

# HST Bulletin



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## ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

### **Humoral and cellular immune responses eleven months after the third dose of BNT162b2 an mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine in people with HIV – a prospective observational cohort study**

*eBioMedicine* | 16 June 2023

*Line Dam Heftdal, Laura Pérez-Alós, Rasmus Bo Hasselbalch, Cecilie Bo Hansen, Sebastian Rask Hamm et al.*

We investigated long-term durability of humoral and cellular immune responses to third dose of BNT162b2 in people with HIV (PWH) and controls. In 378 PWH with undetectable viral replication and 224 matched controls vaccinated with three doses of BNT162b2, we measured IgG-antibodies against the receptor binding domain of SARS-CoV-2 spike protein three months before third dose of BNT162b2, and four and eleven months after. In 178 PWH and 135 controls, the cellular response was assessed by interferon- $\gamma$  (IFN- $\gamma$ ) release in whole blood four months after third dose. Differences in antibody or IFN- $\gamma$  concentrations were assessed by uni- and multivariable linear regressions.

### **COVID-19 among adults living with HIV: correlates of mortality among public sector healthcare users in Western Cape, South Africa**

*Journal of the International AIDS Society* | 20 June 2023

*Reshma Kassanjee, Mary-Ann Davies, Olina Ngwenya, Richard Osei-Yeboah, Theuns Jacobs, et al.*

While a large proportion of people with HIV (PWH) have experienced SARS-CoV-2 infections, there is uncertainty about the role of HIV disease severity on COVID-19 outcomes, especially in lower-income settings. We studied the association of mortality with characteristics of HIV severity and management, and vaccination, among adult PWH.

### **Integrating 3HP-based tuberculosis preventive treatment into Zimbabwe's Fast Track HIV treatment model: experiences from a pilot study**

*Journal of the International AIDS Society* | 20 June 2023

*Munyaradzi P. Mapingure, Jennifer M. Zech, Yael Hirsch-Moverman, Martin Msukwa, Andrea A. Howard,*

*et al.*

Tuberculosis (TB) causes one-third of HIV-related deaths worldwide, making TB preventive treatment (TPT) a critical element of HIV programmes. Approximately 16% of people living with HIV (PLHIV) on antiretrovirals in Zimbabwe are enrolled in the Fast Track (FT) differentiated service delivery model, which includes multi-month dispensing of antiretrovirals and quarterly health facility (HF) visits. We assessed the feasibility and acceptability of utilizing FT to deliver 3HP (3 months of once-weekly rifapentine and isoniazid) for TPT by aligning TPT and HIV visits, providing multi-month dispensing of 3HP, and using phone-based monitoring and adherence support.

### **Patient satisfaction with antiretroviral therapy service provided by pharmacists in Dembia district health institutions, Northwest Ethiopia**

*AIDS Research and Therapy* | 20 June 2023

*Tafere Mulaw Belete, Solomon Asmamaw Tadesse, Kidist Atnafu, Minilik Kelemu & Assefa Belay Asrie*

The patients' perception of the health service is a vital tool for measuring health service quality. Besides, Patient satisfaction is an essential feature in assessing the quality of health services. Health institution leaders are considering quantifiable patient satisfaction data as a means to evaluate the health care service.

### **Impart: findings from a prison-based model of HIV assisted partner notification in Indonesia**

*Journal of the International AIDS Society* | 20 June 2023

Gabriel J. Culbert, Judith A. Levy, Alana D. Steffen, Agung Waluyo, Valerie A. Earnshaw, Arie Rahadi Assisted partner notification (APN) safely and effectively increases partner awareness of HIV exposure, testing and case identification in community settings. Nonetheless, it has not been specifically developed or evaluated for use in prison settings where people with HIV often are diagnosed and may have difficulty contacting or otherwise notifying partners. We developed Impart, a prison-based APN model, and evaluated its efficacy in Indonesia to increase partner notification and HIV testing.

### **Real-life effectiveness of anti-malarial treatment regimens: what are we aiming for?**

*BMC Malaria Journal* | 20 June 2023

*Dorothea Ekoka Mbassi, Christoph Pfaffendorf, Ghyslain Mombo-Ngoma, Benno Kreuels and Michael Ramharter*

Three-day artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT) is the current standard of care for the treatment of malaria. However, specific drug resistance associated with reduced efficacy of ACT has been observed, therefore necessitating the clinical development of new anti-malarial drugs and drug combinations. Previously, Single Encounter Radical Cure and Prophylaxis (SERCAP) has been proposed as ideal target-product-profile for any new anti-malarial drug regimen as this would improve treatment adherence besides ensuring complete cure and prevention of early reinfection. Arguably, this concept may not be ideal as it necessitates administration of an excessively high dose of drug to achieve plasmodicidal plasma levels for a sufficient time span, increases the risk for drug related adverse drug reactions, and leaves the patient with a one-time opportunity to achieve—or not—cure by a single drug intake.

### **The way forward in decolonising global health**

*The Lancet Global Health* | 20 June 2023

*Sudeep Adhikari, Irene Torres and Elizabeth Oele*

*The Lancet Global Health* has taken steps towards listening to and platforming the voices of low-income and middle-income country (LMIC) authors, such as its 2021 call for papers on the topic of “what is wrong with global health?” In this issue—marking the journal's tenth anniversary—the journal gave editorial responsibility to a panel of LMIC-based guest editors. We (the guest editors) selected content for this issue on “The future of global health research, publishing, and practice”, which was invited in the February issue editorial. We have also been interviewed for a podcast, attended editorial meetings, and chosen the editors' picks. We are taking this editorial as an opportunity to contribute to the decolonisation debate, sharing our views on the way forward.

### **Spatial distribution and factors influencing modern contraceptive practice among tribal married women in India: evidence from National Family Health Survey 5 (2019–**

2021)

*BMC Women's Health | 21 June 2023*

*Sushree Nibedita Panda, Manish Barik, Ardhendu Sekhar Acharya, Srikanta Kanungo & Sanghamitra Pati*

The unmet need for family planning has been a public health concern in developing countries, especially in the south-east region. In India, the expanding roles of women has led to a growing need for family planning and contraception. However, tribal women still struggle with reproductive and sexual health issues. Unfortunately, most tribal women are not informed about the potential health risks associated with contraceptive use, as service providers often neglect to provide this information. As a result, tribal women often suffer in silence, which can lead to serious health problems. Thus, the present study aimed to understand the patterns and factors associated with modern contraceptive usage as well as the district level variation in usage among tribal married women.

### **Women's voices: the lived experience of HIV-positive women in the postpartum period at the University of Gondar comprehensive specialized referral hospital, Ethiopia: a phenomenological study**

*BMC Women's Health | 21 June 2023*

*Workie Zemene Worku, Telake Azale, Tadesse Awoke Ayele & Dawit Kassahun Mekonnen*

Pregnancy and the postpartum period are incredibly challenging for women living with the Human Immune Deficiency Virus (HIV) due to the multidimensional influence of HIV infection. These women experience the challenges of navigating pregnancy and motherhood while living with HIV. It is poorly understood how women living with HIV (WLWH) experience pregnancy and postpartum. Therefore, the current study aimed to explore the lived experience of pregnancy and postpartum among women living with HIV.

### **Effect of online solution-focused counseling on the sexual quality of life of women with a history of breast cancer: a clinical trial**

*BMC Women's Health | 21 June 2023*

*Mahshid Bokaie, Nafiseh Sadat Hejazi, Mirsaeed Jafari & Masoud Shabani*

Breast cancer, as the most prevalent malignancy among women globally and in Iran, affects important aspects of the lives of the survivors of this condition, especially the quality of sexual life. Solution-focused brief therapy is one of the therapeutic counseling approaches used in various fields, including sexual function problems. In recent years, online and internet-mediated counseling methods have received more attention.

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## **RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS**

### **Cervical Screening Awareness Week 2023**

*AwarenessDays.com | 19 June 2023*

Cervical Screening Awareness Week is an annual event which will run from the 19th to the 24th of June 2023. The week aims to highlight the importance of regular cervical screening for women's health. Cervical cancer is the most common form of cancer in women under 35 with two women in the UK per day dying from the disease. Regular cervical screening appointments can prevent up to 75% of instances of cervical cancer, saving 5000 lives per year. Despite this, many women are reluctant to have this test done with a quarter of women not responding to their screening invitation. Cervical Screening Awareness Week is organised by the charity Jo's trust, a charity dedicated to women affected by cervical cancer or abnormalities.

### **CASH-STRAPPED SOUTH AFRICANS EASY TARGETS FOR BOGUS DOCTORS**

*Health-e News | 19 June 2023*

The SA Medical Association (SAMA) says fake doctors prey on members of the public who can't afford healthcare. The HPCSA Inspectorate recently revealed 124 bogus doctors were arrested in the past three years. Established in 2014, the inspectorate started working closely with police to arrest fake doctors in 2020.

### **Women and girls hit hard by attacks on health in Sudan, UN agencies warn**

WHO | 20 June 2023

The World Health Organization and UNFPA, the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency, today warned that the continuing attacks on healthcare facilities, equipment and workers in Sudan are depriving women and girls of life-saving healthcare, with pregnant women hardest hit. Some 67% of hospitals in areas affected by fighting are closed, and several maternity hospitals are out of action, including Omdurman Hospital, the largest referral hospital in Sudan. Among the 11 million people in Sudan who need urgent health assistance are 2.64 million women and girls of reproductive age. Some 262 880 of them are pregnant and over 90 000 will give birth in the next three months. All of them need access to critical reproductive health services.

## **Urging the CDC to Recommend HIV Testing for People 65 and Older**

Poz | 20 June 2023

Federal HIV testing guidelines recommend that everyone ages 13 to 64 be tested for HIV at least once as part of routine health care and that folks with certain risk factors get tested at least annually. But why stop at age 64? The age limit means missing the chance to catch and treat undiagnosed cases among seniors and creates barriers to sexual health care for this population. That's why members of SAGE (Advocacy & Services for LGBTQ+ Elders) are urging the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to remove the upper age limit of its HIV testing guidelines.

## **HIV infections can be tackled with youth friendly healthcare**

SABC News | 20 June 2023

South African National Aids Council (Sanac) civil society forum spokesperson Nelson Dlamini has called for youth friendly health care services at a march in Durban, ahead of the South African Aids Conference. Dlamini says the highest number of new HIV infections are among girls and young women between the ages of 15 and 24. He says KwaZulu-Natal records over 1300 new HIV infections per week in this age group, with young people from underprivileged communities being the hardest hit.

## **10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE NHI**

Health-e News | 20 June 2023

Officials from the health department briefed the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) on the National Health Insurance (NHI) today. The NHI aims to provide access to quality and affordable health services to meet patients' healthcare needs. Last week, the National Assembly passed the bill with more than 200 members of Parliament (MPs) voting in favour of its implementation. 125 MPs voted against the bill. The National Council of Provinces must now approve the bill before the President signs it into law.

## **7 hidden signs that show you might be diabetic**

IOL | 20 June 2023

It is estimated that around 4.6 million adults in South Africa have diabetes, which accounts for approximately 8.5% of the adult population, while one in three (13 million) adults in South Africa are classed as being at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

## **Africa: Analysis - Is HIV/Aids Misinformation and Denialism On the Rise Again? How to Counter Persistent Myths**

allAfrica | 20 June 2023

Well-worn untruths about HIV/Aids took a backseat during the Covid-19 pandemic. But vigilance against Aids denialism is important, particularly in Africa where access to accurate information and inclusive healthcare is still patchy. Since the discovery of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in the 1980s, widespread myths about HIV infection and claims about natural cures have continued to spread. Similar to what Africa Check has seen with Covid-19 and Ebola, the outbreak of a disease often provides fertile ground for health misinformation to thrive, because of the resulting fear and panic.

## **Covid-19 set TB fight back 12 years, but SA still on track to meet global targets – Phaahla**

News24 | 20 June 2023

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has led to significant reversals in the decline of tuberculosis cases, setting South Africa's fight against the disease back an estimated "12 years", Health Minister Joe Phaahla said on Tuesday. Phaahla was speaking at the TB Indaba in Durban.

## **Kenya: Health Ministry Launches Vaginal Rings to Help in HIV/Aids Prevention**

*allAfrica | 20 June 2023*

The Ministry of Health has launched the use of vaginal rings among women in an effort to stop the spread of new HIV infections. Speaking at the launch of the Catalyst Study Program in Kisumu on Monday, Health Director General Patrick Amoth said teenage girls and young women account for almost a third of all new infections and Kenya needs to adapt local technologies to aid in HIV prevention. The Catalyst Study Program, titled "Catalyzing access to new prevention products to stop HIV," focuses primarily on adolescent girls and young women in order to limit the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

## **Developing better diagnostic tools for tuberculosis**

*Med Xpress | 20 June 2023*

Many of us believe that tuberculosis has been eradicated, but this is not the case. In large parts of the world, tuberculosis is the infectious disease that takes most lives. Every year, 1.5 million people die from tuberculosis, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). South Africa is one of the countries that are most affected. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the situation became even worse. Even more, people fell ill and died of tuberculosis due to the lockdown and poorer access to health care.

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

*The Conversation | 20 June 2023*

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

## **NHI: MEDICINE ACCESS INEQUALITY A CONCERN**

*Health-e News | 20 June 2023*

The Health Justice Initiative (HJI) says the National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill provides no clarity on how medicine selection, procurement, pricing and access will be managed to ensure broad medicine access. HJI founder, Fatima Hassan says it's unclear how the government will merge the current public and private health systems to ensure broad access to essential medicines. She says there is also no clarity on the selection and pricing of medicines not covered by the NHI.

## **Minister Joe Phaahla: 11th South African AIDS Conference**

*South African Government | 20 June 2023*

Opening address by Health Minister, Dr Joe Phaahla on behalf of H.E. Shipokosa Paulus Mashatile, Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa and Chairperson of the South African National AIDS Council, during the opening ceremony of the 11th South African AIDS Conference, Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre, Durban; 20 June 2023.

## **Belize certified malaria-free by WHO**

*WHO | 21 June 2023*

The World Health Organization (WHO) has certified Belize as malaria-free, following the country's over 70 years of continued efforts to stamp out the disease. "WHO congratulates the people and government of Belize and their network of global and local partners for this achievement", said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. "Belize is another example of how, with the right tools and the right approach, we can dream of a malaria-free future." With today's announcement, a total of 42 countries and 1 territory have been certified as malaria-free by WHO, including 11 countries in the Region of the Americas. "Following the achievement of Paraguay, Argentina, and El Salvador, Belize today becomes the fourth country in the Americas and the second in Central America to be certified as free of malaria over the last 5 years," said Dr Jarbas Barbosa, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Director. "This is an extra-ordinary achievement for Belize, and will also serve as inspiration for the other endemic countries in the Americas."

## **Checkpoint immunotherapy is safe and effective for HIV-positive people with cancer**

*Aidmap | 21 June 2023*

People living with HIV can safely use immune checkpoint inhibitors to treat cancer, and they appear to benefit as much as HIV-negative people, according to a study published in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*. In this retrospective analysis, which included 390 people with HIV, about 20% experienced immune-related adverse events, similar to the rate for people without HIV. In a matched cohort of people with non-small-cell lung cancer – the most common malignancy – overall survival was similar for HIV-positive and HIV-negative people. “This study should give some level of confidence to clinicians who are treating patients living with HIV and cancer,” lead study author Dr Abdul Rafeh Naqash of the University of Oklahoma’s Stephenson Cancer Center said in a press release. “This study is also important because it represents the real-world population that we would see in the clinic. It provides a level of assurance that immune checkpoint inhibitors are broadly safe for people with HIV and have the potential to effectively treat several types of solid tumour cancers.”

## **Are men more vulnerable to cardiovascular diseases than women?**

*IOL | 21 June 2023*

While cardiovascular diseases affect both genders, men are twice as likely to have a heart attack or die from heart disease than women. So, why is this the case? What makes men more vulnerable to cardiovascular diseases? Research suggests that lifestyle factors, such as smoking, alcohol consumption, and a sedentary lifestyle, play a vital role in the development of cardiovascular diseases.

## **SA strengthens efforts to end AIDS among children by 2030**

*SA News | 21 June 2023*

South Africa is sharpening up its HIV prevention efforts by focusing on pregnant and breastfeeding women, children and adolescents as part of the Global Alliance to End AIDS in Children by 2030. This is according to the Health Minister, Dr Joe Phaahla, who delivered a keynote address on behalf of Deputy President Paul Mashatile at the 11th South African AIDS Conference in Durban. The new Global Alliance for Ending AIDS in Children by 2030, made up of United Nations (UN) agencies, civil society groups, governments and international partners, was announced at the International AIDS Conference, in Canada, last year.

## **Not going to school makes kids sad: How COVID lockdowns affected teens’ state of mind**

*Bhekisisa | 21 June 2023*

Victor\*, 15, and his friend Gabriel\*, 14, are drawing anime-like characters, made popular by Japanese cartoons. Millions of teen artists around the world have taken a liking to drawing these characters. Victor’s character, named Hara Hetta, has pink hair that looks like an abstract world map and sharp teeth, like a werewolf. His inked lines are jagged, and Hara Hetta’s gaze is serious, penetrating.

## **Sobering moments at opening of SA Aids Conference**

*News24 | 21 June 2023*

Amid the festivities during the opening ceremony of the 11th SA Aids Conference in Durban on Tuesday, there were also several sobering moments. Chief among these was when co-chair of the South African National Aids Council and chair of the Civil Society Forum, Steve Letsike – flanked by several representatives of civil society – told a fully packed plenary hall at the Durban International Convention Centre about a visit earlier on Tuesday to the Hillcrest Aids Trust Centre – a hospice where 80% of the admitted people (living with HIV) are in their end stage of life.

## **TB Indaba 2023: SA aims for ambitious 85% success rate in TB treatment programme**

*IOL | 21 June 2023*

Dr Joe Phaahla, South Africa's minister of health, spoke at the TB Indaba held at Southern Sun-Elangeni, Durban, highlighting its significance as part of a wider advocacy and social mobilisation strategy devoted to emphasising communication and partnership to prioritise TB on the agenda.

## **Rising HPV Infections: The importance of awareness and prevention**

*IOL | 21 June 2023*

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a common sexually transmitted infection that can cause various types of

cancer in both men and women. HPV is transmitted through skin-to-skin contact during sexual activity, and most people who contract the virus do not experience any symptoms. However, in some cases, HPV can lead to the development of genital warts and cancer.

### **Impact of warning signs on cannabis use during pregnancy**

*POZ | 21 June 2023*

According to a recent study published in JAMA Network Open, warning sign policies are not associated with reduced cannabis use during pregnancy (CUDP).

### **eThekweni HIV awareness campaign launched**

*IOL | 21 June 2023*

The eThekweni Municipality launched the U=U (Undetectable = Untransmittable) HIV awareness campaign in partnership with UNAids on Tuesday. The launch was held as the 11th SA Aids Conference was set to get under way in Durban yesterday. The campaign aims to create awareness about the scientific evidence that people living with HIV who are on treatment as prescribed, can suppress the virus to such an extent that it will not be sexually transmitted to their partners, meaning they can have children who will also be HIV-negative.

### **#HIVToday: The company that's empowering South African youth with rapid HIV self testing**

*Bizcommunity | 21 June 2023*

South Africa has the largest number of people living with HIV worldwide. Early diagnosis and initiation of appropriate treatment can greatly improve their health outcomes and life expectancy. It stands to reason that self-testing for the virus puts their health in their own hands, and is set to be the way of the future.

### **SAMA cautions health dept against prematurely implementing NHI programme**

*News24 | 21 June 2023*

The South African Medical Association (SAMA) has called for clear and transparent governance structures within the National Health Insurance (NHI) framework, promoting inclusivity and meaningful representation from healthcare professionals and other stakeholders. While the association reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Universal Health Coverage, it said it couldn't endorse the NHI in its current form as the chosen vehicle by the government. SAMA said it wanted to ensure equitable access to high-quality healthcare services.

### **Experts stress importance of vaccinating children in wake of measles, mumps and diphtheria outbreaks**

*Daily Maverick | 22 June 2023*

This year, the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) has issued reports on three outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases — measles, mumps and diphtheria. The current measles outbreak started late in 2022. On 19 June 2023, the total number of measles cases detected was 1,067 across the eight provinces.

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## **TRAINING AND RESOURCES**

### **Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust Bulletin**

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

### **Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust 60percent**

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

prompts. Let's keep you posted!

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

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

As a member, you will:

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

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

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

### **APPLICATION DEADLINE: 30th June 2023**

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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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

There are no conferences and events

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## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### RESEARCH / PROFESSIONAL NURSE (FRESH)

Closing date: 23 June 2023

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