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CATEGORIES

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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Third delay and associated factors among women who gave birth at public health facilities of Gurage zone, southern Ethiopia

Ayenew Berihun, Teshome Abuka Abebo, Bethelhem Mezgebe Aseffa, Yilkal Simachew, Meskerem Jisso, et al.

BMC Women's Health | 13 July 2023

The third delay is a delay in accessing emergency obstetric care timely and appropriately once a woman reaches a health facility. The third delay plays a crucial role as an indicator to assess the quality of obstetrics services and is often the leading contributing factor to maternal mortality in developing countries. Although considerable research has been conducted on pre-facility delays in healthcare access, there is a lack of focus on delays experienced upon arrival at health facilities, particularly in Ethiopia and the specific study areas of Gurage zone. This study aimed to assess the magnitude of the third delay and associated factors among women who gave birth at Public Health Facilities of Gurage Zone, Southern Ethiopia.

National Surveillance of Home-Based HIV Testing Among Australian Gay and Bisexual Men, 2018–2020: Uptake After Commercial Availability of HIV Self-Tests

AIDS and Behavior | 13 July 2023

Ye Zhang, Martin Holt, Curtis Chan, Tanya L. Applegate, Benjamin R. Bavinton, et al.

HIV self-testing allows people to collect samples and test themselves at home, addressing known barriers to facility-based testing. We aimed to measure the uptake of home HIV testing among Australian gay and bisexual men (GBM). Using national cross-sectional data from the Australian Gay Community Periodic Surveys, we assessed trends in home HIV testing among non-HIV positive GBM between 2018 and 2020. Overall, the use of home HIV testing was low, but slightly increased during 2018–2020 (from 0.3 to 0.8%, RR = 1.54, 95%CI = 1.23–1.92, p-trend < 0.001). Testing at home was more likely among non-HIV-positive GBM who were born overseas and recently arrived in Australia, at higher risk of HIV, and infrequent HIV testers. Given the greater use of home testing by men at higher risk of HIV, recent migrants and infrequent

testers, all priority groups in Australia's HIV epidemic, we recommend increasing access to HIV self-testing to enhance uptake in these and other groups of GBM.

The Importance of the Individual in PrEP Uptake: Multilevel Correlates of PrEP Uptake Among Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Tshwane, South Africa

AIDS and Behavior | 13 July 2023

Courtney Peasant Bonner, Alexandra M. Minnis, Jacqueline W. Ndirangu, Felicia A. Browne, Ilene Speizer,

Adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) account for 25% of new HIV infections in South Africa. Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is approved by the South African Government, but the factors that promote PrEP uptake among AGYW are not well understood. This study examines multilevel factors associated with PrEP uptake among AGYW in six clinic catchment areas in Tshwane (Pretoria), South Africa. After consent/assent, PrEP-eligible AGYW (n = 448) completed a questionnaire assessing factors at the individual, network/interpersonal, and community levels and were prescribed PrEP in study clinics, if interested. A multivariable model, adjusting for clustering, assessed factors associated with PrEP uptake over a 9-month period. At the individual level, multiple partners in the past 3 months (OR = 0.47), perceived risk of HIV (OR = 0.71), and PrEP-related shame (OR = 0.63) were correlated with lower odds of PrEP uptake (ps ≤ 0.05). The findings highlight modifiable factors that should be addressed to support PrEP uptake efforts.

The Intersection of Age and HIV Status for Black Sexual Minority Men (BSMM): A Social Network Analysis

AIDS and Behavior | 13 July 2023

Catherine A. Clair, Connor Volpi, Deborah Dunn, Carl A. Latkin & Karin E. Tobin

Advancements in treatment have resulted in increased life expectancy for individuals living with HIV. However, there is a dearth of literature focused on the intersection of age and HIV status, particularly for older Black sexual minority men (SMM) who are disproportionately impacted by HIV. This study aimed to examine the intersecting effect of age and HIV status on Black SMM social networks in a sample from the Social Network and Prevention Study. Participants were 18 years of age or older, identified as cis-gender Black or African American, self-identified as SMM, reported unprotected sex within the past six months, and resided in Baltimore city or a surrounding county. The sample was divided into four categories by age (e.g., young, mature) and HIV status (e.g., positive, negative). Of the sample, 167 men were (a) Young & HIV negative, 116 men were (b) Young & HIV positive, 44 men were (c) Mature & HIV negative, and 42 men were (d) Mature & HIV positive. Among the four groups, mature men who were HIV positive had the fewest average number of alters who knew they were SMM. There was also overlap in the range of age of sexual partners across the four groups, ranging from 17 to 53.5 (Group 1), 20–60 (Group 2), 29.5–60 (Group 3), and 23–63 (Group 4) years of age. Although a cross-sectional analysis, our findings suggest value in life course-informed research and practice for providing HIV and sexual health programming. Focus on services provided by community organizations may help mitigate existing disparities.

What are the determinants of antiretroviral therapy adherence among stable people living with HIV? A cross-sectional study in Cambodia

Aids Research and Therapy | 14 July 2023

Sovannary Tuot, Jian Wei Sim, Michiko Nagashima-Hayashi, Pheak Chhoun, Alvin Kuo Jing Teo, et al.

Understanding context-specific determinants of antiretroviral therapy (ART) adherence is crucial for developing tailored interventions for improving health outcomes and achieving the UNAIDS' third 95% target. This cross-sectional study explores factors associated with ART adherence among stable people living with HIV on ART in Cambodia.

HIV associated factors among men who have sex with men in Maanshan, China: a cross-sectional study

Aids Research and Therapy | 14 July 2023

Qi-rong Qin, Ni-ni Qiao, Hong-bin Zhu, Yu-nan Mei, Qian Zhang & Yin-guang Fan

This study conducted a survey of men who have sex with men (MSM) in Maanshan City of Anhui Province to assess the risk behaviors related to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection.

Applying the HIV Prevention Cascade to an Evaluation of a Large-Scale Combination HIV Prevention Programme for Adolescent Girls and Young Women in South Africa

AIDS and Behavior | 18 July 2023

Kate Bergh, Elona Toska, Zoe DUBY, Darshini Govindasamy, Catherine Mathews, et al.

Adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in South Africa are at a three times higher risk of acquiring HIV than their male counterparts. The HIV prevention cascade is a tool which can be used to measure coverage of HIV prevention services, although there is limited empirical evidence to demonstrate its application in low-resourced settings. The unifying framework is a conceptualisation of the HIV prevention cascade which theorises that both motivation and access are required for an individual to effectively use an HIV prevention method.

Predictors of quality of life and mental health in breast cancer survivors in Northern Iran

BCM Women's Health | 18 July 2023

Fatemeh Zolfaghary, Reza MashaghiTabari, Mobina Dezhman, Ali Bijani, Farzan Kheirkha et al.

The global incidence of breast cancer is the highest among all cancers and is the primary reason for cancer-related fatalities. Our study aimed to assess the predictors of quality of life (QOL) and mental health in breast cancer survivors in Northern Iran.

A modelling framework for translating discrete choice experiment results into cost-effectiveness estimates: an application to designing tailored and scalable HIV and contraceptive services for adolescents in Gauteng, South Africa

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 18 July 2023

Caroline Govathson, Lawrence C. Long, Colin A. Russell, Aneesa Moolla, Sophie Pascoe, et al.

South African youth and adolescents face a high burden of (Sexually Transmitted Infections) STIs, HIV and unintended pregnancies, but uptake of services remains low. To address this, tailored and scalable interventions are urgently needed. We developed a framework to fill the gap and translate the impact of facility-level attributes into a cost-effectiveness analysis for increasing HIV/contraceptive service uptake in adolescents using a discrete choice experiment (DCE).

Long-term usage patterns and clinical outcomes in a community-based differentiated antiretroviral therapy delivery programme in South Africa

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 18 July 2023

Lara Lewis, Yuktshwar Sookrajh, Johan van der Molen, Thokozani Khubone, Munthra Maraj, et al.

There is little data on long-term implementation and outcomes for people living with HIV (PLHIV) in differentiated antiretroviral therapy (ART) delivery programmes. We aimed to analyse usage patterns of and associated treatment outcomes in a community ART programme, within the Centralized Chronic Medicines Dispensing and Distribution programme, in South Africa over 3.5 years.

A systematic review of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of adolescents and young people with disabilities aged 15–29 years

BMC Public Health | 19 July 2023

Xing Yu Leung, Anne Marie Kavanagh, Que Tien Quang, Marissa Shields & Zoe Aitken

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the psychological burden on young people around the world and may have disproportionately large impacts for young people with disabilities. This review aims to systematically review the quantitative evidence on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of young people with disabilities and evaluate the quality of included studies.

Assessing the influencing factors of out-of-pocket costs on tuberculosis in Sichuan Province: a cross-sectional study

BMC Public Health | 19 July 2023

Lan Xia, Lijie Gao, Yin Zhong, Ya Wu, Jinge He, et al.

Although diagnosis and treatment services for tuberculosis (TB) are provided free of charge in most countries, direct non-medical and indirect costs due to absenteeism, also place a significant burden on patients and their families. Sichuan Province has the second highest incidence of TB in China, with an incidence of approximately 100 cases per 100 000 people. However, there are limited research on out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) and its influencing factors in TB patients in Sichuan Province.

Prevention-of-mother-to-child-transmission (PMTCT) program outcomes in South Africa in the pre-COVID and COVID eras

BMC Public Health | 20 July 2023

Keshena Naidoo, Monjurul Hoque, Somaya Buckus, Maariyah Hoque & Kathleen Jagernath

Two decades after implementing the Prevention of Mother to Child transmission (PMTCT) program, South Africa has still not managed to eliminate intrauterine mother-to-child (MTCT) HIV transmission. During the COVID pandemic access to maternal health services was reduced, potentially compromising the PMTCT program.

Racial residential segregation and COVID-19 vaccine uptake: an analysis of Georgia USA county-level data

BMC Public Health | 20 July 2023

Simon K. Medcalfe & Catherine P. Slade

Foundational literature demonstrates that racial residential segregation results in poorer health outcomes for Black people than white people due to a variety of social determinants of health. COVID-19 vaccine uptake is important for better health outcomes, regardless of race. The COVID-19 pandemic has elevated concerns about racial health disparities but with little discussion of racial residential segregation as a predictor of disparate health outcomes. This paper investigates the relationship between racial residential segregation and COVID-19 vaccine uptake using county level data from the State of Georgia (USA).

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Peer support helps young women in Uganda stay on PrEP

Be In The Know | 14 July 2023

A pilot study that used peers to support young women who were struggling to stay on PrEP has found adherence significantly improved. What is the research about? The study looks at whether peer support could help improve adherence. It involved 30 young women (ages 18-24) in Kampala who had been on PrEP for at least three months through a sexual health clinic but were not taking it properly. (PrEP must be taken every day to work.) More than half the young women sold sex. The young women were asked to return to the sexual health clinic after three months and six months. In between visits they received support in-person and over the phone from women their own age.

Study challenges use of Body Mass Index, warns obesity more widespread than realised

IOL | 14 July 2023

Israeli researchers are challenging the prevailing use of the Body Mass Index (BMI) as a measure of obesity, suggesting that body fat percentage is a more accurate indicator of an individual's overall health. The findings further suggest that one-third of people currently considered of normal-weight are actually obese.

Vaping advocates fight for recognition: Bill fails to differentiate harm reduction from smoking

IOL | 14 July 2023

South Africa is home to 11 million tobacco smokers, with 41% attempting to quit in the past 12 months. Studies show that most people who smoke relapse within eight days after a quit attempt and only 3%-5% of self-quitters are still smoke-free a year later. For many smokers who had successfully quit, it took up to 30 tries before they eventually did. Furthermore, research shows that vaping is eight times more effective in helping smokers quit and twice as effective as nicotine replacement products like patches and gum.

Africa's groundbreaking women's rights treaty turns 20 - the hits and misses of the Maputo protocol

The Conversation | 16 July 2023

2023 marks two decades since the adoption of the Maputo Protocol. The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol) is arguably the most progressive legally binding instrument on women's and human rights instruments globally. A total of 44 African countries have signed and ratified it. The Maputo Protocol provides for extensive and progressive women's rights. These include the right to health and reproduction, inheritance, economic and social welfare, education and training, access to justice and equal protection before the law, and elimination of harmful practices. Reproductive health researcher Anthony Ajayi unpacks the significance of the document in women's lives over the years.

Young women living with HIV/AIDS in Uganda decry stigma and discrimination

Africa Science News | 16 July 2023

Faith Nantaba is a 21-year-old young girl living with HIV in Uganda. Nantaba was born HIV positive, she is privileged to be the representative of Adolescent girls and young women living with HIV in Uganda. She is also the Programs Officer Uganda Network of Young People Living with HIV. Nantaba says that the Third African Girls and Young Women Festival organized by the African Women in Development and Communication (FEMNET) in Nairobi has been very encouraging and impactful to her. "I'm now knowledgeable on issues of women and young girls' human rights and also how to advocate for young girls' rights out there who are not aware," adds Nantaba.

Everything we know about the rabbit haemorrhagic disease outbreak so far

IOL | 16 July 2023

Johannesburg - South Africa has reported 218 outbreaks of rabbit haemorrhagic disease (RHD) to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). The outbreak was first reported in November 2022 and has since spread to five provinces. There have been 165 outbreaks reported in the Northern Cape, 41 outbreaks in the Western Cape, 6 in the Free State, 5 in the Eastern Cape and an outbreak was confirmed in Gauteng Province.

Trans women with HIV in South Africa far from reaching 95-95-95 targets

Aidmap | 17 July 2023

A South African study which included transgender women as core members of the research team found that the biggest gap in the HIV treatment cascade for trans women was the failure to suppress viral load among those receiving treatment. The researchers focused on trans women living in three South African cities: Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Buffalo City. Johannesburg had the highest HIV prevalence rate of 63%, while Buffalo City and Cape Town had a rate of 46% each. In Johannesburg, 54% of trans women with HIV knew their positive status, 82% of those aware were on ART and only 34% were virally suppressed. In Buffalo City, 24% were aware of their status, 78% were on treatment, and 41% were virally suppressed. In Cape Town, 40% were aware of their positive status, 65% of those aware were on ART, and 55% were virally suppressed.

Over 4.7m people in SA placed on new HIV med in four years

Spotlight | 17 July 2023

In what is likely one of the largest treatment rollouts in South African history, well over four million people living with HIV have started taking the antiretroviral dolutegravir since its introduction around four years ago. Now, according to a recent study published in the Lancet medical journal, use of dolutegravir in South Africa is associated with more people staying on treatment and higher rates of viral suppression. The use of a three-in-one combination of the antiretroviral drugs tenofovir, lamivudine and dolutegravir (TLD for short) for the treatment of HIV was first recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2018. A year later it was recommended in the South African treatment guidelines as first line treatment for HIV and a three-year tender was awarded. Since then, dolutegravir has largely replaced another antiretroviral called efavirenz.

Stellenbosch University organ donor drive on a mission to reach 1million next month

IOL | 17 July 2023

A tech-savvy group of Stellenbosch University medical students are harnessing the power of algorithms and artificial intelligence (AI) to raise much-needed awareness of organ donation in South Africa. The initiative, driven by Save7 - a non-profit organisation founded by students - aims to share the message that every South African has the potential to save seven lives by donating their kidneys, heart, and lungs after they die.

Anniversary of FDA Approval of PrEP to Prevent HIV

Poz | 17 July 2023

July 16th marks the anniversary of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) approval of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Truvada was the first medication approved for HIV prevention 11 years ago. In 2019, Descovy was added as a PrEP option, and the first injectable PrEP, Apretude, became available in 2022. After PrEP's approval, the CDC's Division of HIV Prevention (DHP) prioritized PrEP in its HIV prevention toolbox.

Broadly Neutralizing Antibodies Help Kids Control HIV

Poz | 17 July 2023

Broadly neutralizing antibodies (bnAbs), which recognize multiple strains of HIV, show promise as a treatment for children when used in combination with standard antiretroviral therapy, according to research published in Science Translational Medicine. The study found that two bnAbs, dubbed VRC01LS and 10-1074, prolonged viral suppression after stopping antiretrovirals, and they may have the potential to shrink the HIV reservoir and bring about long-term viral remission, especially in those who start treatment early.

Genetic mutation may protect against symptoms of COVID-19

UPI | 19 July 2023

In the world of COVID-19 infections, the majority of patients develop symptoms, while about one-fifth mysteriously don't develop a cough, sore throat or other tell-tale signs of illness. Now, new research finds that these symptom-free super-dodgers are more than twice as likely as others to carry a genetic mutation that seems to obliterate COVID-19. "The mutation is a version of a gene called HLA-B," said study co-author Jill Hollenbach, a professor in the departments of neurology and epidemiology and biostatistics at University of California, San Francisco.

Gene mutation may explain why some don't get sick from COVID-19

Medical Xpress | 19 July 2023

People who contract COVID-19 but never develop symptoms—the so-called super dodgers—may have a genetic ace up their sleeve. They're more than twice as likely as those who become symptomatic to carry

a specific gene variation that helps them obliterate the virus, according to a new study led by UC San Francisco researchers. The paper, published July, 19, 2023 in Nature, offers the first evidence that there is a genetic basis for asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2. The research helps to solve the mystery of why some people can be infected without ever getting sick from COVID-19.

New Community Partnership Model Boosts Inclusion of Participants into HIV Cure-Directed Research

The Wistar Institute | 19 July 2023

Scientists have long used community advisory boards to engage communities and provide feedback on studies, but this model has limitations. Now, researchers from The Wistar Institute are sharing how a more inclusive model for community engagement can lead to deeper insights and greater community participation in HIV research. The community engagement group, or CEG model, is composed of a three-part structure with a Community Advisory Board (CAB), Community nonprofit organization, and researchers.

Watch Next Week: Key HIV Research Updates From the IAS Conference on HIV Science

Poz | 19 July 2023

Starting Sunday, July 23, thousands of researchers will gather for the biennial International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science (#IAS2023) to share and discuss the latest advances in basic, clinical, and operational HIV research. HIV.gov will share video updates from the conference on our social media channels and here on the blog. HIV.gov's conversations from IAS 2023 will include daily updates from Dr. Carl Dieffenbach, director of the Division of AIDS at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

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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.

THE OLIVER TAMBO FELLOWSHIP (OTFP) PROGRAMME: A POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH LEADERSHIP

An Opportunity to Grow

- To HR components - This value-for-money health leadership programme directly relates to the manager's workplace within the health system. Acquired skills and competencies have been well-researched. Nominating people from the same team offers the possibility of greater impact, including across successive cohorts.
- To Line managers - Students develop capabilities to lead and to bring improvements in their workplaces. Nominate teams.
- To Health Care Workers and Health System Influencers - Invest in yourself to show up as a leader who lead with confidence.

Why the OTFP?

- Affiliated to the internationally renowned University of Cape Town.
- Proudly bears the name of an exceptional African Leader.
- Nearly 30 years' experience of growing health leaders.
- Offers a unique perspective on leadership, rooted in systems thinking & policy analysis, tailored to the complex challenges of our health system.

What Does the Programme Entail?

- Four sequenced and interrelated 6-day learning blocks, covering:
 - The complex nature of health systems and their challenges.
 - Leading everyday health system strengthening.
 - Engaging health system hard- and software resources for implementing improvement.
 - Sustaining workplace-based interventions for system improvement.
 - Mentorship during and after the course.
 - Direct engagement with senior health leaders, other experts with national and international insights, as well as peer leaders.

What Will You Learn?

- Personal, relational, and technical competencies to lead across the system complexities.
- How to show up as a leader for your team and the wider system.

Who Should Attend?

- Mid- and senior level leaders (managers and clinicians) in the public health sector.
- Mid- and senior level leaders in NGOs and the private sector with public value goals.
- Teams of leaders from the same setting.

Fees and Registration

- The fees for 2024/25 intake is approximately R65 505, thus an average cost of R32 500 per year.

- Students arrange own travel and accommodation.
- Registration open until 9 December 2023.
- The course commences in February 2024.
- How to register? Apply online by clicking on [Application Link](#)

Contact

- Contact Fahiemata.titus@uct.ac.za or the Program Convener at Maylene.shungking@uct.ac.za or visit us at <https://health.uct.ac.za/school-public-health>

The University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) is committed to meeting the objectives of Employment Equity to improve representativity within the Institution. Preference will be given to applicants from the designated groups in accordance with Employment Equity.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES Doctoral Scholarship (3-year appointment) Centre for Rural Health SCHOOL OF NURSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH HOWARD COLLEGE

Mental Health Integration for Recovery (MhINT Recovery) is an ongoing study that aims to develop, adapt and test a systems intervention to support people living with severe mental illness (SMI) in community settings. More specifically, the study aims to generate an integrated psychosocial support programme following acute psychiatric hospitalization and community discharge. This investigation will be undertaken in Town Hill Hospital and the **uMgungundlovu District**, KwaZulu-Natal, and consists of formative qualitative research with a range of stakeholders, participatory development of an integrated programme, and a pilot trial of the feasibility of the programme. MhINT Recovery is led by a multidisciplinary team of researchers and policymakers, from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, University of Cape Town, University of Antwerp, Columbia University, and the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health.

Scholarship	Location	Duration of Full-Time Study
Doctoral Scholarship	Pietermaritzburg	3 years

Eligibility criteria:

- A master's degree obtained within the past five years from an accredited tertiary institution, in a health-related field, including (but not limited to) psychology, psychiatry, social work, occupational health, sociology, or anthropology, with a final mark of 70% or more.
- Demonstrated experience in research in South Africa.
- Moderate to advanced skills in qualitative research, and preferably basic skills in quantitative research.
- Fluency in isiZulu.
- A South African driver's license, and willingness to travel in the uMgungundlovu District, as well as between Pietermaritzburg and Durban.
- Preference will be given to South African nationals.

NB: Doctoral scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis, considering the applicant's academic achievements, experience, as well as the quality of the proposed programme and its potential for enhancing general research activity in the host School, College of Health Sciences and the University.

Desirable attributes:

- An interest in severe mental illness and community-based care.
- Experience in health systems or public mental health research and/or practice.
- Willingness and skill to undertake qualitative fieldwork with people living with SMI and their caregivers in community settings.
- Co-authorship of peer-reviewed journal papers.
- Capabilities in research project and/ or data management.

Comprehensive applications are invited, comprising of:

- A 1-page letter of motivation, including the earliest possible starting date;

- A full curriculum vitae, including a detailed description of research experience, a list of publications and all qualification certificates (certified);
- A brief 1-page concept note for a doctoral study in the development of psychosocial support for people living with SMI and their caregivers;
- Copies of South African ID and driver's license.

Required Outputs:

The successful applicant will be expected to:

- be involved in the planning, data collection, analysis and dissemination processes of the project;
- conduct a doctoral research study under the supervision of Dr A J van Rensburg, Prof I Petersen and Prof A Bhana;
- participate in all related planning workshops and activities of the Centre for Rural Health.

NB: Applicants are required to submit a CV and letter outlining their suitability which must be emailed to Dr André J van Rensburg at jansevanrensburga@ukzn.ac.za with the subject line "Doctoral Scholarship" and advert reference number in the subject line.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 11 August 2023. The University reserves the right not to make any appointment.

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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

12th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2023)

When: 23 – 26 July 2023

Where: Brisbane and virtually

The IAS conference is the world's most influential meeting on HIV research.

"The past 40 years of HIV research have taught us that progress happens when science, policy and activism come together. Taking stock of the latest scientific advances and how they may best serve the most affected around the globe will be at the centre of all debates and presentations at IAS 2023." Sharon Lewin, IAS President

This year's conference will feature research on:

- A new case of HIV remission
- Are statins safe and effective in people with HIV?
- U=U in lower- and middle-income countries
- Adapting PrEP services to reach more people
- Human rights: reproductive coercion and Uganda's anti-homosexuality law.

The full IAS 2023 programme is available online, where you can find details of all the sessions, abstracts and exhibitions, and you can read about some of the featured speakers at this year's conference too. IAS is also holding three pre-meetings – on HIV cure and immunotherapy, HPV-related cancers, and global HIV migration – on 22 July which are open to the public as well as conference delegates.

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 it will be from 10 – 13 September in Qheberha, Eastern Cape. The theme is, **Transforming Research Translation, Reimagining Public Health Evidence, Policies and Practice.**

The 2023 Public Health Association of South Africa's 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.

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

Health Systems Research Unit, Director: Research & Implementation Science

Closing date: 25 July 2023, @ 16:30

<https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Director-Research--Implementation-Science-.aspx>

Health Systems Research Unit, Director: Psychosocial Advisor

Closing date: 25 July 2023, @ 16:30

<https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Psychosocial-Advisor--.aspx>

Health Systems Research Unit, Director: Post-Basic Pharmacist Assistants (Zululand)

Closing date: 27 July 2023, @ 16:30

<https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Post-Basic-Pharmacist-Assistants-.aspx>

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