

HST Bulletin



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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Burden of HIV and treatment outcomes among TB patients in rural Kenya: a 9-year longitudinal study

BMC Infectious Diseases | 30 May 2023

Moses M. Ngari, Mohammed A. Rashid, Deche Sanga, Hiram Mathenge, Oscar Agoro, et al.

Although tuberculosis (TB) patients coinfected with HIV are at risk of poor treatment outcomes, there is paucity of data on changing trends of TB/HIV co-infection and their treatment outcomes. This study aims to estimate the burden of TB/HIV co-infection over time, describe the treatment available to TB/HIV patients and estimate the effect of TB/HIV co-infection on TB treatment outcomes.

Diagnostic yield of urine lipoarabinomannan and sputum tuberculosis tests in people living with HIV: a systematic review and meta-analysis of individual participant data

The Lancet Global Health | June 2023 edition

Tobias Broger, Lisa Koeppel, Helena Huerga, Poppy Miller, Ankur Gupta-Wright, et al.

Sputum is the most widely used sample to diagnose active tuberculosis, but many people living with HIV are unable to produce sputum. Urine, in contrast, is readily available. We hypothesised that sample availability influences the diagnostic yield of various tuberculosis tests.

Examining the relationship between armed conflict and coverage of maternal and child health services in 35 countries in sub-Saharan Africa: a geospatial analysis

The Lancet Global Health | June 2023 edition

Felix Amberg, Collins Chansa, Hamidou Niangaly, Prof Osman Sankoh, Prof Manuela De Allegri, et al.

Armed conflict is on the rise in sub-Saharan Africa and affects public infrastructures, including health systems, although evidence on population health is sparse. We aimed to establish how these disruptions ultimately affect health service coverage.

Secondary distribution of HIV self-test kits by HIV index and antenatal care clients:

implementation and costing results from the STAR Initiative in South Africa

BMC Infectious Diseases | 1 June 2023

Vincent Zishiri, Donaldson F. Conserve, Zelalem T. Haile, Elizabeth Corbett, Karin Hatzold, et al.

Partner-delivered HIV self-testing kits has previously been highlighted as a safe, acceptable and effective approach to reach men. However, less is known about its real-world implementation in reaching partners of people living with HIV. We evaluated programmatic implementation of partner-delivered self-testing through antenatal care (ANC) attendees and people newly diagnosed with HIV by assessing use, positivity, linkage and cost per kit distributed.

Prevalence of and risk factors for microscopic and submicroscopic malaria infections in pregnancy: a systematic review and meta-analysis

The Lancet Global Health | 2 June 2023

Anna Maria van Eijk, Kasia Stepniewska, Jenny Hill, Steve M Taylor, Stephen J Rogerson, et al.

Malaria infections during pregnancy can cause adverse birth outcomes, yet many infections are undetected by microscopy. We aimed to describe the epidemiology of submicroscopic malaria infections in pregnant women in Asia, the Americas, and Africa using aggregated and individual participant data (IPD).

“If they had a place to live, they would be taking medication”: a qualitative study identifying strategies for engaging street-connected young people in the HIV prevention-care continuum in Kenya

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 2 June 2023

Street-connected young people (SCY) experience structural and social barriers to engaging in the HIV prevention-care continuum. We sought to elicit recommendations for interventions that may improve SCY's engagement along the HIV prevention-care continuum from healthcare providers, policymakers, community members and SCY in Kenya.

Pre-exposure prophylaxis uptake for high-risk men who have sex with men in China: a multi-city cross-sectional survey

AIDS Research and Therapy | 2 June 2023

Guang Zhang, Xue Yang, Wenting Kang, Tongtong Liu, Lili Cheng, et al.

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is a proven biomedical strategy to prevent HIV transmission among men who have sex with men (MSM). Despite oral PrEP is safe and effective in MSM, the use of PrEP has been discouraging, especially in high-risk MSM. And there are no relevant studies showing the use of PrEP in high-risk MSM. The purpose of this study was to get the rate of PrEP use and the factors influencing PrEP use among high-risk MSM.

Declining incidence rate of tuberculosis among close contacts in five years post-exposure: a systematic review and meta-analysis

BMC Infectious Diseases | 3 June 2023

Ying Du, Yijun He, Haoran Zhang, Fei Shen, Ling Guan, et al.

Individuals in close contact with active pulmonary tuberculosis (TB) patients showed a high risk of recent infection and, once infected, higher risk of developing active TB in the following years post-exposure. But the peak time of active disease onset is unclear. This study aims to estimate post exposure TB incidence risk among close contacts to provide reference for clinical and public health strategies.

Development of attributes and attribute levels for a discrete choice experiment on patients' and providers' choice for antiretroviral therapy service in Northwest Ethiopia

AIDS Research and Therapy | 4 June 2023

Yihalem Abebe Belay, Mezgebu Yitayal, Asmamaw Atnafu & Fitalew Agimass Taye

Discrete choice experiments (DCEs) are used to assess the strength of preferences and value of interventions. However, researchers using this approach have been criticized for not conducting or publishing rigorous studies to select the required attributes and levels. Proper specification of attributes and their levels determines the validity of DCE. Hence, our study aimed to identify and define attributes and levels for the design of a DCE to elicit patients' and providers' preferences for ART service in Northwest Ethiopia.

Burden of disease attributable to unsafe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene in domestic settings: a global analysis for selected adverse health outcomes

The Lancet | 5 June 2023

Jennyfer Wolf, Richard B Johnston, Argaw Ambelu, Benjamin F Arnold, Robert Bain, et al.

Assessments of disease burden are important to inform national, regional, and global strategies and to guide investment. We aimed to estimate the drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)-attributable burden of disease for diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections, undernutrition, and soil-transmitted helminthiasis, using the WASH service levels used to monitor the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as counterfactual minimum risk-exposure levels.

Efficacy and Durability of Immune Response after Receipt of HPV Vaccines in People Living with HIV

MDPI Vaccines | 6 June 2023

Cecilia Losada, Hady Samaha¹, Erin M. Scherer¹, Bahaa Kazzi, Lana Khalil, et al.

People living with HIV (PLH) experience higher rates of HPV infection as well as an increased risk of HPV-related disease, including malignancies. Although they are considered a high-priority group for HPV vaccination, there are limited data regarding the long-term immunogenicity and efficacy of HPV vaccines in this population. Seroconversion rates and geometric mean titers elicited by vaccination are lower in PLH compared to immunocompetent participants, especially in individuals with CD4 counts below 200 cells/mm³ and a detectable viral load. The significance of these differences is still unclear, as a correlate of protection has not been identified.

The role of blood groups, vaccine type and gender in predicting the severity of side effects among university students receiving COVID-19 vaccines

BMC Infectious Diseases | 6 June 2023

Ohoud S. Almalki, Eman Y. Santali, Abdulaziz A. Alhothali, Ashraf A. Ewis, Abeer Shady et al.

On March 11th, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) a pandemic. To control the pandemic, billions of vaccine doses have been administered worldwide. Predictors of COVID-19 vaccine-related side effects are inconsistently described in the literature. This study aimed to identify the predictors of side effects' severity after COVID-19 vaccination among young adult students at Taif University (TU) in Saudi Arabia. An online, anonymous questionnaire was used. Descriptive statistics were calculated for numerical and categorical variables. Possible correlations with other characteristics were identified using the chi-square test. The study included 760 young adult participants from TU. Pain at the injection site (54.7%), headache (45.0%), lethargy and fatigue (43.3%), and fever (37.5%) were the most frequently reported COVID-19 vaccine-related side effects after the first dose.

Association of plasma aflatoxin with persistent detection of oncogenic human papillomaviruses in cervical samples from Kenyan women enrolled in a longitudinal study

BMC Infectious Diseases | 6 June 2023

Yan Tong, Philip Tonui, Omenge Orang'o, Jianjun Zhang, Titus Maina, et al.

Cervical cancer is caused by oncogenic human papillomaviruses (HR-HPV) and is common among Kenyan women. Identification of factors that increase HR-HPV persistence is critically important. Kenyan women exposed to aflatoxin have an increased risk of HR-HPV detection in cervical specimens. This analysis was performed to examine associations between aflatoxin and HR-HPV persistence.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Cholera in the capital: the search for the source

Mail & Guardian | 1 June 2023

Following the cholera outbreak in Hammanskraal, Tshwane metropolitan municipality, the urgent need to identify its source has become paramount. While the origins remain unknown, it is crucial not to overlook the Apies River as a potential contributor. With a staggering cumulative count of 93,681 reported cholera cases in eastern and southern Africa as of March 2023, it is essential to contextualise this outbreak as part of a larger, expanding trend.

HEPATITIS C: NEW HOPE AS TREATMENT PRICES SET TO DROP

Health-e News | 1 June 2023

The cost of treating Hepatitis C in South Africa will drastically decrease in the coming months. Currently, a 3-month treatment course is R19,984 per patient. The National Health Department says the price cut will make treatment much more affordable. Health Ministry spokesperson Foster Mohale says currently hepatitis C treatment is only available at tertiary hospitals. It is free through the public health system.

South Africa: Hammanskraal Water Quality 'Unsafe' Over High Bacteria Levels – Report

allAfrica | 2 June 2023

In a report, independent laboratory testing commissioned by WaterCAN, an initiative by the Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse, has found that water from three out of four taps examined in Hammanskraal produced water deemed unsafe to drink due to high levels of bacteria. Aquatico Laboratories, which conducted the tests to determine if the water was fit for domestic and potable uses, did not detect cholera. However, water from the Hammanskraal Community Centre and a tanker filling point was found to be unsafe for drinking after bacteria levels were determined to be above drinking water quality standards.

The complex interplay between TB and liver problems

Spotlight | 2 June 2023

People in South Africa who fall ill with tuberculosis (TB) often also have other health issues. HIV, which drives much of the TB epidemic in South Africa, is the most obvious co-infection, but people who fall ill with TB are also more likely to have diabetes and mental health problems than the general public. Another issue that is often mentioned at conferences and in journal articles, but that doesn't often make the headlines, is the complex set of links between TB and liver problems. With the World Health Organization estimating that in the region of 300 000 people fall ill with TB in South Africa every year, the scale of the issue is likely to be substantial, although we do not have particularly good data on liver problems in South Africa, and even less so on people experiencing TB and liver problems together.

Breast cancer drug shown to reduce recurrence risk

Medical Xpress | 2 June 2023

Even when the disease is caught early, breast cancer recurrence is relatively commonplace—and for survivors, the prospect can be daunting. A drug developed by Swiss pharmaceutical maker Novartis has now been shown to reduce this risk by a quarter in a large group of early-stage survivors, offering patients new hope. Results from a clinical trial were presented Friday at the American Society of Clinical Oncology's (ASCO) annual meeting.

REFLECTING ON PROGRESS TOWARDS TACKLING PERIOD POVERTY IN SA

Health-e News | 5 June 2023

The onset of menstruation means a new phase – and new vulnerabilities – in the lives of adolescents. Yet, many adolescent girls face not only physical changes and menstrual pain, but are also confronted with period poverty, stigma, harassment and social exclusion during menstruation. In addition, lack of access to menstrual hygiene products and accurate information are some of the major barriers depriving many young girls of their right to health, dignity and education.

South Africa: Cholera Death Toll Reaches 26

allAfrica | 5 June 2023

So far, 26 people have died from cholera, the newest victim hailing from the epicentre of the bacterial disease in Hammanskraal, Tshwane. As of Friday afternoon the national Department of Health confirmed that 26 people have died since the outbreak two weeks ago. More provinces surrounding Hammanskraal are slowly recording cases, too, with Mpumalanga recording its first death last week. Scrolla.Africa

reported that the first case of cholera in Mpumalanga was detected on Thursday. A 73-year-old patient from Mpumalanga was admitted to Mamatlake Hospital, close to Hammanskraal. Health department communications head Foster Mohale said: "The department is doing trace findings with a strong possibility that the Mpumalanga case is directly linked to the Hammanskraal outbreak."

NICD warns against 'swine flu' term as influenza cases spike across SA

IOL | 5 June 2023

The National Institute for Communicable Diseases has reported an increase in flu cases across the country in recent weeks with cluster cases reported in schools and workplaces. However, the NICD has warned that "Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, which is sometimes incorrectly referred to as 'swine flu' has been one of the circulating seasonal influenza strains following its emergence in 2009. "The term 'swine flu' should not be used as it causes unnecessary panic. The clinical course of infection and management of this strain is similar to other influenza strains," the institute said.

Tuberculosis – why it remains a major global public health challenge

PM Live | 5 June 2023

Tuberculosis (TB) continues to be a major global public health challenge despite being a disease of antiquity. In fact, up to a quarter of the world's population is latently infected with TB, 10.6 million fell ill from it in 2021 and 1.6 million people lost their lives to this curable disease, making it the second-leading infectious killer after COVID-19, according to the World Health Organization. The disease burden remains greatest in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), which account for 98% of reported TB cases.

New data from the nationwide INSPIRE study shows Long COVID is not a singular condition

News Medical Life Science | 5 June 2023

The latest data from the nationwide INSPIRE study assessing the long-term symptoms and outcomes of the COVID-19 virus in nearly 6000 participants identifies four clinically distinct symptom presentations (phenotypes), adding to the growing body evidence that Long COVID is not singular condition but rather a range of conditions that may evolve, and typically improve, over time. Lead author Michael Gottlieb, MD, says this better understanding of the clinically distinct manner that patients experience post-COVID-19 complications is an important step towards both patients and clinicians being able to better identify and manage persistent, post-COVID 19 symptoms.

[WATCH] How two women are changing the way trans women are treated

Bhekisisa | 5 June 2023

How would you feel if you visit a clinic because you're sick, but the doctor or nurse who helps you, laughs at you, rather than treats you? That's the kind of treatment people like Luyanda Mzimela and Viyonce Mabena frequently get. Mzimela and Mabena are transgender women, so they were classified as male when they were born, but identify as female. Trans women have a higher risk than the general population to contract HIV. Health workers who discriminate against trans women fuel the spread of HIV. This abuse stops transgender women from going to clinics and hospitals to get tested, treated or protected. Mzimela and Mabena now host workshops to change health workers' attitudes, so they focus on transgender people's health needs rather than their appearance. Our TV team paid them a visit.

Hepatitis B is a life-threatening liver infection – our machine learning tool could help with early detection

The Conversation | 5 June 2023

More than 296 million people worldwide live with hepatitis B, a potentially life-threatening liver infection caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV). Most don't know they are infected, so they don't get medical care. Clinical care improves the patient's outcome and can prevent them from infecting others. Early detection of HBV-infected patients could therefore improve patient prognosis and stop transmission within populations.

People with HIV have greater risk of ill health than others after hepatitis C cure

Aidsmap | 6 June 2023

People with HIV who were cured of hepatitis C remained at higher risk of a number of serious health outcomes including liver disease and heart disease than people without HIV in the five years after being

cured, even after controlling for liver disease stage, the AIDS Clinical Trials Group reports in the journal *Open Forum Infectious Diseases*. Similarly, French researchers found that even after excluding people with cirrhosis of the liver, people with HIV who were cured of hepatitis C remained at higher risk of several serious health outcomes than people with HIV who had never had hepatitis C. HIV speeds up the liver damage caused by hepatitis C, leading to an increased risk of decompensated cirrhosis and death from liver failure in people with HIV and hepatitis C. Curing hepatitis C with direct-acting antiviral treatment halts liver damage, but studies have shown mixed results regarding the capacity of the liver to regenerate after hepatitis C is cured.

NICD urges people with comorbidities to be extra cautious

SABC News | 6 June 2023

The National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) says it is concerned by the high number of influenza transmissions since the start of May this year. The NICD says its surveillance programme that monitors flu transmissions in all the nine provinces in the country, compared flu levels year on year, and this year's transmission rate is higher than average. It has called on those with comorbidities to be extra cautious.

Experts investigate the potential impacts of a midwifery education app

News Medical Life Science | 6 June 2023

An international research team from Tanzania and Japan created a smartphone app and conducted a pilot study of how the app might be used to improve midwives' knowledge and skills in Tanzania. Their study focused on the app's potential effects on the learning outcomes of midwives and birth preparedness of pregnant women in Tanzania. The team's work is published in the journal *PLOS ONE* on March 31, 2023.

Brazil hosts the announcement of the Global Council on Inequality, AIDS and Pandemics

Unaids | 6 July 2023

UNAIDS launching group to generate evidence on the inequalities driving pandemics and advocate for the adoption of multisectoral approaches to strengthen the response to AIDS and other pandemics. BRASILIA/GENEVA, 6 June 2023—Brazil is hosting the announcement of the new Global Council on Inequality, AIDS and Pandemics chaired by The First Lady of Namibia, Monica Geingos, the Director of the University College London Institute for Health Equity, Sir Michael Marmot and the Nobel prize winning economist, Joseph E. Stiglitz. Brazil's Minister of Health, Nísia Trindade, is a founding member.

[WATCH] How to diagnose & treat cholera: A guide for health workers

Bhekisisa | 6 June 2023

Health workers in all South Africa's clinics and hospitals should keep their eyes peeled for signs of cholera in their patients, according to the health department. Not all people with cholera will experience nausea, but any child or adult who has watery diarrhoea could be infected and should be treated quickly. This short video pulls together expert tips to help doctors and nurses detect the disease. You'll also find tips for which medicines to use and which to avoid.

Is there cholera in my water?

Bhekisisa | 7 June 2023

- Tests done on water taken downstream of a manhole from which sewage leaks into the Vaal River came back positive for cholera.
- South Africa's drinking water is drawn from rivers like the Vaal, but it goes through a strict disinfection process to make it safe for human use.
- But a report showed that in 2021, only 40% of the facilities in the country that disinfect water meet the standard for keeping water germ-free.
- Because these waterworks don't treat and check their water to the legal standard, disease-causing bacteria (like cholera) could end up in tap water.

Toward a Definition of Long COVID

Poz | 7 June 2023

For many people, a bout with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, doesn't end when the initial

symptoms subside. An array of problems may linger for months or years after infection. They can affect nearly every tissue and organ in the body. Their effects can range from mild to disabling. These lingering health problems have become known as long COVID, or postacute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 infection (PACS). Studies to test potential therapies for PACS have been hampered by the lack of a standard definition of the condition. It also hasn't been clear whether different sets of long COVID symptoms may reflect distinct syndromes that need different treatments.

People on Modern HIV Treatment Can Have a Near-Normal Life Expectancy

Poz | 7 June 2023

People with HIV who use effective modern antiretroviral therapy (ART) and maintain a high CD4 T-cell count can expect to live nearly as long as HIV-negative people in the general population, according to study results published in *The Lancet HIV*. But those with a low CD4 count do not fare as well, underscoring the need to start treatment before serious immune system damage occurs. "For people with HIV on ART and with high CD4 cell counts who survived to 2015 or started ART after 2015, life expectancy was only a few years lower than that in the general population, irrespective of when ART was started," the study authors wrote. "However, for people with low CD4 counts at the start of follow-up, life-expectancy estimates were substantially lower, emphasizing the continuing importance of early diagnosis and sustained treatment of HIV."

Thousands of new HIV and Hepatitis cases identified thanks to NHS testing pilot

NHS England | 7 June 2023

Almost 2,000 people living with HIV and Hepatitis who were previously undiagnosed have been identified by the NHS over the last year, thanks to a new testing pilot. Under the NHS programme, people visiting an A&E who are having blood taken as part of their visit have an extra sample of blood taken, which is screened for HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C. If the test comes back positive for HIV or Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, the patient is offered specialist support and a treatment plan is agreed with them. Around 470 people living with blood borne viruses, such as HIV or hepatitis B or C, who were previously diagnosed, but not receiving NHS care, were identified following emergency department testing; and given the chance to complete treatment.

In-depth: Are measles, mumps, and diphtheria outbreaks harbingers of worse to come?

Spotlight | 8 June 2023

So far this year the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) has issued reports on three different outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases – measles, mumps, and diphtheria. These outbreaks were not unexpected. As **previously reported**, experts have been warning about the potential for an outbreak of vaccine-preventable diseases among children due to declining immunisation rates during the COVID-9 pandemic, which came on top of immunisation coverage rates that weren't great to begin with.

How to get ARVs delivered to your home in the rural Eastern Cape

Bhekisisa | 9 June 2023

In South Africa's rural areas, people often face a long, arduous journey to get to a clinic where they can pick up their HIV medicines. Not taking the drugs regularly will mean that the person's health suffers, which can make it even harder to make the trip. The Bulungula Incubator in the rural Eastern Cape has figured out how to set up a medicine pick-up point closer to people's homes. They've learned three things about how their project works best for the people it was set up to help.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust Bulletin

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

Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust 60percent

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

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

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

As a member, you will:

- Gain access to cutting-edge research, resources, and best practices
- Connect with public health professionals from around the country
- Participate in educational events and conferences
- Contribute to shaping the future of public health
- Have access to mentors in the field
- Be at the forefront of advocacy initiatives.

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

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2024: ALBERTINA SISULU EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM IN HEALTH (ASELPH) FELLOWSHIP A UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT IN EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 30th June 2023

The Albertina Sisulu Executive Leadership Program in Health (ASELPH) is a unique collaborative program through the University of Pretoria that was jointly developed and initially implemented with contributions from the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health, and the National and Provincial Departments of Health in South Africa. A key aim is to improve the South African health system through the training of health workers to become exceptional executive leaders, who are better able to drive local health system strengthening and performance.

The Program is focussed on developing Executives (middle and senior health system managers or clinicians) for the unique environment and challenges of the South African health system; this 120 credit (1200 learning hours) postgraduate diploma covers modules in Leadership, Ethics, Strategic Planning, Health sector Transformation, Decentralization & health service re-engineering; Complex Problem Solving, Financial Management, Human Resources For Health, Quality Improvement, Strategic Marketing and Communication and Monitoring and Evaluation. Innovative teaching and learning approaches include peer learning, case study methodology, reflective learning and mentorship. Each Fellow completes a research project and 12 core and elective modules. These are provided through a hybrid learning approach which includes pre-module online work, a 3-day contact class per module at the University of Pretoria and post module assignments. In all, there are approximately 35 contact class days in 6 blocks (Mon-Sat) over a calendar year.

This is a call for applications for the 6th cohort of the Albertina Sisulu Executive Leadership Program in Health starting in January 2024 at the University of Pretoria. This is a part-time Postgraduate Diploma in Health Systems Management in Executive Leadership.

Target Group: Those in middle and senior management and leadership positions, including clinicians, in the health system are encouraged to apply. Applicants from NGOs, technical agencies and the private health sector are also welcome to apply for the training programme. Preference is for current public health sector employees.

Minimum Requirements for Admission are a three-year University Bachelor's Degree (NQF 7 or above) and a minimum of four years management experience in the health sector.

Partial or Full Tuition Bursaries may be available for public health sector employees, while it is anticipated that relevant Departments of Health will cover travel and accommodation costs. This includes applicants from provincial health services as well as municipal health services.

Preference is for current South African public health sector employees and will be for those who have not had any previous post graduate training in public health, management or leadership programs and/or those who have not benefited from any prior health sector financial support for any form of training.

Application and Selection Process: All SA public health sector officials eligible for consideration will be subjected to a joint Provincial DOH / ASELPH Recruitment, Interview and Selection process. Applications, together with supporting documents (ID, CV, motivation letter and copy of qualifications labelled with prospective applicant's student number) must be submitted online at: https://upnet.up.ac.za/psc/upapply/EMPLOYEE/SA/c/UP_OAP_MENU.UP_OAP_LOGIN.GBL

For further information contact Mr Lesiba Mpati at lesiba.mpati@up.ac.za

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

South African Health Review 2021

Health Systems Trust | 2021

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

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

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

South African Health Review 2023 Call for Abstracts: STRENGTHENING CANCER SERVICES

The National Cancer Strategic Framework 2017 – 2022 reflects the country's commitment to reduce the burden of cancer amongst all its citizens. South Africa has struggled to provide services for effective

cancer prevention, treatment, and care. Children and adults alike often present at advanced stages of disease. Hence, increasing cancer incidence, high mortality rates, severe morbidity among cancer survivors, and unequal access to cancer prevention, treatment, and care remain critical challenges in South Africa. This burden is exacerbated among communities who are also faced with poverty, disadvantage and inequitable access to health services more generally. The COVID-19 pandemic has also exacerbated pre-existing inequities in cancer care.

The editors of the 2023 South African Health Review (SAHR) invite the submission of abstracts that investigate the successes, challenges and gaps in cancer treatment and care within the South African healthcare system.

This first issue devoted exclusively to cancer will focus on acquiring a deeper understanding of the systemic cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment challenges in South Africa. It seeks to also enable the sharing of innovations, strategies and lessons that may increase community engagement, health literacy, timely presentation, and improve treatment completion and wellness.

Abstracts that focus on cancer prevention, screening, and early diagnosis at community level, access to quality surgery and oncology therapies, and rehabilitation, community re-integration, and palliative care systems are encouraged.

Preference will be given to abstracts that:

- examine the successes, challenges, and shortfalls of the 2017-2022 National Cancer Strategic Framework;
- examine innovations and learnings emerging from the current management of cancer services within the public and private health sector that will improve access and lead to better outcomes;
- explore lessons learned and recommendations on how to integrate cancer interventions with other key public health programmes;
- share patient-relevant measures, approaches and innovations in cancer care that strengthen community level services that lead to increased patient satisfaction, reduced inequalities and better treatment completion.

Please take note of the following:

- The body of the abstract may not exceed 300 words.
- To submit an abstract, please use our **online template** (<https://forms.gle/9tVKZtHYdaoFxnj26>)
- Submission of an abstract for the SAHR does not guarantee acceptance. All abstracts will undergo a systematic selection process.

Closing Date: Monday, 19 June 2023

For more information visit: www.hst.org.za or contact sahr@hst.org.za

The Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) – call for abstracts extended until 12 June!!!

Welcome to PHASA 2023

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's theme: 'Transforming research translation- reimagining public health evidence, policies, and practice'

Public health practitioners, programmes, and systems work to create more effective and sustainable solutions to public health challenges, based on the best available evidence and focusing on equity, social justice, and community engagement. Recent experiences, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighted the need for a fundamental shift in how research evidence is generated and translated into public health policies and practice. This calls for new and innovative approaches to bridge the gap between research and action, and highlights the importance of partnerships between researchers, policymakers, and communities.

The 2023 Public Health Association of South Africa's (PHASA) 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.

For more information go to the PHASA Conference 2023 website - <https://phasa.samrc.ac.za/>

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.

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

There are currently no vacancies at the Health Systems Trust

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