

HST Bulletin



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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Trust in the provider and accurate self-reported PrEP adherence among adolescent girls and young women in South Africa and Zimbabwe: HPTN 082 study

BMC Women's Health | 18 May 2023

Geetha Beauchamp, Deborah Donnell, Sybil Hosek, Peter L. Anderson, Kwun C. G. Chan, et al.

Trust is an important cornerstone of patient-provider communication. Accurate reporting of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) adherence is vital for providers to determine who needs adherence support, especially adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) disproportionately affected by newly diagnosed HIV.

Effects of primary healthcare reform on routine health information systems (RHISs): a mixed-methods study in Lesotho

BMJ | 19 May 2023

Ermyas Birru, Melino Ndayizigiye, Ryan McBain, Mathabang Mokoena, Masebeo Koto, et al.

The Ministry of Health of Lesotho and Partners In Health piloted the Lesotho National Primary Health Care Reform (LPHCR) from July 2014 to June 2017 to improve quality and quantity of service delivery and enhance health system management. This initiative included improvement of routine health information systems (RHISs) to map disease burden and reinforce data utilisation for clinical quality improvement.

Traditional male circumcision and the risk for HIV transmission among men: a systematic review

BMJ | 19 May 2023

Gregorius Abanit Asa, Nelsensius Klau Fauk and Paul Russell Ward

Circumcision is a cultural practice older than written history can explain, can be traced back to pre-Abrahamic times and can be found in many Judeo-Christian traditions in Africa. It may also be one of the world's oldest human surgical procedures. It is a practice that has been widely performed on boys and young men by cutting off the foreskin of the penis as a rite of passage to mark the transition from childhood to manhood, primarily for religious and cultural reasons/beliefs.

Evaluating use of mass-media communication intervention ‘MTV-Shuga’ on increased awareness and demand for HIV and sexual health services by adolescent girls and young women in South Africa: an observational study

BMJ | 19 May 2023

Natsayi Chimbindi, Nondumiso Mthiyane, Glory Chidumwa, Thembelihle Zuma, Jaco Dreyer, et al.

HIV remains one of the gravest health problems facing young people living in sub-Saharan Africa. There are over 7.7 million people living with HIV in South Africa (SA), with more than 200 000 new HIV infections annually in those aged 15–49 years. The highest incidence is in adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) (15–24 years). Although HIV incidence has been declining in SA, a 43% decline in the overall incidence rate between 2012 and 2017, from 4.0 to 2.3 seroconversion events per 100 person-years among 15–49 years old; it still remains high among AGYW in SA.

Type 1 Diabetes Incidence and Risk in Children With a Diagnosis of COVID-19

JAMA Network | 22 May 2023

Andreas Weiss, Ewan Donnachie, Andreas Beyerlein, Anette Ziegler and Ezio Bonifacio

The incidence of type 1 diabetes in children increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, but studies have not discriminated between children with and without infection. We analyzed a large population-based, individual-patient data set that included diagnoses of COVID-19 to determine whether there was a temporal association between COVID-19 and type 1 diabetes in children.

Prevalence and impact of SARS-CoV-2 infection on maternal and infant health in African populations: protocol of a multicentre prospective cohort study (MA-CoV project)

BMJ | 22 May 2023

Antía Figueroa-Romero, Anete Mendes, Ghyslain Mombo-Ngoma, Johannes Mischlinger, Meral Esen, et al.

Pregnant women are currently considered a vulnerable population to SARS-CoV-2 infection, with increased risk of severe COVID-19, preterm birth and maternal mortality. There is, however, a paucity of data on the burden of maternal SARS-CoV-2 infection in sub-Saharan countries. The objective of this study is to determine the prevalence and health effects of maternal SARS-CoV-2 infection in selected sites from Gabon and Mozambique.

Standard-dose versus double-dose dolutegravir in HIV-associated tuberculosis in South Africa (RADIANT-TB): a phase 2, non-comparative, randomised controlled trial

The Lancet HIV | 22 May 2023

Rulan Griesel, Ying Zhao, Bryony Simmons, Zaayid Omar, Lubbe Wiesner, et al.

The drug–drug interaction between rifampicin and dolutegravir can be overcome by supplemental dolutegravir dosing, which is difficult to implement in high-burden settings. We aimed to test whether virological outcomes with standard-dose dolutegravir-based antiretroviral therapy (ART) are acceptable in people with HIV on rifampicin-based antituberculosis therapy.

Unintended consequences of communicating rapid COVID-19 vaccine policy changes– a qualitative study of health policy communication in Ontario, Canada

BMC Public Health | 23 May 2023

Elizabeth Vernon-Wilson, Moses Tetui, Agnes Nanyonjo, Maisha Adil, Arthi Bala, et al.

The success of the COVID-19 vaccination roll-out depended on clear policy communication and guidance to promote and facilitate vaccine uptake. The rapidly evolving pandemic circumstances led to many vaccine policy amendments. The impact of changing policy on effective vaccine communication and its influence in terms of societal response to vaccine promotion are underexplored; this qualitative research addresses that gap within the extant literature.

Barriers and facilitators to HPV and meningococcal vaccination among men who have sex with men: a qualitative study

BMC Public Health | 23 May 2023

Justin Naidu & Andrea N. Polonijo.

Men who have sex with men (MSM) have suboptimal uptake of human papillomavirus (HPV) and meningococcal vaccines. This study examines barriers and facilitators to HPV and meningococcal

vaccination among MSM in a large, racially/ethnically diverse, and medically underserved U.S. region.

Lessons learned in co-creating a Virtual Village for people ageing with HIV

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 23 May 2023

Jasmine L Lopez, Andrea N Polonijo, Annie L Nguyen, Karah Y Greene, Jerome T Galea, et al.

The COVID-19 pandemic emerged as a global threat in early 2020, resulting in new psychosocial stressors and widespread lifestyle changes. These stressors contributed to heightened depression, isolation, anxiety, and in some cases, exacerbation of post-traumatic stress disorder. Numerous studies have examined the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health in the general population but research addressing its impact on increased isolation among the growing number of older people living with HIV (OPLH) in the United States is limited. Long-term survivors have shared trauma stemming from profound losses in their social circle due to HIV/AIDS, which younger people living with HIV may not experience as a result of the development of therapeutics.

Counselling behavioural interventions for HIV, STI and viral hepatitis among key populations: a systematic review of effectiveness, values and preferences, and cost studies

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 23 May 2023

Caitlin E Kennedy, Ping Teresa Yeh, Annette Verster, Niklas Luhmann, Nabeel Mangadan Konath, et al.

Key populations (sex workers, men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, people in prisons and other closed settings, and trans and gender diverse individuals) are disproportionately affected by HIV, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and viral hepatitis (VH). Counselling behavioural interventions are widely used, but their impact on HIV/STI/VH acquisition is unclear.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

It's Time to End AIDS: Why EU Should Fund Search for HIV Vaccine

Health Policy Watch | 18 May 2023

The HIV pandemic has affected over 2.3 million people in the World Health Organization's (WHO) European Region, with nearly 300 new diagnoses made daily in 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical turbulences in the region impacted the course of the HIV pandemic and the response, displacing populations, and disrupting access to care and HIV testing. Today, living with HIV is no longer a reason for despair and the management of HIV is well codified. As there is no cure, people living with HIV undertake life-long treatment that allows them to have healthy and long lives.

As many as half the people 'starting' HIV treatment in Africa have taken it before

Aidsmap | 18 May 2023

Globally, UNAIDS estimates that by the end of 2021, 75% of all people with HIV in the world were accessing treatment. But "accessing treatment" in fact just means that this number have initiated treatment at some point. It is not the number on treatment right now, because it does not try to estimate how many people starting treatment may have dropped out of care. Back in 2015, one study estimated that a quarter or more of people initiating antiretroviral therapy (ART) in low- and middle-income countries had stopped treatment within two years of initiation.

"MY SAFETY NET": COULD AI-DRIVEN TOOLS ELEVATE MENTAL HEALTH IN SA

Health-e News | 18 May 2023

Shay Richard, 16, was not expecting much the first time she used Vive Teens, an AI-driven wellness app. Richard was diagnosed with anxiety and depression in 2019 when she was 13 years old. Today she is constantly stressed about schoolwork. "The first thing that came up was, 'You're not alone.' Just reading that at first, I had such a sigh of relief. I felt like it might work," she says describing her introduction to the app.

Immigrant Pregnant Women Entitled to Free Health Services in South Africa, Some

Women Say Nothing Has Changed

Briefly | 18 May 2023

The South Gauteng High Court has ruled that denying pregnant women of free healthcare because of their nationality is against the National Health Act. That means women from foreign countries are entitled to free health services in South Africa. Despite the ruling, immigrant pregnant women have complained about still being forced to pay before getting the care they need.

Media Statement: Minister Phaahla calls for vigilance as SA detects Diphtheria cases

SA Coronavirus | 18 May 2023

Pretoria: The Minister of Health, Dr Joe Phaahla is calling for vigilance and for the public not to panic as the country records two positive cases of Diphtheria disease. The National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), a Division of the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS) has alerted the department of two laboratory-confirmed cases of diphtheria disease that were detected in April 2023. The first case was in an adult in KwaZulu-Natal and the second case was in the Western Cape in a child.

OPINION: HIV Testing is changing in South Africa, here's why it's a good thing

Spotlight | 19 May 2023

In South Africa, we have been using HIV Rapid Diagnostic Tests (Finger prick – same-day testing) for years. There are several reasons for this. First, to save costs as the alternative of laboratory testing for HIV is costly, and second, the HIV Rapid tests are reliable and can be used in any setting with fewer requirements than blood collection. Thirdly, it provided same-day results to clients, which allows for starting people on treatment earlier if they test positive for HIV and provide preventative services such as PrEP if they test negative. PrEP refers to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis – antiretrovirals taken to prevent HIV infection.

Community and Civil Society Demand Their Voices be Heard in UN Political Declaration on TB

Health Policy Watch | 19 May 2023

The call and response of “Yes we can, end TB” at the Multi-Stakeholder Hearing (MSH) on tuberculosis (TB) made one thing clear — the voices of the community will be heard. With negotiations of the UN Political Declaration now underway, what does the TB community expect to see? Members of the global TB community, including survivors, community and civil society representatives, healthcare workers, private sector representatives, academics, researchers, and parliamentarians came together for the MSH on TB at the United Nations (UN) headquarters in New York on 8 May.

Deadly cholera outbreak: Govt to probe Hammanskraal water crisis as Parys residents plead for help

News24 | 22 May 2023

The Department of Water and Sanitation has announced that it will investigate the causes behind water problems in Hammanskraal, north of Pretoria. On Monday, the health department said 15 people who suffered from diarrhoea, stomach cramps and vomiting in Hammanskraal have died.

“GRAB IT WITH OPEN HANDS”: INITIATIVE UPLIFTING WOMEN IN HEALTH

Health-e News | 22 May 2023

Molly Grieves, 47, has struggled to find work for years, but a month ago she was hired as an intern cleaner at the Helen Joseph Hospital through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). The EPWP is a government programme giving temporary work opportunities to the unemployed. “When it comes to employment, women have always been degraded as not efficient enough, not strong enough to do certain jobs,” says Grieves.

CHOLERA OUTBREAK: DEATH TOLL RISES TO 15

Health-e News | 22 May 2023

The death toll from the cholera outbreak in Hammanskraal climbed to 15, the Gauteng Health Department confirmed Monday. The outbreak in the area was confirmed on Sunday. “By Sunday night 37 people were admitted to hospital. Another update will be given at midday,” says Gauteng Health Department Spokesman Motalatale Modiba. He urged anyone exhibiting symptoms of diarrhoea, nausea,

vomiting, or stomach cramps to visit their nearest clinic or hospital immediately.

COVID-19: What next as shots expire and become harder to get?

Spotlight | 22 May 2023

Millions of doses of the Pfizer-BioNtech COVID-19 vaccine procured by the South African government have expired and the shot is largely unavailable to people in the country. Several people who have contacted Spotlight have expressed “frustration” and “dismay” that despite government having announced in February that it was sitting on a massive stockpile of almost 30 million vaccines, they are struggling to access the Pfizer shot.

Community support for caregivers helps children living with HIV achieve viral suppression

Aidsmap | 22 May 2023

Children living with HIV are less likely to achieve sustained viral load suppression if their caregivers are younger, if their caregivers are not virally suppressed or if the children are on a protease inhibitor-based regimen, the recent INTEREST 2023 conference in Maputo, Mozambique, heard. However, two studies from Uganda showed ways to navigate this. One study found that pairing caregivers of unsuppressed children with caregivers of those suppressed and using directly observed treatment helped children achieve viral suppression.

What's behind the recent outbreak of diseases such as mumps, measles, whooping cough, and diphtheria among children in SA?

Cape Talk | 22 May 2023

Experts are speculating on the reasons behind the increase in childhood diseases in South Africa recently. In the past few months, there have been outbreaks of measles and mumps and now two confirmed cases of Diphtheria. Prof Mignan McCullough (Head of the SA Paediatrics Association) says there are a number of possible reasons for the outbreaks. Among them are reduced availability of clinics for childhood vaccinations during Covid-19 and also hesitancy on the part of parents due to misinformation.

[WATCH] How does cholera spread?

Bhekisisa | 22 May 2023

South Africa has its first cholera outbreak since 2009. On Sunday, the Gauteng health department announced that the outbreak has now also spread to Hammanskraal near Tshwane, with 19 new confirmed cholera cases and 10 deaths. The national health department says seven more cases have also been confirmed in the Free State. Prior to the Gauteng health department's announcement, the national health department said the national tally of cases stood at 22, but, with the additional cases, that number is now likely well over 30.

Mumps outbreak most likely due to lowered population immunity post-pandemic, experts speculate

News24 | 22 May 2023

South Africa's latest outbreak of the childhood disease mumps follows an outbreak of whooping cough and measles at a time when international organisations are sounding the alarm over growing vaccine hesitancy.

Women's health is massively underfunded and is one of the biggest missed opportunities in health

Gavi | 22 May 2023

Women's health research is hugely underfunded when compared to spending on conditions that affect men, according to a new analysis of data from the US National Institutes of Health (NIH). While this won't come as a surprise to women's health researchers, who have been advocating for more funding for years, the data published in Nature demonstrates the extraordinary extent to which women's health conditions are neglected.

Tackling HPV detection and the global cervical cancer prevalence problem

Select Science | 22 May 2023

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), human papillomavirus (HPV) is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections globally. The WHO estimates that more than 80% of sexually active women will be infected with HPV at some point in their lives, and while most infections are harmless and resolve on their own, some lead to diseases such as genital warts and cervical cancer. In fact, women living with a chronic HPV infection are six times more likely to go on and develop cervical cancer, with HPV types 16 and 18 reported to be responsible for nearly 50% of high-grade pre-cancers alone.

[WATCH] Food safety | Contamination affects 1 in 10 globally

eNCA | 22 May 2023

Access to food is a basic human right. But, that food also has to be safe and nutritious. Sadly this is not true for an estimated 600 million people around the world. The World Health Organization says it affects about one in every ten people. Microbiology expert, Lucia Anelich, discusses this further.

New clues to why some people suppress HIV without drugs

Medical Xpress | 22 May 2023

Some HIV patients are naturally able to keep the virus fully in check without any medicinal help, a phenomenon that has intrigued scientists for decades. New research appears to identify at least one reason why: an abnormally powerful version of an infection-fighting white blood cell called CD8+ T cell. CD8+ T cells are a type of T cell, a normal feature in everyone's immune system. T cells typically amass in the lymph nodes of an HIV-infected patient. But among "spontaneous controllers"—those with the rare ability to automatically corral HIV and prevent it from triggering illness—investigators found that CD8+ T cells appear significantly more adept at identifying and stopping HIV.

Killer cholera hits amid decade-long bickering over Hammanskraal water crisis – and tender scandals

Daily Maverick | 23 May 2023

The cholera outbreak has killed 15 people so far in Hammanskraal, Tshwane, where water issues have long been used as a campaigning tool by political parties to gain votes and control in the metro. We take you through a timeline of Hammanskraal's issues, what key political parties and leaders committed to and what they have done. Thirteen years ago, it was reported that the Department of water affairs had declared the Apies River a disaster area after raw sewage had been pouring into the river located near the Rooiwal sewage treatment plant. That was in 2010. In response to AfriForum's petition calling on the Tshwane council to resolve the issue, the then council led by former mayor and now Minister of Electricity ANC's Kgosisentsho 'Sputla' Ramokgopa earmarked R11-million for maintenance and upgrading of the treatment plant.

Cholera Vaccine Shortage to Continue Through 2025

Health policy Watch | 23 May 2023

As a wave of cholera outbreaks spreads around the world, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance said it expects the global shortage of oral cholera vaccines to continue until the end of 2025. Supply of oral cholera vaccines for preventative use could catch up to demand by 2026, but "urgent action is needed," according to a vaccine production roadmap published by Gavi, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other global health partners on Monday. There are currently still enough vaccine supplies to respond to emergencies, Gavi said. "The good news is we have doses to meet all emergency demand despite the rise in outbreaks, and that is expected to continue," said Dr Derrick Sim, head of vaccine markets and health security at Gavi, adding that the global resurgence of cholera "underscores the need to prevent outbreaks before they occur."

1,200 leaders sign Global Declaration to Eliminate Cervical Cancer in Geneva

National Accord | 23 May 2023

No woman should lose her life to cervical cancer when there are tools to prevent, make early diagnoses and treat it, Global Health Leaders and advocates have said. This is as a new research on the efficacy of a one-dose HPV vaccine regimen and progress toward elimination in several countries, among other factors, are bringing the world closer to eliminating cervical cancer. About 1,200 global health leaders, health professionals and advocates from over 100 countries have added their names to the urgent action to make cervical cancer elimination a global priority. The call followed the creation of the Global Declaration to Eliminate Cervical Cancer, by 12 leading public health experts and researchers.

New policies aim to integrate mental health support into HIV services

Spotlight | 23 May 2023

South Africa has both high rates of HIV and mental health conditions. Around 13.2% of people in South Africa are living with HIV, according to the latest estimates from Thembisa, the leading mathematical model of HIV in South Africa. This estimated 7.8 million people living with HIV are also at higher risk of having a mental health condition, although the exact extent of the increased risk is uncertain. According to figures cited in South Africa's new Mental Health Policy Framework, 28% to 62% of people living with HIV suffer from mental illnesses. (Spotlight previously reported on a somewhat similar link between tuberculosis and mental health.)

Age and CD4 count have the greatest influence on life expectancy in the modern HIV treatment era

Aidsmap | 23 May 2023

A study published in this month's Lancet HIV claims to have produced one of the most detailed analyses of life expectancy among people living with HIV in high-income countries in the modern treatment era. It found that for people on antiretroviral therapy (ART) and with high CD4 cell counts, life expectancy was only a few years lower than the general population, regardless of when they had started treatment.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust Bulletin

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

Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust 60percent

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

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

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

As a member, you will:

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

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

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

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 30th June 2023

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For further information contact Mr Lesiba Mpati at lesiba.mpati@up.ac.za

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

South African Health Review 2021

Health Systems Trust | 2021

When it comes to service delivery and access in both the public and private health sectors, COVID-19 has put everything to the test. It has demonstrated how central public health security is to health and livelihoods, and how pandemic health emergencies expose the weaknesses and vulnerabilities of health systems, costing lives and causing immeasurable damage to economies. Few could have imagined the impact of COVID-19 when this pandemic reached our shores in March 2020.

This edition considers the government's and broader health sector's response to COVID-19, explores the current challenges facing the health system at this unprecedented time, and reflects on lessons learnt for future for public health emergencies. The chapters offer information on, inter alia, the challenges of balancing lives with livelihoods, and the impact of COVID-19 on different cadres of healthcare workers, especially Community Health Workers who found themselves at the forefront of our COVID-19 response. Other areas covered include the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations like children, persons with disabilities, farmworkers, migrants, and the poorest in our society.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Webinar on the UNAIDS Triple Dividend Report and its implications for South Africa's plan of action with regards to the prevention and treatment of HIV.

Fully financing the HIV response to accelerate achievement of the 2030 goals for epidemic control will lead to a 40% to 90% reduction in new infections, and produce substantial health, social and economic gains in African countries.

These findings are highlighted in a new report issued by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), entitled 'A Triple Dividend: The health, social and economic gains from financing the HIV response in Africa'.

In this webinar, key speakers will introduce the report, clarify its findings, and lead a reflective session on measures to adequately resource the HIV response and save millions of lives.

When: Friday, 26 May from 14h00 – 15h30 SAST (GMT+2)

Moderated by:

Dr Yogan Pillay is currently the Director: HIV & TB Delivery, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Dr Liesl Page-Shipp is the TB & HIV Senior Programme Officer, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Ms Eva Kiwango is the UNAIDS Representative and Country Director for South Africa

Other speakers include:

- Dr Thembisile Xulu, the CEO of the South African National AIDS Council and the Chairperson of the SA Global Fund CCM
- Mr Jaime Atienza Azcona, UNAIDS Director of Equitable Financing Practice
- Prof Gesine Meyer-Rath, Associate Professor, Boston University School of Public Health, and Economics and Epidemiology Research Office (HE2RO), University of the Witwatersrand
- Dr Mark Blecher, Chief Director: Health and Social Development, National Treasury
- Ms Anne Githuku-Shongwe, the Regional Director, UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Eastern and Southern Africa

TO REGISTER CLICK HERE: <https://www.hst.org.za/media/Pages/TRIPLE-DIVIDEND-WEBINAR.aspx>

South African Health Review 2023 Call for Abstracts: STRENGTHENING CANCER SERVICES

The National Cancer Strategic Framework 2017 – 2022 reflects the country's commitment to reduce the burden of cancer amongst all its citizens. South Africa has struggled to provide services for effective cancer prevention, treatment, and care. Children and adults alike often present at advanced stages of disease. Hence, increasing cancer incidence, high mortality rates, severe morbidity among cancer survivors, and unequal access to cancer prevention, treatment, and care remain critical challenges in South Africa. This burden is exacerbated among communities who are also faced with poverty, disadvantage and inequitable access to health services more generally. The COVID-19 pandemic has also exacerbated pre-existing inequities in cancer care.

The editors of the 2023 South African Health Review (SAHR) invite the submission of abstracts that investigate the successes, challenges and gaps in cancer treatment and care within the South African healthcare system.

This first issue devoted exclusively to cancer will focus on acquiring a deeper understanding of the systemic cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment challenges in South Africa. It seeks to also enable the sharing of innovations, strategies and lessons that may increase community engagement, health literacy, timely presentation, and improve treatment completion and wellness.

Abstracts that focus on cancer prevention, screening, and early diagnosis at community level, access to quality surgery and oncology therapies, and rehabilitation, community re-integration, and palliative care systems are encouraged.

Preference will be given to abstracts that:

- examine the successes, challenges, and shortfalls of the 2017-2022 National Cancer Strategic Framework;
- examine innovations and learnings emerging from the current management of cancer services within the public and private health sector that will improve access and lead to better outcomes;
- explore lessons learned and recommendations on how to integrate cancer interventions with other key public health programmes;
- share patient-relevant measures, approaches and innovations in cancer care that strengthen community level services that lead to increased patient satisfaction, reduced inequalities and better treatment completion.

Please take note of the following:

- The body of the abstract may not exceed 300 words.
- To submit an abstract, please use our **online template** (<https://forms.gle/9tVKZtHYdaoFxnj26>)
- Submission of an abstract for the SAHR does not guarantee acceptance. All abstracts will undergo a systematic selection process.

Closing Date: Monday, 19 June 2023

For more information visit: www.hst.org.za or contact sahr@hst.org.za

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING (HSS) UNIT: CERVICAL CANCER PREVENTION, ACCESS AND CONTROL (CCPAC) PROJECT CLINICAL ADVISOR – ZULULAND DISTRICT

Closing date: 26 May 2023

CORPORATE SERVICES UNIT: HR OFFICER – REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

Closing date: 26 May 2023

**HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING (HSS) UNIT: INFORMATION SYSTEM
SUPPORT MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E) SPECIALIST**

Closing date: 26 May 2023

**HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING (HSS) UNIT: INFORMATION SYSTEM
SUPPORT MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E) SPECIALIST**

Closing date: 26 May 2023

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