies, such as placental abnormalities.

<https://www.contemporaryobgyn.net/view/maternal-comorbidity-associated-with-cesarean-birth>

Q&A: Can you use medicine and prescriptions past the expiration date?

Medical Xpress | 24 October 2023

When a headache calls and the only ibuprofen in the house is a bottle that is expired, is it worth a trip out to replace it? Peter J. Rice, PharmD, Ph.D., BCPS, professor of clinical pharmacy at the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, said that in most cases with past-its-prime medicine you can save a trip.

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2023-10-qa-medicine-prescriptions-expiration-date.html>

Nigeria to vaccinate 7.7 million girls against leading cause of cervical cancer

PMNC | 24 October 2023

Nigeria today introduced the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine into its routine immunization system, aiming to reach 7.7 million girls – the largest number in a single round of HPV vaccination in

the African region – in a vaccination drive against the virus that causes nearly all cases of cervical cancer.

<https://pmnch.who.int/news-and-events/news/item/24-10-2023-nigeria-to-vaccinate-7.7-million-girls-against-leading-cause-of-cervical-cancer>

Child care centers unlikely source for COVID-19 transmission, study finds

Poz | 24 October 2023

Children in child care centers are not spreading COVID-19 at significant rates to caregivers or other children at the center, nor to their households, according to a study led by University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh pediatrician-scientists and published in JAMA Network Open. The findings suggest that recommendations to test symptomatic children for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, and keep positive children home from child care for prolonged periods can be revised to align with those for other serious respiratory viruses.

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2023-10-child-centers-source-covid-transmission.html>

The STOMP Trial Evaluates an Antiviral for Mpox [VIDEO]

Poz | 24 October 2023

Following a peak in the summer of 2022, new infections in the mpox clade IIb outbreak have decreased, due in part to the rapid availability and uptake of vaccines and other preventive measures. However, mpox remains a health threat, and no treatment has been proven safe and effective for people experiencing mpox disease.

<https://www.poz.com/article/stomp-trial-evaluates-antiviral-mpox-video>

SA's first specialised paediatric and special needs dental care unit launched

IOL | 24 October 2023

The Rotary Club, the Provincial Government of the Western Cape (PGWC), and the Department of Paediatric Dentistry of the University of the Western Cape (UWC) have launched the nation's first specialised paediatric and special needs dental care unit. This pioneering initiative promises to enhance efficiency, reduce anxiety for young patients, and sharpen the focus on providing dedicated oral health services to children, especially those with special health care needs.

<https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/western-cape/sas-first-specialised-paediatric-and-special-needs-dental-care-unit-launched-8839f521-a9b8-4789-b942-6e45e354b376>

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BREAST CANCER

Health-e News | 25 October 2023

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in South Africa accounting for 22.6% of all female cancers. Men can also get breast cancer, with approximately 1% diagnosed. Health-e News spoke with Dr Diana Pillay, a radiation oncologist at the Hopelands Cancer Centre in Durban, about

common questions women have about the disease. At what age should I seriously start considering screening for breast cancer? “Breast cancer commonly affects women of age 50 and older, so generally speaking it’s a cancer that’s related to age. The highest risk factor is age and gender. So if you think about that age breast cancer screening should start before the age of 50.

<https://health-e.org.za/2023/10/25/heres-what-you-need-to-know-about-breast-cancer/>

Over a million SAs have used the HIV prevention pill

Bhekisisa | 25 October 2023

More than a million public healthcare users in South Africa had started to use the HIV prevention pill by the end of May. Over half of people who have taken up the pill have done so in the past two years. We’ve broken down the latest health department data to make it easy to track where South Africa is with the roll-out of the pill — and we look at what we need to do to make the pill, a vaginal ring and [two-monthly HIV prevention injection easier to access](#).

<https://bhekisisa.org/health-news-south-africa/2023-10-25-over-a-million-sas-have-used-the-hiv-prevention-pill/>

Mixed feelings on NHI aired at Eastern Cape hearing

Spotlight | 25 October 2023

Concerns over corruption and whether or not foreign nationals would be covered under South Africa’s proposed National Health Insurance (NHI) system were some of the issues raised by healthcare groups, trade unions, and the public who recently took part in the Nelson Mandela Bay leg of public hearings into the NHI (National Health Insurance) Bill. The Eastern Cape legislature held its public hearings from 10 to 13 October in all six of the province’s district municipalities. The Bill is currently with the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) after the National Assembly voted in favour of the Bill in June. 205 MPLs voted in favour to 125 against. The process of public hearings is anticipated to be concluded before the end of the year. Based on provincial mandates, the Bill will then be voted on in the NCOP.

<https://www.spotlightnsp.co.za/2023/10/25/mixed-feelings-on-nhi-aired-at-eastern-cape-hearing/>

WHO releases AMR guidelines

Juta Medical Brief | 25 October 2023

The World Health Organisation has released a package of 13 interventions to guide prioritisation when developing, implementing and monitoring action plans on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) – which kills millions worldwide every year – aimed at tackling patients’ needs and barriers through a people-centred approach. Globally, AMR is one of the leading causes of death, responsible for around 1.27m deaths, and associated with 4.95m deaths, in 2019.

<https://www.medicalbrief.co.za/who-releases-amr-guidelines/>

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>

Masters in Adult Education at the University of KwaZulu-Natal – CLOSING DATE 31 OCTOBER!

Adult education is a very broad discipline, and our programmes will be of benefit to anyone who is interacting with adults in some kind of educative relationship (including developing or running training/courses/workshops for adults, or producing learning/promotional material), as is the case for your organisation. The discipline of adult education at the University of KwaZulu-Natal has a long history of working closely with a range of organisations and individuals involved in community development, education or training in a variety of sectors, including land, environment, health, gender, ECD, water, unemployment, savings, and so on.

We offer a two-year part-time coursework Masters (i.e. modules offered on the PMB campus in the first year, followed by a thesis) and a full-time or part-time research Masters (i.e. thesis only). Our coursework Masters includes specific modules to help people understand theories about how adults learn (differently from children), and how to develop curricula and materials that will be of most benefit to adults in communities or other settings. Lectures are held on Saturdays. Our research Masters allows people to closely study an area of particular interest to them, in relation to adult education.

The entry requirement for both coursework and research Masters is a Bachelor of Education (Honours) or equivalent degree with a 60% average (although this does not guarantee entry into this programme). In addition to the average, Masters by Full dissertation applicants are required to submit a brief description/concept note of the research they intend to pursue.

There is more information (admission requirements, how to apply, etc.) on the postgraduate programmes in Education (including Adult Education) at: <https://soe.ukzn.ac.za/postgraduate-information/>

The NDoH and CSIR Call for Book Chapters

The Emerging South African National Digital Health System: Strategies, Approaches and Experiences

About

The book, a collaboration between NDoH and CSIR, aims to showcase strategies and experiences in developing a National Health Information System that facilitates efficient, personalized healthcare information transfer across various boundaries. Undergoing a double-blind peer review and editing, it serves as a detailed guide to the evolving South African National Digital Health System, reflecting

on the substantial research and strategies that have influenced its formation, with a focus on the scholarly depth and validity of the results.

Each chapter, contributing to an enriched discussion, will dissect a specific facet of the system, assisting readers in understanding its integral components and the ensuing challenges and opportunities within the South African Health Ecosystem. Contributions from several authors are encouraged, bringing in diverse perspectives and firsthand experiences to foster a comprehensive narrative on the system's ongoing improvements in the context of South African Digital Health. Opinion pieces in line with the NHI, Digital Health Strategy, and efforts to strengthen the Health System are welcome. Further details can be found in the Submission Guidelines.

IMPORTANT DATES

- SEPTEMBER, 2023: Presentations
- 22 OCTOBER, 2023: Abstract submissions
- 20 NOVEMBER, 2023: Abstract feedback
- 8 FEBRUARY, 2024: Submission of full paper for review
- 15 MARCH, 2024: Final corrected paper submission

SUBMISSION LINK - <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=sadhs24>

Any queries and abstract submissions to: digitalhealth@health.gov.za

Subject: SA National Digital Health System Book

ABSTRACT FORMAT

- Title of the Chapter
- Purpose
- Study design/methodology/approach
- Findings
- Originality/value
- Keywords Author/s

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.

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

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

The 2022 South African Health Review is available!

We are pleased to release the 25th edition of the South African Health Review (SAHR). Entitled 'health systems strengthening after COVID-19', the journal provides valuable insights and recommendations on how to improve the response to the pandemic and build more resilient health systems.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the world, and the health sector has been at the forefront of the response. Curated as a supplement to the 2021 edition, which addressed the response of government and the broader health sector to COVID-19, the 2022 South African Health Review provides a platform for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to share their experiences and insights on how they navigated this crisis and build more robust health systems for the future.

The journal encompasses a diverse array of subjects, including reflections on the work of the Ministerial Advisory Committee during COVID-19 and the knowledge gained and lessons learned from these processes. Additionally, it explores the ramifications of COVID-19 on maternal, women, and child health and highlights the gendered implications of the pandemic, revealing that women experienced more pronounced effects of stress, fear, and depression during the lockdown period compared to men.

Commenting on its release, CEO and co-editor of the Review Dr Themba Moeti said that "This edition of the South African Health Review offers promising examples of COVID-19 response, mitigation and recovery strategies for us to use the emerging lessons to enhance our health system resilience and better prepare for future pandemics."

Strong messages emerging from this edition emphasise that in order to effectively promote national vaccination programmes, it is imperative to equip healthcare workers (HCWs) with comprehensive, relevant, and current information. This will enable them to enhance patient communication and increase vaccine acceptance. Subsequent chapters delineate an inventive collaboration between the public and private sectors aimed at mitigating the accumulated volume of elective surgical procedures at Groote Schuur Hospital and reflect on the importance of consulting, involving and deploying community based organisations such as clinic committees in public health emergencies from the outset.

The crucial importance of inter-country collaboration is emphasised in mitigating disease transmission and impact, with authors advocating for a more coordinated approach to managing cross-border health measures.

Additionally, the Review highlights the intersection between climate change and health systems and reinforces the imperative to prioritise health within the framework of a 'just transition' and to enhance the capabilities of healthcare systems to be low-carbon and climate-resilient as crucial focal points for improving pandemic preparedness.

For more information on the journal and to access the latest edition, please go to <https://www.hst.org.za/publications/Pages/SAHR2022.aspx>

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Towards Universal Health Coverage, Strengthening Primary Health Care: A whole of Government, whole of Society approach conference

The South African National Department of Health, the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, the World Health Organization and Health Systems Trust cordially invites you to participate in a Primary Health Care (PHC) themed, **Towards Universal Health Coverage, Strengthening Primary Health Care: A whole of Government, whole of Society approach**, conference.

When: 14-17 November 2023

Where: to be held at the East London International Conference Centre

The goals of the conference are to reinvigorate South Africa's commitment to the PHC approach as a strategic component of comprehensive health services in a unified health system, within a National Health Insurance (NHI) dispensation and to re-commit the country (i.e. government, citizens and social partners) to the PHC principles as being central to health promotion, disease prevention, and building a people-centred and resilient health system that is able to adapt and respond to emerging health challenges in a rapidly changing world.

For more information do go to the [conference web page](#).

<https://www.hst.org.za/media/Pages/PHC-Conference.aspx>

Annual SA Heart Congress 2023

When: 26 - 29 Oct 2023

Where: Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa

Register: <https://saheartcongress.org/registration/>

13th World Congress of the World Society for Pediatric Infectious Diseases (WSPID)

When: 12-17 November 2023

Where: Durban ICC, Durban

For more information, go to: <https://www.emedevents.com/medical-hybrid-events-2023/13th-world-congress-of-the-world-society-for-pediatric-infectious-diseases-wspid>

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

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Community Engagers – DO ART Project

Closing date: 31 October 2023

[https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Health-Systems-Strengthening-\(HSS\)-Unit-Community-Engagers-%E2%80%92-DO-ART-Project.aspx](https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Health-Systems-Strengthening-(HSS)-Unit-Community-Engagers-%E2%80%92-DO-ART-Project.aspx)

Clinical Advisor

Closing date: 31 October 2023

[https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Health-Systems-Strengthening-\(HSS\)-Unit--CLINICAL-ADVISOR.aspx](https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Health-Systems-Strengthening-(HSS)-Unit--CLINICAL-ADVISOR.aspx)

ICT Support Technicians

Closing date: 31 October 2023

[https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Health-Systems-Strengthening-\(HSS\)-Unit--ICT-Support-Technicians.aspx](https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Health-Systems-Strengthening-(HSS)-Unit--ICT-Support-Technicians.aspx)