

HST Bulletin



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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

The impact of persistent precarity on patients' capacity to manage their treatment burden: A comparative qualitative study between urban and rural patients with multimorbidity in South Africa

PubMed Central | 30 March 2023

Myrna van Pinxteren, Nonzuzo Mbokazi, Katherine Murphy, Frances Mair, Carl May, et al.

People living with multimorbidity in low-and middle-income countries (LMICs) experience a high workload trying to meet the demands of self-management. In an unequal society like South Africa, many people face continuous economic uncertainty, which can impact on their capacity to manage their illnesses and lead to poor health outcomes. Using precariousness – the real and perceived impact of uncertainty – as a lens, this paper aims to identify, characterise, and understand the workload and capacity associated with self-management amongst people with multimorbidity living in precarious circumstances in urban and rural South Africa.

Risk of Death in Patients Hospitalized for COVID-19 vs Seasonal Influenza in Fall-Winter 2022-2023

JAMA Network | 6 April 2023

Yan Xie, Taeyoung Choi and Ziyad Al-Aly

In the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2 US studies suggested that people hospitalized for COVID-19 had nearly 5 times the risk of 30-day mortality compared with those hospitalized for seasonal influenza. Since then, much has changed, including SARS-CoV-2 itself, clinical care, and population-level immunity; mortality from influenza may have also changed. This study assessed whether COVID-19 remains associated with higher risk of death compared with seasonal influenza in fall-winter 2022-2023.

Knowledge, attitudes and awareness regarding donor breast milk: a cross-sectional study of mothers in a high HIV-prevalent area

Taylor & Francis Online | 11 April 2023

Hadebe Zamahlubi, Kimesh Naidoo, Fharnisa Khan and Refiloe Masekela

The use of donated expressed breast milk (DBM) is encouraged in South Africa, with donor milk banks and legislated policies and programmes available in hospitals serving populations with a high HIV prevalence. Concerns over poor attitudes amongst mothers towards DBM seem to persist.

HPV vaccine narratives on Twitter during the COVID-19 pandemic: a social network, thematic, and sentiment analysis

BMC | 17 April 2023

*Jean-Christophe Boucher, So Youn Kim, Geneviève Jessiman-Perreault, Jack Edwards, Henry **Smith, et al.***

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased online interactions and the spread of misinformation. Some researchers anticipate benefits stemming from improved public awareness of the value of vaccines while others worry concerns around vaccine development and public health mandates may have damaged public trust. There is a need to understand whether the COVID-19 pandemic, vaccine development, and vaccine mandates have influenced HPV vaccine attitudes and sentiments to inform health communication strategies.

Low maternal education increases the risk of Type 1 Diabetes, but not other autoimmune diseases: a mediating role of childhood BMI and exposure to serious life events

Scientific Reports | 15 April 2023

Pär Andersson White, Tomas Faresjö, Michael Jones and Johnny Ludvigsson

The objective of this paper was to investigate if socioeconomic status (SES), measured by maternal education and household income, influenced the risk of developing autoimmune disease (Type 1 Diabetes, Celiac disease, Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis, Crohn's disease, Ulcerative colitis, and autoimmune thyroid disease), or age at diagnosis, and to analyse pathways between SES and autoimmune disease. We used data from the All Babies in Southeast Sweden (ABIS) study, a population-based prospective birth cohort, which included children born 1997–1999. Diagnoses of autoimmune disease was collected from the Swedish National Patient Register Dec 2020.

Factors associated with low utilisation of cervical cancer screening among urban women in Lilongwe, Malawi: a cross sectional study

BMC | 17 April 2023

Patricia Kamanga, Bo Zhang & William Stones

In 2012, more than half a million women (528,000) were diagnosed with cervical cancer around the world. More than 80% of cervical cancer occurs in developing nations, such as Malawi, where estimates of the disease's burden show an incidence of 75.9 per 100,000 women and a mortality rate of 49.8 per 100,000 women (both age-adjusted). Despite its case fatality rate, cervical cancer can be avoided through immunization, early detection and screening. Malawi however, has low immunization and screening rates with coverage as low as 9% and 15%, respectively. Here our aim is to uncover factors that contribute to low utilization of cervical cancer screening services among women in Lilongwe, a large urban center.

Exploring computer-aided health decision-making on cervical cancer interventions through deliberative interviews in Ethiopia

NPJ Digital Medicine | 17 April 2023

Frithjof Sy, Astrid Berner-Rodoreda, Takelech Asnake, Misrak Getnet, Wondwossen Amogne, et al.

Cervical cancer is a significant disease burden in Ethiopia. Mathematical models and computer simulations on disease dynamics can support effective resource allocation. The objectives of this work are (i) to explore the perspectives of health decision-makers on computer-aided predictions supporting cervical cancer interventions, (ii) to identify their information needs from these predictions, and (iii) their willingness to apply the results in their work. We conducted deliberative interviews with 15 health decision-makers and advisors in Ethiopia in autumn 2019. We analyze the data using a five steps framework approach drawing on thematic analysis and find that Ethiopian health decision-makers are willing to use computer-aided predictions in their decisions. Data on HPV prevalence and the cervical cancer burden are scarce but valued highly and decision-makers are particularly interested in the identification of local HPV hotspots. Data-driven mathematical models and computer simulations may increasingly influence health decision-making in Ethiopia.

Breast Cancer Awareness Among Medical Students, University of Bisha, Saudi Arabia

Dove Medical Press | 17 April 2023

Elhadi Miskeen and Abdullah M Al-Shah

Breast cancer (BC) is a major public health concern, with high mortality and morbidity rates worldwide. About a quarter (25%) of cancers are diagnosed in women. The image is the same in both developed and developing nations. Nevertheless; BC contributes significantly to the health of Saudi women. A recent study yielded alarming results regarding Saudi women's awareness of BC, perception of risk factors, and preventive measures. A high incidence of BC was observed in central and western Saudi Arabia, with more deterioration mortality and morbidities are expected in Saudi Arabia. Reasonable beliefs and awareness of warning signs for breast cancer prevention will enable women and their families to develop ideas about breast cancer prevention. Negative perceptions of the curability of early detected cancer and the effectiveness of screening tests would lead to increased risk of morbidities and mortality related to BC.

COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance and Hesitancy in Health Care Workers in Somalia: Findings from a Fragile Country with No Previous Experience of Mass Adult Immunization

MDPI Vaccines | 17 April 2023

Abdulrazak Mohamed Ibrahim, Mohammad Hamayoun, Muhammad Farid, Umar Al-Umra, Mukhtar Shube, et al.

Coverage of COVID-19 vaccines in Somalia remains low, including among health workers. This study aimed to identify factors associated with COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among health workers. In this cross-sectional, questionnaire-based study, 1476 health workers in government and private health facilities in Somalia's federal member states were interviewed face-to-face about their perceptions of and attitudes toward COVID-19 vaccines. Both vaccinated and unvaccinated health workers were included. Factors associated with vaccine hesitancy were evaluated in a multivariable logistic regression analysis. Participants were evenly distributed by sex, and their mean age was 34 (standard deviation 11.8) years. The overall prevalence of vaccine hesitancy was 38.2%. Of the 564 unvaccinated participants, 39.0% remained hesitant.

HIV matters when diagnosing TB in young children: an ancillary analysis in children enrolled in the INPUT stepped wedge cluster randomized study

BMC Infectious Diseases | 17 April 2023

L Powell, L Denoeud-Ndam, N Herrera, R Masaba, B Tchounga, et al.

Children under age five years, particularly those living with HIV (CLHIV), are at risk for rapid progression of tuberculosis (TB). We aimed to describe TB clinical presentations, diagnostic pathways and treatment outcomes in CLHIV compared to children without HIV in Cameroon and Kenya.

Cost-effectiveness of the screen-and-treat strategies using HPV test linked to thermal ablation for cervical cancer prevention in China: a modeling study

BMC Medicine | 17 April 2023

Xue-Lian Zhao, Shuang Zhao, Chang-Fa Xia, Shang-Ying Hu, Xian-Zhi Duan, et al.

Self-sampling HPV test and thermal ablation are effective tools to increase screening coverage and treatment compliance for accelerating cervical cancer elimination. We assessed the cost-effectiveness of their combined strategies to inform accessible, affordable, and acceptable cervical cancer prevention strategies.

Clinical Characteristics and Outcomes among Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Patients with Cardiovascular Disease Who Were Hospitalized for COVID-19 in Brazil: Retrospective Cohort

MDPI Vaccines | 18 April 2023

Daniele Melo Sardinha, Ana Lúcia da Silva Ferreira, Ricardo José de Paula Souza e Guimarães, Karla Valéria Batista Lima and Luana Nepomuceno Gondim Costa Lima, et al.

Introduction: COVID-19 in Brazil has already caused, and it still causes, several impacts on health, economy, and education. The risk factors for death involved those with cardiovascular diseases (CVD), which were prioritized for the vaccination of COVID-19. Objective: To investigate the clinical characteristics and outcomes between vaccinated and unvaccinated patients with cardiovascular diseases

hospitalized for COVID-19 in Brazil in the year 2022. Methods: A retrospective cohort was analyzed from the year 2022, with cases being hospitalized by COVID-19 being drawn from SIVEP-GRIPE surveillance. We compared clinical characteristics, comorbidities, and outcomes between CVD carriers and non-carriers, and we also compared vaccinated with two doses vs. those that are unvaccinated in CVD carriers. We performed chi-square, odds ratio, logistic regression, and survival analysis. Results: We included, in the cohort, 112,459 hospital inpatients. An amount of 71,661 (63.72%) of the hospitalized patients had CVD.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

DNDi Offers Model for Pandemic Accord Negotiators on How Governments Can Leverage Drug R&D Investment

Health Policy Watch | 13 April 2023

When governments invest in drug research and development (R&D) with pharmaceutical companies, they should ensure upfront that these drugs are affordable and widely available – and a global pandemic accord needs to provide high-level guidance on how to do this. This is the view of the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi), a non-profit group that has led a series of successful drug development partnerships since it was set up 20 years ago to find new treatments for people living with neglected diseases.

Fully Funded HIV Response Will Decrease New Infections by 40% to 90%

Health Policy Watch | 13 April 2023

Ensuring that the HIV responses in countries receive full funding will not only lead to a 40% to 90% reduction in new infections but also result in substantial social and economic benefits, a new report launched by UNAIDS said. The socio-economic benefits countries with a fully financed HIV response will gain are higher educational outcomes, especially for young women and girls, eliminating gender inequalities and the development of human capital.

Major study turns spotlight on formula milk industry

Spotlight | 13 April 2023

The scientific evidence that exclusive breastfeeding is best for infants is very strong. Yet, some baby milk formula companies continue to use questionable methods to create demand for their products, thereby undermining breastfeeding. The issue was highlighted in a recent series of articles published in the peer-reviewed journal *The Lancet* that set out the economic and political power of the dominant formula companies and the alleged public policy failures that result in millions of women not breastfeeding as recommended. This, the authors say, has a negative impact on infants and their development. Exclusive breastfeeding for six months is recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) for optimal health and growth of infants, but it is not a common practice in South Africa.

FULLY FUNDING HIV RESPONSE KEY TO SAVING LIVES

Health-e News | 13 April 2023

Fully financing the HIV response in Africa to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 will save millions of lives and improve economic outcomes. But governments must act immediately. That's the message from new research and analysis conducted by Economist Impact in 13 African countries, including South Africa. The report titled *A triple dividend: The health, social, and economic gains from financing the HIV response in Africa*, compiled by UNAIDS reveals that fully financing the HIV response will not only save lives but also produce substantial health, social, and economic gains. The report, released Wednesday, warns failure to secure the required funding to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 will lead to substantial health, social, and economic costs. In 2022, SANAC estimated that 350,470 females aged 15-24 received an HIV diagnosis in South Africa. Investing more in HIV now will lead to fewer deaths, new infections, and improved education, and will free up resources for Universal Health Coverage.

THINK BLUE THIS AUTISM MONTH

Health-e News | 14 April 2023

Colour is a ubiquitous presence in our lives, from the bright shades of a beautiful sunset to the cool blues of a serene ocean. However, for the autism community, colour takes on a special significance as a symbol of hope, solidarity, and awareness writes Professor Juan Bornman. A rainbow-coloured infinity symbol is an international symbol for autism. It represents the vast range of autism symptoms and many challenges faced by these individuals but also their unlimited range of abilities. For the past 16 years, the autism community have embarked on the “Light It Up Blue” campaign in April to promote autism awareness worldwide.

Early detection remains key in cervical cancer elimination

WHO | 14 April 2023

Having been diagnosed with cervical cancer in December 2016, Busi Mawudzi (49), notes that even though “the treatment journey was not a walk in the park”, being diagnosed and getting treatment early made the journey a lot more bearable. “I had a backache and pain that would get to my pelvic area, was always fatigued and had heavy menstrual flow. I initially didn’t think of screening as I had a Pap-smear in 2014 but was later forced to because my symptoms got worse,” said Busi as she shared her journey. She adds “I was initially told I had pre-cancer lesions and opted for hysterectomy and during the procedure, the team noted I had stage 1 cancer. I then did my six cycles of chemotherapy and had 28 days of radiotherapy in June and July 2017.

Pharmaceutical CEOs to G7: Protect Intellectual Property Rights and Pathogen Access in WHO Pandemic Accord

Health Policy Watch | 14 April 2023

CEOs from the world’s largest pharmaceutical companies issued a call to G7 leaders on Friday to oppose the inclusion of intellectual property rights waivers and pathogen benefit sharing in the World Health Organization’s (WHO) pandemic treaty. In meetings with Japanese Prime Minister and chair of next month’s G7 summit Fumio Kishida this week, a delegation of 24 CEOs from the industry group, the Biopharmaceutical Roundtable (BCR), argued that the current draft of the pandemic accord would make the world less prepared for the next pandemic by threatening IP rights and slowing the pace of pathogen sequence sharing.

Here’s what happens when healthcare becomes a weapon of war

Bhekisisa | 14 April 2023

Emily and her colleague were driving their mobile health unit near the Thai-Myanmar border last October when military forces began pursuing them. The two health workers had planned to deliver treatment to those in need, “but in the middle of the route, we were found out by the junta soldiers, tracked, and followed, and they started shooting,” Emily recalled. Forced to abandon the rest of their unit, the pair ran into the jungle but got separated. Emily ended up taking a bullet to the shoulder.

Study Shows Birth Control Pills Can Still Be Effective Even With Far Fewer Hormones

Health digest | 14 April 2023

Birth control options have expanded substantially over time. According to 2020 survey data from the Kaiser Family Foundation, women use approximately 3.4 different forms of birth control over the course of their life. Many different types of contraceptives contain hormones such as either estrogen, progestin, or both (via Healthline). These hormones can be found in birth control rings, patches, shots, implants, oral pills, and more.

Report of the meeting of the WHO Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Vaccine Composition (TAG-CO-VAC) held on 16-17 March 2023

WHO | 14 April 2023

In June 2022, the TAG-CO-VAC published an interim statement highlighting that index virus-based vaccines continued to confer high levels of protection against severe disease caused by all SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern (VOCs), including Omicron. However, given the antigenic distance and uncertainties of further viral evolution, the TAG-CO-VAC recognized that it was likely that the effectiveness of vaccines based on the index virus would reduce over time. The TAG-CO-VAC therefore advised vaccine manufacturers and regulatory authorities to consider an update of vaccine antigen composition by

including Omicron, as the most antigenically distinct SARS-CoV-2 variant thus far, for administration as a booster dose. Multiple vaccine manufacturers have developed COVID-19 vaccines with an updated antigenic composition; this includes several bivalent mRNA-based vaccines containing earlier Omicron descendent lineages, in addition to the index virus (i.e., index virus + BA.1 or BA.4/5), which have been authorized for emergency use by regulatory authorities.

Sexual health: South Africa has the highest HIV/Aids rates globally

The Citizen | 16 April 2023

Regrettably, a much-needed focus on sexual health in South Africa has been eclipsed by discourse on the Covid pandemic and renewed efforts are urgently needed to kick-start the process. Failure to do so is likely to exacerbate current problems of contraction and transmission and lead to a new generation of affliction and debilitation – and the humanitarian, social and economic costs will be difficult to bear. That the sexual health issue has dropped off the public agenda is understandable, given the global nature of the virus and the need to manage and contain it.

World has 28% risk of new Covid-like pandemic within 10 years

Moneyweb | 16 April 2023

There's a 27.5% chance a pandemic as deadly as Covid-19 could take place in the next decade as viruses emerge more frequently, with rapid vaccine rollout the key to reducing fatalities, according to a predictive health analytics firm. Climate change, growth in international travel, increasing populations and the threat posed by zoonotic diseases contribute to the risk, according to London-based Airfinity. But if effective vaccines are rolled out 100 days after the discovery of a new pathogen, the likelihood of a deadly pandemic drops to 8.1%, according to the firm's modeling.

Vaccine safety surveillance in South Africa — how the system works in the individual and public health interest

Daily Maverick | 16 April 2023

Vaccines are among the 20th century's most successful and cost-effective public health tools for preventing disease, hospitalisation and death. Timely immunisation is one of the most important ways for people to protect themselves and those around them from serious diseases such as Covid-19, measles, pneumonia, tetanus and pertussis. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that immunisation prevents two to three million deaths every year.

Three health ministers in a row have failed SA's nurses. Here's why

Bhekisisa | 17 April 2023

Over the past twelve years, three consecutive South African health ministers have failed to update the rules that govern which drugs professional nurses are allowed to prescribe to patients — even though they didn't have to go through parliament to do it. Draft regulations that would let trained professional nurses prescribe and dispense schedule 5 and 6 medicines were published back in 2011 to get feedback from the public. All that remains is for the changed rules to be signed off, according to pharmacy and regulatory expert Andy Gray. He was speaking at a Twitter Spaces event hosted by Bhekisisa on 5 April.

Drugmakers Are Using mRNA to Build a New and Improved Flu Shot: Big Take Podcast

Bloomberg | 17 April 2023

Listen to The Big Take podcast on iHeart, Apple Podcasts, Spotify. It's estimated that half a million or more people around the world die of influenza each year. And many of these deaths could be prevented with a highly effective, widely used flu shot. Now, the mRNA technology we became familiar with during the development of the Covid vaccine is being used to create a new flu shot that promises to work better than the current hit-or-miss version. It also offers the potential to bundle covid, flu, and other common viruses into a single shot.

Long COVID incidence and severity no worse than post viral syndrome following seasonal influenza, study suggests

Medical Xpress | 17 April 2023

In the highly vaccinated population of Queensland exposed to the Omicron variant, long COVID appears to manifest as a post-viral syndrome of no greater incidence or severity than seasonal influenza,

according to new research being presented at this year's European Congress of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases (ECCMID) in Copenhagen, Denmark (15-18 April).

WHO's New Leadership Team Is a Mixed Bag of Political Appointees and Specialists

Health Policy Watch | 17 April 2023

Nearly a year after his appointment to a second term as WHO's Director General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has finished a revamp of his senior leadership team – keeping key loyalists in place, while adding new faces that are a clear nod to powerful member states such as China, France and Japan. But the new team members come with a mixed bag of experience – and some have hardly any experience at all in the areas to which they have been appointed, WHO insiders were quick to say in reaction to the new appointments.

Fringe Anti-vax Group Claims Court Challenge of Pfizer Vaccine – But No Papers Have Been Served on South African Government

Health Policy Watch | 17 April 2023

A South African group that promotes anti-Semitic conspiracy theories claims to have issued a high court application to challenge the authorisation of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine by the country's health minister and regulatory authority – but the health department has not been served with any legal papers. In a recent publicity drive, the Freedom Alliance of South Africa (FASA) released papers it claims to have lodged in the country's high court calling the authorisation of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine “unlawful”, and naming the South African health minister, regulatory authority SA Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) and Pfizer amongst its respondents.

Treatment as prevention works: HIV infections down by 66% in NSW and Victoria

Medical Xpress | 17 April 2023

Increasing treatment access and reducing undiagnosed infections is vital for combatting HIV, UNSW researchers have shown. A 10-year study into the impact of HIV "treatment as prevention" has found that a 27% increase in people accessing effective HIV treatment saw HIV infections decrease by 66% between 2010 to 2019, in NSW and Victoria. The findings, published today in *The Lancet HIV*, show the success of HIV treatment as prevention in reducing new HIV infections, especially when complemented by the availability of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and increased access to diagnostic testing.

Depression found to affect the care and survival of patients with breast cancer

Medical Express | 17 April 2023

In a recent study, having depression before or after a breast cancer diagnosis was associated with a lower likelihood of survival. The findings are published in the journal *Cancer*. For the study, Bin Huang, DrPH, of the University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center, and his colleagues analyzed data from the Kentucky Cancer Registry to identify adult women diagnosed with primary invasive breast cancer in 2007–2011. Using the health-claims-linked cancer registry data, the team classified patients as having no depression diagnosis, depression diagnosis only before cancer diagnosis, depression diagnosis only after cancer diagnosis, or persistent depression defined as depression before and after cancer diagnosis. The team also assessed patients' receipt of first course guideline-recommended treatment as indicated by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network breast cancer treatment guidelines.

PREPARE team lays ethical groundwork for study on pregnant teens

The WELL | 17 April 2023

Researchers from the UNC Center for Bioethics Promoting Equity for Pregnant Adolescents in Research team recently returned from a trip to Malawi and Botswana to begin preparing for qualitative research with pregnant adolescents either infected with HIV or considered at-risk. The PREPARE team hopes to inform ethics guidance for advancing research with the population, building on efforts made by the center's Pregnancy and HIV/AIDS Seeking Equitable Study team, which developed ethics guidance for ethical inclusion of pregnant people in HIV and co-infections research.

Despite dire warnings, Covid-19 did not cause significant spike in mental health problems

Daily Maverick | 17 April 2023

The Covid-19 pandemic and the mitigation strategies put in place to curb the spread of the virus caused

widespread economic and social disruptions, impacted people's daily lives, and impeded many individuals' ability to generate income. Indeed, many people will feel the brutal economic consequences of the pandemic for some time to come, and economists speculate that a global recession may follow on the heels of the pandemic. Mental health professionals and lay people alike anticipated that the pandemic would have a devastating impact on mental health. We were told to expect a tsunami of depression and suicide, while being warned about a second epidemic of mental health problems in the wake of the pandemic. But has this been the case?

Africa: Predicting Epidemics Isn't Easy. We've Created a Global Dataset to Help

All Africa | 17 April 2023

The world has recently seen a number of high-profile cross-border disease outbreaks and pandemics. The COVID pandemic and multi-country Mpox (monkeypox) outbreaks are just two examples. But there is very little scientific evidence that would give a clear picture of how fast and how often infectious diseases spread across countries. A key challenge for creating global disease data is the scattering of information. Low-income countries have limited statistical capacity to keep track of disease outbreaks. And datasets from various countries are difficult to combine due to different reporting standards.

Unitaid announces \$31 million investment to prevent hepatitis C in marginalized groups

Africa News | 18 April 2023

Global health initiative, Unitaid, says it is making a \$31 million investment to prevent hepatitis C among people who inject drugs, and other at-risk populations such as those in prison. Marginalized groups are disproportionately affected by the blood-borne disease, which can cause serious liver damage and cancer when left untreated. Four in ten people who inject drugs and one in four incarcerated individuals have active hepatitis C infections.

Advances May Pave the Way for an HCV Vaccine

Contagion Live | 18 April 2023

Eliminating viral hepatitis C as a major public health threat is likely to require a vaccine, which could also save billions of dollars. Anna Offersgaard, Jens Bukh and Judith Gottwein of the Copenhagen Hepatitis C Program (CO-HEP) outlined progress toward development of a HCV vaccine in a recent perspective in Science. Studies shedding light on HCV protective immunity and HCV envelope glycoprotein structure and function are key to efforts to develop an HCV vaccine.

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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.

USAID High Potential Grants for NGO-led Development Projects in 2023

Deadline: 11 May 2023

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has launched new grant opportunities to support organizations, individuals, and communities worldwide. Check out the list below and start applying!

Sub-Saharan Africa Women in Science - Call for Application 2023

To submit applications/nominations for this program, you must be logged in to your account. If you are unable to access the form once you are logged in, please refer to the "How do I apply for a program?" section of the FAQ.

Call for Application: Africa CDC – Pathogen Genomics and Bioinformatics Fellowship Program

The Africa CDC – Pathogen Genomics and Bioinformatics Fellowship Program is a continental workforce development program targeting national public health institutions and laboratories in the African Union Member States to improve the use of pathogen genomic data for outbreak detection and disease surveillance. The fellowship program is implemented in partnership with the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM), and regional centers of excellence.

Who should apply:

The program is open to National public health institutes (NPHIs) and National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) personnel who wish to gain experience in NGS sequencing or analyzing pathogen genomic sequence data. Applicants should have a minimum of BSc degree and be a citizen of the African Union Member States.

Fellowship Program:

- The fellowship has two tracks – i) a wet-lab track focusing on end-to-end protocols for next-generation sequencing of pathogens; and ii) a dry-lab track with a focus on public health bioinformatics data analytics, interpretation, and reporting.
- The fellowship program aims to support technical experts and future leaders in public health pathogen genomics and bioinformatics in Africa.
- Training led by continent-based educational and professional subject matter experts
- Training at State-of-the-art facilities across the continent
- Multilingual fellowship program

The fellowship program has the following objectives:

- To train pathogen genomics and bioinformatics workforce to improve outbreak detection, investigation & disease surveillance in Africa
- To contribute to strengthening the prevention, preparedness, surveillance, and control of infectious diseases while supporting the implementation of Africa's New Public Health Order
- To contribute to knowledge and technology transfers and capacity building within and between African Union Member States

Potential candidates and host institutions:

- We are anticipating at least 25 fellows for the 2023 cohort
- 15 host institutions across Africa. Applicants should provide evidence of the host institution's agreement to accept the fellow for the duration of the fellowship period. Africa CDC and ASLM will support fellows to identify host institutions.
- Only complete applications shall be evaluated by an independent selection committee and the outcome communicated to the applicants

Before applying read the documents below:

More details on the fellowship program

- **Information Booklet – Arabic**
- **Information Booklet – English**
- **Information Booklet – French**
- **Information Booklet – Portuguese**

How to apply:

- All interested participants should fill in the online application form based on the selected languages:
- Application form – English – <https://bit.ly/3KrHk9P>
- Application form – French – <https://bit.ly/3Mi6sRJ>

Application deadline: Friday, April 28, 2023, 5:00 PM (EAT)

Start of the fellowship: June 2023

Contact Information: For all inquiries, please contact: **Africa CDC – Africa PGI Help Desk**

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

Reaching the 95-95-95 targets: How can industry contribute?

Learning from both the success and failures towards reaching the 2020 targets is essential to increase the chance of ending AIDS as a global public health threat by 2030. Success will require commitment from all stakeholders in the HIV response. The Industry Liaison Forum at IAS – the International AIDS Society – is organizing a series of online roundtables to explore important gaps and how the biomedical industry can actively contribute to achieving the 95-95-95 target by 2025.

The series will have three events, each focusing on one of the specific 95-95-95 targets:

Session 1: "HIV testing strategies to reach key populations"

Session 2: "Ensuring linkage to and retention in care"

Session 3: "Overcoming global challenges: Achieving and sustaining viral suppression"

Time:

Apr 18, 2023 04:00 PM

May 4, 2023 04:00 PM

May 23, 2023 04:00 PM

Time shows in Zurich

The 5th Paediatric and Adolescent HIV Learning Collaborative for Africa (PAHLCA) Meeting in Maputo Mozambique

Dates: 7 - 8 May 2023

Time: 9:00pm - 5:00pm

The Paediatric and Adolescent HIV Learning Collaborative for Africa (PAHLCA) is hosting its first face-to-face event in Maputo from 7-8 May 2023. With the theme "Prevention of Vertical Transmission of HIV: A Key Pivot in Ending Paediatric HIV and AIDS," PAHLCA aims to:

1. Fostering learning, innovation, and collaboration among MOH programming teams and partners in African countries.
2. Providing a platform for sharing guidelines, implementation frameworks, curricula, toolkits, job aids, and client/caregiver information/education/communication materials that can be used to improve paediatric and adolescent HIV programs.
3. Maintaining an updated directory of Ministry of Health paediatric and adolescent HIV focal persons to facilitate communication, coordination, and sharing across countries.
4. Facilitating networking among country teams to form research collaborations for multi-country studies to improve paediatric and adolescent HIV services.

South African Nursing Council Indaba

Date: 18–19 May 2023

The South African Nursing Council (SANC) is pleased to welcome you to this key event where we will focus on The Future of Nursing. The SANC is a statutory body entrusted to set and maintain standards of Nursing Education and Practice in the Republic of South Africa, to protect the public. It is an autonomous, financially independent, statutory body operating under the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act No. 33 of 2005). The Council of the SANC is constituted in terms of the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act No. 33 of 2005). The tenure of the current and 16th Council of the SANC is from 2018 – 2023 and will end in August 2023. The Indaba program thus contains a focus on the milestones achieved by the 16th Council, and in addition, provides a wide variety of topics that affect Nursing as a whole.

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

CALLING ON COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT COMMUNITY MOBILISATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMMES FOR THE PREVENTION, ACTION AND CONTROL OF CERVICAL CANCER IN ZULULAND

Closing Date: 28 April 2023 @ 16: 30

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING (HSS) UNIT: DISTRICT MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E) OFFICER

Closing date: 2 May 2023 @ 16: 30

HEALTH SYSTEMS RESEARCH UNIT: RESEARCHER

Closing date: 5 May 2023 @ 16: 30

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