



## *In this issue...*

*In commemoration of World TB Day, the front page story describes patients perspectives in TB-HIV integrated health care.*

*The next generation of medical doctors learn about HIV/AIDS research on page 2.*

*On page 3, the Post Doctoral Forum reinvents itself.*



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## Patients perspectives on integrated TB-HIV health care

### Study finds that consideration of patients' perceptions is imperative for improved TB and HIV health care

**T**he *International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease* published the findings of a qualitative study that highlighted the need to take into account patients' stated concerns about TB-HIV health care service coordination, HIV stigma and confidentiality and provider interactions.

Patients reported experiencing gaps in TB-HIV services that resulted in missed opportunities for effective patient counselling. The lack of communication was viewed as a reason for delayed initiation on antiretroviral therapy.

Additionally, the lack of coordination between TB and HIV follow up visits posed logistical challenges to patients, who often had long distances to travel, were forced to deplete precious leave entitlements or take unpaid leave in order to meet their appointments on clinic days.

The stigma associated HIV resulted in non- or inconsistent disclosure of HIV status to TB health care workers



The  
International  
Journal of Tuberculosis  
and Lung Disease

The Official Journal of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease

or other awaiting TB patients.

Patients described differences between the TB and HIV clinics in terms of health care workers' attitudes and service delivery, which further drove the desire to maintain HIV anonymity.

In-depth interviews were conducted with 40 adult HIV-positive TB patients (24 women and 16 men) and 8 health care workers across three clinics in KwaZulu-Natal.

The patients had a mixture of social circumstances in terms of marital status, dependents and employment and all were accessing TB and HIV health care.

*Daftary A, Padayatchi N, Integrating patients' perspectives into integrated tuberculosis-human immunodeficiency virus health care. International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5588/ijtld.12.0714>*



## VOICE study reports low adherence to daily gel & tablets

The news that the Microbicide Trials Network’s (MTN) VOICE study showed no protection against HIV because of low adherence to the prescribed daily pills could still provide valuable insights into HIV-technologies that women are willing to use.

CAPRISA’s Scientific Director and Lead Researcher on the CAPRISA 004 tenofovir gel trial commended the MTN team for their dedication and hard work in conducting this important study. “We are well aware of the challenges in obtaining high adherence to prevention medications – not just for HIV prevention medication,” she said.

The VOICE study set out to assess whether daily dosing of tenofovir-containing tablets and gels were safe and effective in preventing the sexual transmission of HIV in women from South Africa, Zimbabwe and Uganda. In 2011, the tenofovir tablet arm and the tenofovir gel arm of the VOICE study were stopped early for futility. The Truvada tablet arm continued through to

study completion in late 2012.

In 2010, the CAPRISA 004 trial showed that tenofovir gel used at the time of sex can effectively prevent HIV in women. In this study, women who used the gel consistently had higher the levels of protection than

women who were less adherent. Using the same dosing strategy as CAPRISA 004, the FACTS 001 is a confirmatory study being conducted by the FACTS Consortium amongst 2900 women in nine sites across South Africa. The

FACTS study together with the CAPRISA 004 results could lead to licensure of tenofovir gel for HIV prevention.

CAPRISA is also undertaking the CAPRISA 008 study to assess coitally-prescribed gel uptake and adherence as part of providing post-trial access to tenofovir gel. In this 30-month study, which commenced in October 2012, the effectiveness of integrating tenofovir gel into family planning services is being assessed.

*“There is strong evidence that antiretroviral drugs like tenofovir are effective in preventing HIV but even the best proven medication will not be effective if it is not used as directed.”*

## Nurturing new scientists



UKZN first year medical students

The University of KwaZulu Natal’s newest intake medical students attended a lecture by Professor Salim Abdool Karim, during which he revisited the many highlights of his journey as a HIV/AIDS researcher.

The Professor graduated from UKZN Medical School graduate thirty years ago. He stressed the importance of mentors and encouraged the students to seek out supporters who would guide them during their studies.

Students wishing to learn more about research were invited to apply for a medical research placement offered to medical students by CAPRISA .

Continued from front page:

### Study implications for TB and HIV health care policy and practice

| Findings                             | Implications  |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Missed opportunities for integration | Improve coordination of TB and HIV clinic appointments<br>Enhance communications and medical information sharing between TB, HIV and primary health care clinics  |
| Fragmented care                      | Disseminate co-treatment protocols to TB, HIV and primary health care clinics<br>Improve follow-up of cross referrals between TB and HIV clinics<br>Avoid multiple referrals—expand scope of services for patients on TB and/or HIV treatment |
| HIV nondisclosure                    | Balance medical information sharing with patient-provider confidentiality via patient consent and trust   |
| Contrasting clinic experiences       | Building patient-provider trust, patient sensitivity and privacy at TB clinics.<br>Prioritise TB control and monitoring at HIV clinics  |
| Patient preferences                  | Address and mitigate HIV stigma within the health care system   |



## World TB Day @ CAPRISA



To mark World TB Day (24 March) the CAPRISA held a patient engagement event with prizes and goodie bags at the CAPRISA eThekweni Treatment Clinic



## Visits to CAPRISA

During February and March, CAPRISA hosted a number of visits by key stakeholders from the US and locally.

Visits to CAPRISA's clinics were conducted by Mr Lee Claypool and Mr Matt Barnhart from USAID, by Dr Carlos Toledo and Ms Gail Andrews from the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and by Ms Kay Marshall from the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC).

We were also pleased to welcome Dr Bryan Shepherd from the Department of Biostatistics at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and Dr Catherine Soze and Mr Mbulwawa Mugabe from UNAIDS.



Dr Janet Fröhlich (left) and Ms Kay Marshall



Left to right: Dr Nesri Padayatchi, Ms Lise Werner, Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim, Dr Bryan Shepherd, Ms Anneke Grobler, Dr Kerry Leask, Ms Nonhlanhla Yende, Ms Mbali Mlangeni



Left to right: Dr Nesri Padayatchi, Professor Salim Abdool Karim, Dr Catherine Sozi and Mr Mbulwawa Mugabe.

## Guest lecture: Wendy Burgers

At the invitation of CAPRISA, University of Cape Town Senior Scientist, Dr Wendy Burgers, delivered a guest lecture to the staff and students of UKZN on current investigations into how HIV affects the immune response to mycobacterium tuberculosis, with a focus on T cell immunity in the lungs.



Dr Wendy Burgers

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## New name for post docs' forum

In February, the newly renamed *Medical Sciences Post-Doctoral Forum* held a grant writing workshop for its fellows within UKZN's College of Health Sciences.

An informative session on selecting a research topic designing a study, writing grants and proposals was conducted by Dr Zaza Ndhlovu (HPP) and Ms Tarryn Leslie (HPP) led a session on ethics considerations. Dr Ayesha Kharsany (CAPRISA) explained the funding opportunities through the CU-SA Fogarty AITRP, and Dr Nthabiseng Motsemme (UKZN Research



Back l to r: Dr Denis Chopera (HPP/K-RITH), Mr Sheperd Nhamoyebonde (K-RITH), Dr Eshia Govender (Paediatrics), Dr Derseree Archary (CAPRISA), Dr Muki Shey (CAPRISA), Ms Nompumelelo Mkhwanazi (HPP). Middle l to r: Ms Vanessa Naidoo (HPP), Ms Kavidha Reddy (HPP), Dr Jennifer Maroa (HPP/K-RITH), Mr Katlego Sojane (HPP), Dr Maximilian Muenchhoff (HPP), Ms Kheifhethile (HPP), Ms Bongiwwe Ndlovu (HPP), Dr Philomena Kanya (HPP/Ragon). Front l to r: Mr Sinaye Ngcapu (CAPRISA), Dr Christina Thobakgale (HPP), Dr Kamini Gounder (HPP), Ms Marion Wangui (HPP), Dr Zaza Ndhlovu (HPP/Ragon), Dr Lenine Liebenberg (CAPRISA).

Office) provided information on local and external funding.

Post-Doctoral research in science is generally considered to be a period in which researchers apply their expertise and acquire further training relevant to producing publications.

The interaction between Post-Doctoral research fellows will continue to encourage opportunities for training, for collaborative scientific research and improve research outputs, while developing young investigators that will benefit HIV and TB biomedical research.





## Scientific papers published in 2013



- 3\* **O'Donnell MR, Padayatchi N, Werner L, Kvasnovsky C, Master I, Horsburgh, Jr CR.** Treatment Outcomes for Extensively Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis and HIV Co-infection. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3201/eid1903.120998>
- 4 **Abrahams MR, Treurnicht FK, Ngandu NK, Goodier SA, Marias JC, Bredell H, Thebus R, de Assis Rosa D, Mlisana K, Seoighe C, Abdool Karim SS, Gray CM, Williamson C.** Rapid, complex adaptation of transmitted HIV-1 full-length genomes in subtype C-infected individuals with differing disease progression. *AIDS*. 2013 Feb 20;27(4):507-18
- 5 Daftary A, **Padayatchi N.** Integrating patients' perspectives into integrated TB/HIV healthcare. *International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases* 2013; <http://dx.doi.org/10.5588/ijtld.12.0714>
- 6 van der Straten A, Montgomery E, Pillay D, Cheng H, **Naidoo A, Cele Z, Naidoo K, Hartmann M, Piper J, Nair G.** Feasibility, Performance, and Acceptability of the Wisebag™ for Potential Monitoring of Daily Gel Applicator Use in Durban, South Africa. *AIDS Behav* 2013 17(2): 640–648

\*continuation from previous newsletter

## Scientific Reviews

| Abstracts submitted for review |                         | Manuscripts submitted for review |                         | Ancillary studies submitted for review |                         |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Total#                         | Cumulative <sup>^</sup> | Total#                           | Cumulative <sup>^</sup> | Total#                                 | Cumulative <sup>^</sup> |
| 16                             | 297                     | 2                                | 159                     | 2                                      | 46                      |

# for month, <sup>^</sup> since committee initiation

## Conference & Workshop Reminders

CAPRISA is an official research institute of the University of KwaZulu-Natal and Columbia University.

CAPRISA was established in 2002 through a CIPRA grant from the NIH, as a multi-institutional collaboration, incorporated as an independent non-profit AIDS Research Organization

Registration Number: 2002/024027/08

[www.caprisa.org](http://www.caprisa.org)

| Conference  | Dates             | Deadlines   |                     | Website   |
|---|-------------------|-------------|---------------------|---|
|   |                   | Abstracts   | Registration        |   |
| <b>Keystone Symposia: Immune Activation in HIV Infection: Basic Mechanisms and Clinical Implications</b><br>Colorado, USA | 3-8 Apr 2013      |             | 29 Jan 2013 (early) | <a href="http://www.keystonesymposia.org/index.cfm?e=web.Meeting_Program&amp;meetingid=1226">http://www.keystonesymposia.org/index.cfm?e=web.Meeting_Program&amp;meetingid=1226</a> |
| <b>Keystone Conference: The Innate Immune Response in the Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease</b><br>Ouro Preto, Brazil    | 10-15 May 2013    |             | 5 Mar 2013 (early)  | <a href="https://www.keystonesymposia.org/13E1">https://www.keystonesymposia.org/13E1</a>   |
| <b>30 Years of HIV Science</b><br>Paris, France   | 21-23 May 2013    |             | 1 Mar 2013          | <a href="http://www.30yearshiv.org/">http://www.30yearshiv.org/</a>   |
| <b>6th SA AIDS Conference</b><br>Durban, South Africa   | 18-22 Jun 2013    | 19 Sep 2012 | From 2 Sep 2012     | <a href="http://www.saids.co.za">www.saids.co.za</a>  |
| <b>7th IAS Conference</b><br>Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia   | 30 Jun-3 Jul 2013 | TBA         | 14 Feb 2013 (early) | <a href="http://www.ias2013.org/">http://www.ias2013.org/</a>   |