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## CATEGORIES

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## ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

### Getting closer to an effective multi-stage malaria vaccine

*The Lancet Infectious Diseases* | 13 June 2024

*Carlota Dobaño, Gemma Moncunill, Quique Bassat*

In *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, Sarah E Silk and colleagues<sup>1</sup> present advances in the clinical development of the leading blood-stage malaria vaccine candidate. A collaboration between UK and Tanzanian investigators, the authors report the first-in-human evaluation of reticulocyte-binding protein homologue 5 (RH5.1) formulated as recombinant protein in Matrix-M (Serum Institute of India, Pune, India), the same adjuvant as the R21 malaria and Novavax COVID-19 vaccines,<sup>2</sup> a valuable and more readily available alternative to the adjuvant AS01E (GSK, London, UK).

### The levels of women's awareness, experience, acceptability and preference for Vaginal Human Papillomavirus (HPV) self-sampling in three provinces of China: a cross-sectional study

*BMC Women's Health* | 15 June 2024

*Jia Song, Yi-Hua Ni, Jing Fang, Shui-Xiang Qu, Xiao-Yan Chen, et al.*

The primary screening technique for precancerous lesions and cervical cancer is human papillomavirus (HPV) testing, and HPV self-sampling has been shown to be consistent with clinician sampling in terms of the accuracy of the results and may improve cervical cancer screening rates. The aim of this study was to understand the level of awareness, experience, acceptability, and preference for vaginal HPV self-sampling among women in Jiangsu, Zhejiang, and Shanghai, China, and to analyze the possible influencing factors to determine the feasibility of implementing self-sampling.

### Association Between Early Sexual Debut and New HIV Infections Among Adolescents and Young Adults in 11 African Countries

*Aids and Behaviour* | 15 June 2024

*Jiawei He, Abraham Flaxman, Jeffrey W. Imai-Eaton, Aleksandr Aravkin, Peng Zheng, et al.*

Based HIV Impact Assessment (PHIA) surveys in 11 African countries, the research employed a multivariate logistic regression model to assess the relationship between the early sexual debut and new HIV infections in the age group of 10–24 years. The results revealed a significant and robust association, indicating that young individuals who experienced early sexual debut were approximately 2.65 times more likely to contract HIV than those who did not, even after accounting for other variables. These findings align with prior research suggesting that early initiation of sexual activity may increase vulnerability to HIV infection due to factors such as biological susceptibility and risky behaviors like low condom use and multiple sexual partners.

### **The unseen battle: interpreting the 2023 World Malaria Report from Burkina Faso's frontlines**

*BMC | 17 June 2024*

*Etienne Bilgo*

The recently released 2023 World Malaria Report sheds light on an alarming reality: despite preventive measures, malaria remains a severe issue in Burkina Faso. As researchers in the field working on malaria in Burkina Faso, the assessment suggests significant underreporting, especially in remote areas with limited healthcare access. In addition, the confusion arising from similar diseases, such as dengue, further complicates the situation. Aligning with the 2023 World Health Organization recommendations, it is time to advocate for tailored strategies in high-burden areas by emphasizing community involvement in data collection awareness campaigns for effective disease management to combat the invisible crisis lurking within communities.

### **Tuberculosis in a Migrant Population: Integrated Management of a Case through the Prevention Department and Hospital Services**

*MDPI | 17 June 2024*

*Nahuel Fiorito, Daniela Piacentini, Serena Cian, Anna Voltolini, Jacopo Fagherazzi et al.*

Among numerous public health actions, the Prevention Departments of Local Health Authorities take charge of the migrant asylum-seeking population for health assessments, for the implementation of preventive activities, and for any consequent actions. This report describes two cases of tuberculosis in Belluno Province managed by a multidisciplinary team made up of healthcare workers that involved numerous diagnostic, clinical, and prophylactic implications, as well as an analysis of the epidemiological aspects related to the incidence of cases along the migration route. Although the cases occurred in a northeastern Italian territory, the management methods described here may represent good practices to share on this operational line, which can promote the strengthening of cooperation between Health Authorities and Emergency Reception Centers to correctly identify cases of active tuberculosis that may not have been initially screen-detected.

### **Factors associated with hookworm and *Schistosoma mansoni* infections among school-aged children in Mayuge district, Uganda**

*BMC Public Health | 18 June 2024*

*Eun Seok Kim, Moses Adriko, Kabarangira Christine Oseku, David Lokure, Emily L. Webb & Kalpana Sabapathy*

Hookworm infection and schistosomiasis are two of sub-Saharan Africa's most common neglected tropical diseases. An annual mass drug administration (MDA) program against schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminths (STHs), including hookworm, has been implemented in Mayuge district, Uganda, since 2003 to date. However, hookworm and schistosomiasis remain prevalent in Mayuge district. Understanding the factors that predispose children to these infections in the context of MDA could inform interventions to reduce prevalence in Uganda and similar settings.

### **The effect of educational intervention based on health belief model on colorectal cancer screening behaviors**

*BMC Public Health | 19 June 2024*

*Tayebeh Rakhshani, Elham Razeghi, Seyyed Mansour Kashfi, Amirhossein Kamyab & Ali Khani Jeihooni*

Colorectal cancer is the second most prevalent cause of death from malignancies globally. The present study was conducted targeting the influence of an educational intervention based on the health belief model (HBM) on colorectal cancer screening behaviors in people 50 years old and older.

## **Community led health promotion to counter stigma and increase trust amongst priority populations: lessons from the 2022–2023 UK mpox outbreak**

*BMC Public Health* | 19 June 2024

*Colette Pang Biesty, Charlotte Hemingway, James Woolgar, Katrina Taylor, Mark David Lawton, et al*

Stigma, lack of trust in authorities, and poor knowledge can prevent health-seeking behaviour, worsen physical and mental health, and undermine efforts to control transmission during disease outbreaks. These factors are particularly salient with diseases such as mpox, for which 96% of cases in the 2022–2023 UK outbreak were identified among gay, bisexual, queer and men who have sex with men (MSM). This study explored stigma and health-seeking behaviour in Liverpool through the lens of the recent mpox outbreak.

## **Predictors of insecticide-treated bed nets use among pregnant women in Sierra Leone: evidence from the 2019 Sierra Leone Demographic Health Survey**

*Malaria Journal* | 19 June 2024

*Augustus Osborne and Camilla Bangura*

Malaria remains a significant public health threat in Sierra Leone, particularly for pregnant women and their unborn children. Infection during pregnancy can lead to severe consequences, including maternal anaemia, low birth weight, premature birth, and even death. Therefore, preventing malaria during pregnancy is crucial for improving maternal and child health outcomes. This study investigated the predictors of insecticide-treated bed net (ITN) use among pregnant women in Sierra Leone.

## **Late Stage at Diagnosis of Cervical Cancer and Its Correlates at a Large Regional Referral Hospital in Uganda: A Cross-Sectional Study**

*Cureus* | 19 June 2024

*Rogers Kajabwangu, Francis Bajunirwe, Jonathan Izudi, Joel Bazira, Frank Sseddyabane, et al.*

The stage of disease at diagnosis is one of the major determinants of survival in women with cervical cancer. Most women with cervical cancer in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) present to hospitals with advanced stages, thus reducing their survivorship following the diagnosis. Factors correlated with late-stage disease at diagnosis are not completely explored. This study aimed to describe the association between sociodemographic, clinical, and metabolic characteristics with late-stage disease at diagnosis in women with cervical cancer attending the Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital in Southwestern Uganda.

## **Neonatal mortality and associated factors among newborns in Mogadishu, Somalia: a multicenter hospital-based cross-sectional study**

*BMC Public Health* | 19 June 2024

*Ikran Abdulkadir Ali, Pamornsri Inchon, Sirinan Suwannaporn & Jullapong Achalapong*

Neonatal mortality is a significant public health problem in Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in Somalia, where limited data exists about this. Mogadishu, the densely populated capital, faces a high rate of neonatal mortality, but this has not been widely studied on a national level. Healthcare providers and policymakers are working to reduce newborn deaths, but a comprehensive understanding of the contributing factors is crucial for effective strategies. Therefore, this study aims to determine the magnitude of neonatal death and identify factors associated with it in Mogadishu, Somalia.

## **Only 9% of mothers have eight and more ANC visit in 14 sub-saharan African countries; evidence from the most recent DHS 2018–2023: a multilevel analysis**

*BMC Public Health* | 19 June 2024

*Kaleb Assegid Demissie, Melak Jejaw, Befikir Gezahegn Wondimu, Yekunuamlak Teshome Mersha, Eyuale Sitotaw Demsash, et al.*

The world health organization's global health observatory defines maternal mortality as annual number of female deaths, regardless of the period or location of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or caused by pregnancy or its management (aside from accidental or incidental causes) during pregnancy and childbirth or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy and an estimated 287 000 women worldwide passed away from maternal causes between 2016 and 2020, that works out to be about 800 deaths per day or about one every two minutes.

## **Land-Based Retreats as a Method for Building Enabling Environments for HIV**

## **Prevention with Northern and Indigenous Adolescents in the Northwest Territories, Canada: Mixed-Methods Findings**

*AIDS and Behavior* | 20 June 2024

*Carmen H. Logie, Candice L. Lys, Shira B. Taylor, Anoushka Lad, Kayley Inuksuk Mackay, et al*

The Northwest Territories (NWT), Canada has high rates of sexually transmitted infections (STI) that elevate HIV acquisition risks. We conducted a mixed-methods study to explore the potential of land-based peer leader retreats (PLR) in building HIV prevention enabling environments among Northern and Indigenous youth in the NWT. PLRs are grounded in Indigenous principles and ways of knowing, acknowledging the land as a physical, spiritual, emotional, and intellectual being with the potential to facilitate (re)connection to culture, community, and self. We conducted one-week PLRs between 2016 and 2021 with adolescents aged 13–17 in the NWT.

## **Self-inflicted ingestion of harmful chemicals in adolescents and adults: risk factors and characteristics**

*BMC Public Health* | 20 June 2024

*Rajen Govender, Ashley van Niekerk, Tiffany Joy Hector & Wayne van Tonder*

Injury due to ingestion of harmful chemicals has become an area of concern globally. In South Africa, paraffin has been widely implicated in multiple health outcomes, including severe ingestion injuries. A specific category of such injuries is those that are self-inflicted. A significant proportion of self-inflicted ingestion is reported to be intentional, although intentionality for self-infliction may be difficult to determine. Nonetheless, the identification of key explanatory risks and demographic factors of self-inflicted ingestion may contribute towards a better understanding of self-inflicted and harmful chemical ingestion injuries.

## **Excess mortality during the COVID-19 pandemic in low-and lower-middle-income countries: a systematic review and meta-analysis**

*BMC Public Health* | 20 June 2024

*Jonathan Mawutor Gmanyami, Wilm Quentin, Oscar Lambert, Andrzej Jarynowski, Vitaly Belik, et al*

Although the COVID-19 pandemic claimed a great deal of lives, it is still unclear how it affected mortality in low- and lower-middle-income countries (LLMICs). This review summarized the available literature on excess mortality during the COVID-19 pandemic in LLMICs, including methods, sources of data, and potential contributing factors that might have influenced excess mortality.

## **Prevalence of hepatitis C virus exposure and infection among Indigenous and tribal populations: a global systematic review and meta-analysis**

*Science Direct* | August 2024

*Elliot, S., Flynn, E., Mathew, S., Hajarizadeh, B., Martinello, M & Ward, J*

Viral hepatitis, including hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection, is one of the leading causes of death and disability worldwide. In 2020, an estimated 56.8 million people globally were living with HCV infection, and 290,000 people died from HCV-related causes in 2019. Populations at risk of HCV infection include people who inject drugs (PWID), people involved in the justice system, people receiving unscreened blood or blood products, and people exposed to unsafe healthcare practices. Mother-to-child transmission and sexual transmission among men who have sex with men (MSM) may occur but is less common. Chronic HCV infection can lead to life-threatening complications, including cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma. There is no vaccine, but curative treatment (direct-acting antiviral therapy) has been available since 2014, transforming HCV management. However, in 2021, it was estimated that only 21% of people living with HCV had been diagnosed, and fewer had initiated treatment.

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## **RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS**

### **New Report Shows That 1 In 3 South Africans Smoke**

*Health E News* | 13 June 2024

South Africa has a huge burden of tobacco use. Nearly 1 in 3 (29.4%) people in South Africa use tobacco. The Global Adult Tobacco Survey South Africa, released this week, shows that more than 1 in 5 (21.2%) of those 15 years and older say they smoke every day, 4.6% smoked occasionally. The survey, which was released by the national health department this week, shows significant gender differences. It shows that 41.7% of men and 17.9% of women use tobacco. Thirty-five percent of men smoked daily and 6.1% smoked occasionally; as opposed to 8.3% of women who smoked daily and 3.3% occasionally.

### **[LISTEN] Most people with mpox in SA have HIV, but are not on treatment**

*Bhekisisa | 18 June 2024*

Most people with mpox recover without treatment. But all South Africa's cases, so far, have had to be hospitalised. Why? Because our cases had weak immune systems because they also had other illnesses. All six cases had HIV. HIV-positive people who are on antiretroviral drugs, and take their medicine correctly, have good immune systems. But about a quarter, or 2-million, of South Africa's estimated 7.8-million people infected with HIV, are not on treatment. Such people have a much higher chance of ending up in hospital with mpox than the general population.

### **Mental health tied to longevity and stress resilience in aging**

*Medical Xpress | 18 June 2024*

Mental well-being is associated with healthy aging, independent of socioeconomic status, according to a study published in *Nature Human Behaviour*. The findings suggest the importance of mental health in promoting longevity and stress resilience in aging. The connection between mental well-being and physical health outcomes has been the subject of extensive research and debate. Previous observational studies have suggested a link between positive mental health and enhanced aging processes, including a reduced propensity for disease and increased lifespan.

### **Scientists discover rare and highly-contagious sexually transmitted fungal disease that causes ringworms**

*IOL | 18 June 2024*

Thanks to modern science, many venereal (sexually transmitted) diseases have mostly been eradicated or managed. However, new ones are still being discovered and there still exists highly contagious but rare cases. Recently, following a report of a rare sexually transmitted ringworm in the US, medical experts are warning clinicians and the general public about the highly contagious uncommon fungus strain in the country and across the world.

### **Why a major finding on HIV and statins may not be that relevant in SA**

*Spotlight | 18 June 2024*

One of the biggest stories in HIV in the last year was that a class of medicines called statins could help reduce cardiovascular disease in people living with the virus. In response, treatment guidelines in the United States were quickly updated, but the picture is more complicated in South Africa. Spotlight's Elri Voigt explores why the case for widespread use of statins by people living with HIV is less compelling in South Africa than in some other countries.

### **Donated mpox jabs arriving soon – Phaahla**

*Juta Medical Brief | 19 June 2024*

Health Minister Dr Joe Phaahla says doses of the mpox vaccine will be arriving soon for free distribution at clinics – this after South Africa recorded its seventh case, the latest being a 39-year-old man admitted to a private health facility in Cape Town who tested positive last week. Also last week, Phaahla announced the second mpox fatality, a 38-year-old male who was admitted to an uMgungundlovu hospital and died the same day. Phaahla said that as soon as donations of the jab arrive, the health department would start to vaccinate four groups of people – men who have sex with men, sex workers, health and lab workers – who have a much higher chance than the general population of contracting the virus, writes Mia Malan for Bhekisisa.

### **Immune response study explains why some people don't get COVID-19**

*Medical Xpress | 19 June 2024*

Scientists have discovered novel immune responses that help explain how some individuals avoid getting COVID-19. Using single-cell sequencing, researchers from the Wellcome Sanger Institute, University

College London (UCL), Imperial College London, the Netherlands Cancer Institute and their collaborators, studied immune responses against SARS-CoV-2 infection in healthy adult volunteers, as part of the world's first COVID-19 human challenge study.

## **Residents In Remote Villages Of Amathole District In EC Share Water With Animals, Carcasses**

*Health-e News | 19 June 2024*

Nombanjana and its surrounding villages in the Eastern Cape boast uninterrupted ocean views. But the people in the villages of ward 28 in Centane, Mquma local Municipality have not had access to clean drinking water since 2017. Taps that were installed after 1994 have been dry for years now, forcing people to walk 3km to get water from the local river. In some instances people have to share a man made dam with animals as they can't afford to hire a tractor or a truck. Hiring a tractor for a single trip to fetch water from the river to fill their Jojo tanks costs villagers about R700.

## **Nigeria: Cervical Cancer - 7m Nigerian Girls Vaccinated in 2 Weeks – Gavi**

*allAfrica | 19 June 2024*

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, has said that seven million girls in Nigeria have been vaccinated against the human papillomavirus (HPV) in the second phase of the vaccination campaign. Cervical cancer is the second most prevalent cancer among women in Nigeria, claiming countless lives each year. In October 2023, Gavi partnered with the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the National Primary Health Care Development Agency, World Health Organisation (WHO), and UNICEF to introduce the HPV vaccine into the national immunisation program.

## **Gender-affirming healthcare matters in SA**

*Juta Medical Brief | 19 June 2024*

Gender-affirming healthcare for transgender youth has sparked intense debate globally. In South Africa, we need to significantly improve accessibility countrywide, ensure services are well-resourced, include trained healthcare providers skilled in gender-affirming care, and offer comprehensive care that integrates mental health and social services, write Jenna-Lee de Beer-Procter and Pierre Brouard on behalf of fellow board members of the Professional Association for Transgender Health South Africa, in Spotlight.

## **Rwanda: 'Undetectable Untransmittable' - a Game-Changer in Rwanda's HIV Prevention, Treatment Course**

*allAfrica | 20 June 2024*

In 2012, Rukundo received the devastating news that he had acquired HIV. He delayed medication, thinking his results might have been swapped with other students during the school checkup. He went without medication or visiting a healthcare centre for three years, causing his immune system to weaken and become more susceptible to diseases.

## **Overcoming challenges in De-risking vaccine production in Africa**

*IOL | 20 June 2024*

The decision by Moderna to halt plans for a vaccine production facility in Kenya has sparked widespread concern among healthcare stakeholders in Africa, highlighting ongoing challenges in vaccine accessibility and local production capacity. Despite setbacks, experts believe these challenges are surmountable with strategic efforts and collaboration. Michael Mynhardt, CEO at MMH & Partners Africa, expressed frustration over Moderna's decision, emphasising the continent's historical dependence on external entities for health solutions. He noted that while Africa often receives pledges of support, tangible actions for sustainable health security are limited. The urgency to establish local vaccine manufacturing capabilities in Africa stems not only from the immediate need for Covid-19 vaccines but also from long-standing health crises and vulnerabilities across the continent.

## **Intervention curbs mother-to-child HIV transmission in Kigoma Region**

*IPP Media | 20 June 2024*

THE prevention, care and treatment services provided by Tanzania Health Promotion Support (THPS) in collaboration with the government has contributed to realisation of negligible count of mother -to-child HIV transmission in Kigoma Region. This is part of THPS's five-year (2021-2026) project dubbed 'Afya Hatua' funded by the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through US Centers for

Diseases Control and Prevention (US CDC).

## Health dept considers using AI to speed up TB and silicosis diagnosis

*The Citizen | 20 June 2024*

The health department is considering adopting Artificial Intelligence (AI) as part of its efforts to accelerate the screening and diagnosis of tuberculosis (TB) and silicosis in South Africa. This follows the recommendation by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for member states to use computer-aided detection software (CAD) to interpret chest X-rays when screening and triaging for tuberculosis.

## New Report Highlights The Profound Impact Of Climate Change On Children's Health And Education

*Health-e News | 20 June 2024*

Climate change causes significant psychological stress and trauma in children. A recent report by the advocacy organisation Section27 shows that children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of extreme weather conditions associated with climate change such as floods, heat waves and cold fronts as well as droughts.

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## TRAINING AND RESOURCES

### Call for Applications, Albertina Sisulu Executive Leadership Program in Health (ASELPH) Fellowship, A University of Pretoria Postgraduate Diploma in Health Systems Management in Executive Leadership, Application Deadline, 30 June 2024

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 7<sup>th</sup> cohort of the Albertina Sisulu Executive Leadership Program in Health starting in January 2025 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.

While university funding support is not provided, **Partial or Full Tuition Bursaries** may be available for

public health sector employees through respective provincial or HWSETA bursaries, 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](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](mailto:lesiba.mpati@up.ac.za)

### Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust 60percent

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

<https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Subscription.aspx>

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## PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

**Call for Abstracts** – The *Journal of the International AIDS Society* (JIAS) invites abstracts for the below supplements: "**Person-centred HIV prevention: Supporting people vulnerable to HIV acquisition through tailored programming, service delivery and prevention products**" to be launched in September 2025.

Guest Editors: Iskandar Azwa, Marie-Claude Lavoie, Andrew Mujugira

Deadline for abstract submissions: 14 June 2024

More information [here](#).

**"Differentiated service delivery – beyond HIV treatment for integration and other health needs"** to be launched in July 2025 in conjunction with IAS 2025, the 13th IAS Conference on HIV Science.

Guest Editors: Anna Grimsrud, Charles B. Holmes, Linda Sande

Deadline for abstract submissions: 28 June 2024

More information [here](#).

### Call for papers - HIV and TB co-infection – closing date 20 December 2024

**BMC Infectious Diseases** is calling for submissions to their Collection on HIV and TB co-infection. This collection seeks to explore the complex relationship between tuberculosis (TB) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), two prominent pathogens within the domain of infectious diseases. They invite submissions on co-infection research, interventions, and perspectives from various stakeholders aiming to advance understanding and improve outcomes in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and control of HIV and TB co-infection, covering topics such as epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical



management, drug interactions, public health approaches, socioeconomic determinants, therapeutics innovation, community engagement, and health systems strengthening.

<https://bmcinfectdis.biomedcentral.com/>

### **DISTRICT HEALTH BAROMETER 2022/2023**

The 16th edition of the DHB provides information across a wide range of district health services, covers over 30 indicators and continues to provide policy-makers, health workers, planners, researchers, academics and stakeholders a unique overview of the performance of public health services in South Africa. By providing a detailed analysis of health indicators, trends, and challenges at the district level, the DHB equips district managers and other stakeholders with the data necessary to identify priorities, plan and implement targeted interventions, and monitor progress. This year's Barometer also includes a chapter on air quality and health as we introduce environmental drivers of health in the publication in response to the effects of climate change on health.

As an innovation for the publication, an online interactive dashboard has been developed. This dashboard will include all the indicators that have been compiled in the publication along with accompanying narratives on the key findings for the most recent year of data. It provides userled navigation, with the ability to drill down geographically from provincial to district level. Users will be able to decide what indicators to focus on, over what time window, and at the level of aggregation they choose. There are also timesliders available to navigate the most recent 5 years of data.

<https://www.hst.org.za/publications/Pages/-District-Health-Barometer-2022-2023.aspx>

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## **CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

### **International Conference on Health Administration and Public Health Systems**

The International Conference On Health Administration And Public Health Systems (ICHAPHS-24) at Port Elizabeth, South Africa strives to serve all those engaged in the discipline of Health Administration And Public Health Systems as an avenue for growth and community-building. At this event, all stakeholders - participants, keynote speakers, presenters, volunteers, and others, will get access to best-in-class resources, infrastructure, and opportunities that will help them accomplish every one of their professional objectives irrespective of how diverse and varied they are. The organizers of the International Conference On Health Administration And Public Health Systems (ICHAPHS-24) are of the firm belief that in order to play an active part in the progress of Health Administration And Public Health Systems, the key is to foster its spirit of community. This is exactly why apart from knowledge-dissemination events solely aimed at propagating the latest expertise and know-how, International Conference On Health Administration And Public Health Systems (ICHAPHS-24) will also feature numerous networking and socializing events where participants will get to engage with their peers, get advice from keynote speakers and other presenter's questions, and rub shoulders with the academic elite in their respective specializations.

When: 4 – 5 July 2024

Where: Port Elizabeth

For more information: <https://asar.net.in/event/index.php?id=2282042>

### **South African Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology**

When: 28 Aug - 1 Sep 2024

Where: Sun City Convention Centre

For more information: <https://sasog.co.za/>

### **International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Conference**

FIP holds the World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, which takes place in a different

country each year. In addition to this annual congress, FIP hosts the Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress every three to four years. At the annual congress thousands of pharmacists meet, learn, share and exchange views. Our varied programme, offering something for everyone, makes this congress the premier international event in pharmacy each year. The theme for this year's congress is "Innovating for the Future of Health Care".

When: 1 – 4 September 2024

Where: Cape Town, South Africa

For more information: <https://capetown2024.fip.org/>

#### **World Congress of Epidemiology**

When: 24 – 27 September 2024

Where: Cape Town, South Africa

For more information: <https://www.wce2024.org/>

#### **Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) 2024 conference**

**This year's theme: 'Partnerships for Public Health: Sculpting a Healthier Future Together'**

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.

The 2024 PHASA Conference provides an opportune setting for engaging with the most recent public health research and evidence, for rethinking current models of research translation, for identifying barriers and opportunities for change, and for exploring new strategies for knowledge exchange and dissemination.

Join fellow public health experts, academics, researchers, students, non-governmental organisations, and civil society members at this year's annual PHASA Conference; as we transform the ways we think about and approach priority areas of public health research, policy, and practice, to ultimately improve health outcomes for all.

For more information please visit the conference website: <https://phasa.samrc.ac.za/>

#### **Become a member of the Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA)**

The Public Health Association of South Africa (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.

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

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## **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **Health Information Technology Technical Manager**

Closing Date: 28 June 2024

<https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Health-Information-Technology-Technical-Manager.aspx>

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