

HST Bulletin_15 June 2023

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CATEGORIES

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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS and associated factors among adolescent girls in Rwanda: a nationwide cross-sectional study

BMC Infectious Diseases | 7 June 2023

Joseph Kawuki, Ghislaine Gatasi, Quraish Sserwanja, David Mukunya and Milton W. Musaba

Limited comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS is highlighted as one of the major factors linked to the high prevalence of HIV among adolescents and young girls. Thus, it is crucial to identify factors that facilitate or hinder adolescent girls from having comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS. We, therefore, assessed the prevalence of comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS and associated factors among adolescent girls in Rwanda.

Public Health Experts Advise Clinicians to Be on the Lookout for New Mpox Cases

Jama Network | 7 June 2023

Preeti N. Malani, MD, MSJ

As cities rev up for summer festivals, Pride celebrations, or other large events, public health officials have warned clinicians that the season could also bring a resurgence in mpox cases. In May, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a health alert cautioning that community transmission is ongoing. Case in point: during a recent 3-week period, the Chicago Department of Public Health received reports of 1 probable and 12 confirmed mpox cases. By mid-May, the case count had risen to 21, Demetre Daskalakis, MD, MPH, deputy director of the White House national mpox response, said during a CDC press briefing.

Mental health and adherence to antiretroviral therapy among Mexican people living with HIV during the COVID-19 pandemic

AIDS Research and Therapy | 7 June 2023

Ester Gutiérrez-Velilla, Vania Barrientos-Casarrubias, María Gómez-Palacio Schjetnan, Lydia E. Perrusquia-Ortiz, Rosa Cruz-Maycott, et al.

The mental health and medical follow-up of people living with HIV (PLWH) have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The objectives of this study were to assess anxiety, depression and substance use

in Mexican PLWH during the pandemic; to explore the association of these symptoms with adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART), and to compare patients with and without vulnerability factors (low socioeconomic level, previous psychological and/or psychiatric treatment).

Identifying at risk populations amongst breast cancer survivors and their common symptoms and concerns

BCM Women's Health | 8 July 2023

Pooja Roy, Iuliia Kovalenko, Janet Chan Gomez, Kit Lu, Beth Rudge, Yijin Wert et al.

The survival rate amongst breast cancer survivors (BCS) have been increasing, with a 5-year survival rate of almost 90%. These women face many quality of life (QOL) issues either due to either cancer itself or the complex treatment regimen. Our retrospective analysis aims to identify at risk populations among the BCS and their most common concerns.

Community engagement among forest goers in a malaria prophylaxis trial: implementation challenges and implications

Malaria Articles | 8 June 2023

Franca Conradis-Jansen, Rupam Tripura, Thomas J. Peto, James J. Callery, Bipin Adhikari, et al.

Malaria transmission in Southeast Asia is increasingly confined to forests, where marginalized groups are exposed primarily through their work. Anti-malarial chemoprophylaxis may help to protect these people. This article examines the effectiveness and practical challenges of engaging forest-goers to participate in a randomized controlled clinical trial of anti-malarial chemoprophylaxis with artemether-lumefantrine (AL) versus a control (multivitamin, MV) for malaria in northeast Cambodia.

HIV infection and engagement in the care continuum among migrants and refugees from Venezuela in Colombia: a cross-sectional, biobehavioural survey

The Lancet HIV | 8 June 2023

Andrea L Wirtz, José Rafael Guillén, Megan Stevenson, Jennifer Ortiz, Miguel Ángel Barriga Talero, et al.

Venezuela has experienced substantial human displacement since 2015. To inform HIV programmes and treatment distribution, we aimed to estimate HIV prevalence and associated indicators among migrants and refugees from Venezuela residing in Colombia, the largest receiving country.

An aerobic exercise intervention to improve metabolic health among people living with HIV with at-risk alcohol use: the ALIVE-Ex research study protocol

Aids Research and Therapy | 9 June 2023

Liz Simon, Stefany D. Primeaux, Danielle E. Levitt, Brianna Bourgeois, Neil M. Johannsen, et al.

Effective antiretroviral therapy (ART) in people living with HIV (PLWH) has improved life expectancy and increased risk of age-associated cardiometabolic comorbidities. At-risk alcohol use is more frequent among PLWH and increases the risk of health challenges. PLWH with at-risk alcohol use are more likely to meet criteria for prediabetes/diabetes and this is associated with impaired whole-body glucose-insulin dynamics.

Increased prevalence of depression and anxiety among adults initiating antiretroviral therapy during the COVID-19 pandemic in Shinyanga region, Tanzania

Aids Research and Therapy | 10 June 2023

Solis Winters, Amon Sabasaba, Carolyn A. Fahey, Laura Packel, Emmanuel Katabaro, et al.

Concerns about the interconnected relationship between HIV and mental health were heightened during the COVID-19 pandemic. This study assessed whether there were temporal changes in the mental health status of people living with HIV presenting for care in Shinyanga region, Tanzania. Specifically, we compared the prevalence of depression and anxiety before and during COVID-19, with the goal of describing the changing needs, if any, to person-centered HIV services.

Quality indicators for appropriate antibiotic prescribing in urinary tract infections in children

BMC Infectious Diseases | 12 June 2023

Konstantinos Vazouras, Charlotte Jackson, Laura Folgori, Anastasia Anastasiou-Katsiardani, Yingfen Hsia & Romain Basmaci

The aim of this study was to define a set of urinary tract infections (UTIs)-specific quality indicators for

appropriate prescribing in children and evaluate clinical practices in a district general hospital in Greece.

Factors associated with pediatric febrile illnesses in 27 countries of Sub-Saharan Africa

BMC Infectious Diseases | 12 June 2023

Paddy Ssentongo, Vernon M. Chinchilli, Khush Shah, Thaddeus Harbaugh & Djibril M. Ba

Evidence on the relative importance of various factors associated with febrile illness in children and their heterogeneity across countries can inform the prevention, identification, and management of communicable diseases in resource-limited countries. The objective of the study is to assess the relative significance of factors associated with childhood febrile illness in 27 sub-Saharan African countries.

Three-year outcomes for women newly initiated on lifelong antiretroviral therapy during pregnancy – Malawi option B+

Aids Research and Therapy | 12 June 2023

Maganizo B. Chagomerana, Bryna J. Harrington, Bethany L. DiPrete, Shaphil Wallie, Madalitso Maliwichi, et al.

Antiretroviral therapy (ART) is very effective in preventing vertical transmission of HIV but some women on ART experience different virologic, immunologic, and safety profiles. While most pregnant women are closely monitored for short-term effects of ART during pregnancy, few women receive similar attention beyond pregnancy. We aimed to assess retention in care and clinical and laboratory-confirmed outcomes over 3 years after starting ART under Malawi's Option B+ program.

Predictors of PrEP awareness, PrEP discussion and interest in long-acting injectable PrEP among Filipina transfeminine adults

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 12 June 2023

Transfeminine adults are impacted by the HIV epidemic in the Philippines, and newly approved modalities of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), including long-acting injectable (LAI-PrEP), could be beneficial for this group. To inform implementation, we analysed PrEP awareness, discussion and interest in taking LAI-PrEP among Filipina transfeminine adults.

Sexual violence and antiretroviral adherence among women of reproductive age in African population-based surveys: the moderating role of the perinatal phase

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 12 June 2023

Leah A Schrubbe, Heidi Stöckl, Abigail M Hatcher, Clara Calvert

Women face challenges in antiretroviral therapy (ART) adherence and achieving viral suppression despite progress in the expansion of HIV treatment. Evidence suggests that violence against women (VAW) is an important determinant of poor ART adherence in women living with HIV (WLH). In our study, we examine the association of sexual VAW and ART adherence among WLH and assess whether this association varies by whether women are pregnant/breastfeeding or not.

Stand-alone model for delivery of oral HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis in Kenya: a single-arm, prospective pilot evaluation

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 12 June 2023

Katrina F Ortblad, Peter Mogere, Victor Omollo, Alexandra P Kuo, Magdaline Asewe, et al.

The delivery of daily, oral HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) at private pharmacies may overcome barriers to PrEP delivery at public healthcare facilities, including HIV-associated stigma, long wait times and overcrowding.

Why do Integrated Maternal HIV and Infant Healthcare Services work? A Secondary Analysis of a Randomised Controlled Trial in South Africa

AIDS and Behavior | 12 June 2023

Kirsty Brittain, Karryn Brown, Tamsin Phillips, Allison Zerbe, Jennifer Pellowski, et al.

In a randomised trial, we found that integrated maternal HIV and infant health services through the end of breastfeeding were significantly associated with the primary outcome of engagement in HIV care and viral suppression at 12 months postpartum, compared to the standard of care. Here, we quantitatively explore potential psychosocial modifiers and mediators of this association. Our findings suggest that the intervention was significantly more effective among women experiencing an unintended pregnancy but did

not improve outcomes among women reporting risky alcohol use. Although not statistically significant, our results suggest that the intervention may also be more effective among women experiencing higher levels of poverty and HIV-related stigma. We observed no definitive mediator of the intervention effect, but women allocated to integrated services reported better relationships with their healthcare providers through 12 months postpartum. These findings point to high-risk groups that may benefit the most from integrated care, as well as groups for whom these benefits are hampered and that warrant further attention in intervention development and evaluation.

Sero-prevalence of hepatitis viral infections among sanitary workers across worldwide: a systematic review and meta-analysis

BMC Infectious Diseases | 13 June 2023

Sina Tolera, Dechasa Adare Mengistu, Fekade Ketema Alemu, Abraham Geremew, Yohannes Mulugeta, et al.

Sanitation or sanitary workers are exposed to hepatitis virus infections because of filthy and dangerous working conditions. The current global systematic review and meta-analysis aimed to estimate the pooled sero-prevalence of occupationally associated hepatitis virus infection among them.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

UN Equips Women With HIV/AIDS On Leadership Skills, Others

Leadership | 7 June 2023

The United Nations Women in collaboration with the Association of Women Living with HIV and AIDS in Nigeria (ASHWAN), have reiterated steps to integrate best practices into the lives of women living with HIV/AIDS. The UN's collaboration with ASHWAN in providing leadership and governance training for women living with HIV/AIDS showcases a commitment to promoting inclusivity and equipping individuals with the necessary skills to contribute effectively to their communities.

New data indicates 30% decline in vaccine confidence

IOL | 8 July 2023

As South Africa marks Children and Youth Month this June, it is important to remember the critical role vaccines play in protecting vulnerable children from preventable diseases. In recent years, the country has seen many deaths of children due to not being vaccinated, highlighting the pressing need to prioritise vaccination efforts. The Department of Health has launched campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of vaccinations for children. The vaccines aim to protect children from diseases such as tuberculosis, measles, polio and hepatitis B, all of which can lead to severe illness or even death.

Study shows that pregnant women prefer injectable PrEP

IOL | 8 June 2023

These findings have emerged as the injectable PrEP becomes available in South Africa and Kenya. Both these countries have high coverage of PrEP. This is according to a study done by international researchers including a group from the University of Cape Town. PrEP is a medicine that can help prevent HIV and is said to lower the chances by 99%. Injectable cabotegravir received regulatory approval in South Africa in December last year and is pending approval in Kenya.

People with HIV, especially women, may have a higher prevalence of dementia as they age

Aidsmap | 8 June 2023

The likelihood of developing dementia increases with age in the general US population, as well as in people living with HIV in the US. However, a new study suggests that people with HIV aged over 75 may experience a higher prevalence of dementia compared to the general population—with the largest gap seen in women. Growing older is the highest risk factor for developing dementia — when cognitive impairment becomes severe enough to affect a person's ability to perform everyday tasks. For example, the prevalence of Alzheimer's disease and related dementia doubles every five years after one reaches

the age of 65.

Should I get the flu vaccine? South African experts say yes - here's why

The Conversation | 9 June 2023

The winter months are synonymous with the flu in South Africa. Similar to other countries in the southern hemisphere, South Africa has an annual influenza season stretching from April to August. Influenza (flu) is an acute respiratory illness caused by an infection of the respiratory tract with the influenza virus. Influenza is spread through respiratory droplets which you breathe in or can pick up from contaminated surfaces. People infected with the influenza virus show a wide range of symptoms such as sudden onset of fever, muscle pains and body aches, cough, sore throat, blocked or runny nose and headache. For most people, recovering from flu involves a few days of mild symptoms which resolve with symptomatic treatment. But for some, the flu can be deadly

Delivering effective and accountable mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) during emergencies and beyond

WHO | 9 June 2023

War, armed conflict, and natural disasters such as the recent Türkiye and Syria earthquakes cause profound distress, and can cause or exacerbate mental health conditions. Although most people will recover without help, an estimated 1 in 5 people will experience a mental health condition in the next 10 years.

The prevalence of cardiovascular disease among women living with HIV

IOL | 11 June 2023

The cardiovascular system, which transports oxygen and nutrients to every part of your body and removes waste from it, is made up of your heart, blood arteries, and blood itself. A variety of illnesses that have an impact on the heart and circulation are categorised as cardiovascular disease. These include heart attack, deep vein thrombosis, stroke, and coronary heart disease (the silent killer).

Gender-based violence in food systems

Nature Food | 12 June 2023

Gender-based violence (GBV) is an important and pervasive global health and human rights issue whereby prevalence rates have remained unchanged for a decade. However, the relationship between GBV and food systems — the complex networks of people and activities involved in food, from production to consumption — lacks recognition in food systems research and policy. For both moral and practical reasons, GBV needs to be part of food system conversations, research and policy, so that the food sector can respond to global calls for action to address GBV.

HIV care for migrant women in South Africa: the gaps and 5 steps towards offering better services

The Conversation | 12 June 2023

Around 8.45 million people in South Africa live with HIV – an estimated 13.9% of the population. Of South African women aged 15-49, approximately 24% are HIV positive. The roll-out of services to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV has been notably successful in reducing the rate of transmission. But there are still gaps in the delivery of HIV treatment and prevention. A case in point is migrant women. People who move across national borders or between regions and provinces are particularly easy for healthcare systems to miss. And there's no integrated system of tracking them.

Antiretroviral treatment efficiently suppresses penile HIV replication

News Medical Life Science | 12 June 2023

Of the 38 million people worldwide living with HIV, approximately 700,000 are newly infected men, primarily via sexual transmission. Sexually transmitted HIV infections in exclusively heterosexual men are acquired through the penis. In addition, semen which is produced in the male genital tract (MGT) has been recognized as the primary vector for vaginal and rectal HIV transmission. Notably, the risk of sexual HIV transmission increases with the presence of a concurrent sexually transmitted infection.

More than one in 10 women struggle to bond with their baby, survey shows

The Guardian | 12 June 2023

More than one in 10 women struggle to bond with their baby, with the majority saying they are given no support from healthcare staff, a survey has found. Nearly three-quarters (73%) of women said they received no information or advice on bonding with their baby in the first few weeks after birth, despite guidance for doctors and nurses recommending that they assist with emotional attachment to encourage healthy child development.

Expert: Women's Health Is Part of Gender-Affirming Care

Pharmacy Times | 12 June 2023

In an interview with Pharmacy Times, Alex Mills, PharmD, BCACP, AAHIVP, assistant professor of pharmacy practice at the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy, discussed his presentation at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists 2023 Summer Meeting. Mills' session focuses on women's health and gender-affirming care, and pharmacists' roles in both.

MENTAL HEALTH: AN ADDED HEALTH BURDEN ON CANCER PATIENTS

Health-e News | 12 June 2023

Nomsa Tsingowe's first thought after doctors told her she could have cancer was to end her life. Tsingowe was just 23 years old and had landed a job as a social worker when she found out she had Osteosarcoma, a type of bone cancer.

First-ever audible sound of cancer cells being eradicated is recorded for oncology campaign

IOL | 12 June 2023

The WPP and the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), the top organisation for doctors and oncology specialists in the world, have partnered to reveal the first-ever audible sound of cancer cells being eradicated by cutting-edge technology, with one in three people now being diagnosed with the disease.

Millions of patients do not have full recovery of smell or taste senses after COVID infection, study finds

Medical Xpress | 12 July 2023

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many patients experienced a loss of taste and smell during and after being infected with SARS-CoV-2. A retrospective study by researchers at Massachusetts Eye and Ear, a member of the Mass General Brigham healthcare system, investigated the loss of olfactory and gustatory senses and estimated that about a quarter of Americans who had COVID-19 reported only partial or no recovery of taste or smell. The results are published in The Laryngoscope.

Are measles, mumps and diphtheria outbreaks harbingers of worse to come?

Times Live | 13 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-19 pandemic, which came on top of immunisation coverage rates that weren't great to begin with.

Frontline health facilities faltering without water, sanitation, hygiene and electricity – WHO, UNICEF

Unicef | 13 June 2023

Worldwide, millions of lives could be saved and billions in economic losses prevented through one simple, affordable intervention: water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services in health care facilities.

Wellness informs medical cover choices

Sunday Times | 13 June 2023

Medical aid schemes, the primary funders of private health care, are under growing pressure to find ways to manage the increased cost of health care while improving affordability and value for members. One way they are doing this is by shifting the focus from exclusively funding treatment for sickness to including wellness to help prevent or manage chronic health conditions before they become more serious and costly to treat.

A New Life: Improving health awareness through behaviour change communication

Reliefweb | 13 June 2023

In Jordan, there are many people who have the same story, who have experienced crises, and find themselves displaced. Refugee families have encountered different types of loss and despite finding refuge in Jordan, the high cost of accessing healthcare can make life very difficult. Medair has encountered families who struggle to support their basic needs, including healthcare, food, education and an income.

South Africa pursues universal health cover in face of headwinds

Reuters | 13 June 2023

South African lawmakers agreed a new health insurance bill on Tuesday, paving the way for universal healthcare to millions of poorer citizens in a major overhaul of a two-tier system. The National Health Insurance Bill (NHI) aims to level the playing field in the world's most unequal society, amid concerns its implementation will be undermined by widespread corruption and a weak economy struggling to fund basic services.

BREASTFEEDING: UNLEARNING POOR GENERATIONAL ADVICE

Health-e News | 13 June 2023

"This baby is getting hungry and not getting enough food! She's always crying because you're not giving her food so that she can grow well!" These words rang in the ears of first-time mom Thandi Mhlanga as she prepared soft porridge to feed her three-week-old baby. Mhlanga was diagnosed with diabetes during her first pregnancy. Filled with anxiety about managing the illness, she did not prepare for breastfeeding and all its potential challenges.

Minister Joe Phaahla statement post NHI debate in National Assembly

South African Government | 13 June 2023

Media briefing statement by Minister of Health, Dr Joe Phaahla, during post NHI debate in the National Assembly, Cape Town. The Ministry and Department of Health welcome the passing of the National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill by the National Assembly today. It has been a painstaking work in the past five years since the adoption of the White Paper on NHI 2017. A huge amount of work has been done in this regard to ensure that we arrive at this moment of reckoning in South Africa, that since the dawn of democracy the health sector is to undergo fundamental reform aiming at building an equitable, accessible, affordable, and strengthened healthcare system.

The time is ripe for a large-scale South African genome project

Mail & Guardian | 13 June 2023

Despite the proliferation of genomics research worldwide, less than 3% of participants in these studies are of African descent. This means that the genomic data of Africans is greatly underrepresented in international genomics research projects. This can have dire consequences in terms of improving population health and achieving precision medicine.

South African youth's mental health a concern in the digital space

IOL | 13 June 2023

IT security software company ESET Southern Africa's CEO, Carey van Vlaanderen, says increased exposure to harmful content, cyberbullying, age-inappropriate advertising, and data misuse in the digital space can be detrimental for the youth's mental well-being. Van Vlaanderen says there is also growing concern both internationally and in South Africa over the link between social media use and rising rates of teen depression and anxiety.

#SliceOfLife: I survived TB five years ago but the stigma still follows me around

Bhekisisa | 13 June 2023

"In 2010, my fiancé passed away from tuberculosis (TB). His doctors told me to go to the clinic immediately if I had symptoms like his. "So in 2012, when I started coughing and losing weight, I got tested. I was diagnosed with multidrug-resistant TB, a form of the disease for which one of the normal antibiotics, rifampin, does not work. "I was admitted to the Fort Grey TB hospital [which has since been closed] for three months."

Why there's no need to panic over the NHI bill: Discovery Health CEO

Business Tech | 14 June 2023

Ryan Noach, the CEO of Discovery Health, says that at this stage, there is no need to panic over the National Health Insurance Bill (NHI). Speaking to Newzroom Afrika, Noach said that the belief that the NHI bill, which aims to provide universal public healthcare, would decimate private healthcare, is a panicked reaction. He said there is still a long way to go until it affects private medical aid schemes.

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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

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

RESEARCH / PROFESSIONAL NURSE (FRESH)

Closing date: 23 June 2023

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