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Our feature article this month highlights the recent lecture on "Envisioning "The End of AIDS": Challenges and Prospects" that was delivered by Professor Salim Abdool Karim in honour of Dr. John R. La Montagne.

On page 2, we highlight the recent research findings on broadly neutralising antibodies that could lead to new HIV vaccine strategies and congratulate CAPRISA staff members on their recent appointments and honours.

Recent highlights from the CAPRISA training programme are profiled on page 3.



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Salim Abdool Karim delivers 2014 La Montagne Memorial Lecture



Professor Salim Abdool Karim (far right) with Dr Anthony Fauci (Director of NIAID) and Mrs La Montagne at the John La Montagne Memorial Lecture held recently in Bethesda, Maryland.

CAPRISA's Director, Professor Salim Abdool Karim recently delivered the NIAID-sponsored La Montagne Memorial Lecture on "Envisioning "The End of AIDS": Challenges and Prospects". This lecture honours Dr. John Ring LaMontagne's contributions to the National Institutes for Health (NIH) and public health by during his 30-year career with National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID). Dr La Montagne earned international recognition and widespread admiration for his distinguished leadership and accomplishments in fighting emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. He served as NIAID deputy director from 1998 until his untimely death in 2004.

In the 2014 La Montagne Memorial Lecture, Dr Abdool Karim focused on how to get to "The End of AIDS". He highlighted the considerable progress that has been made in the global fight against HIV/AIDS, but cautioned that a sustained, comprehensive approach is still needed to end to the pandemic. Abdool Karim also discussed how the global community is positioned to strengthen and reinvigorate the AIDS response.

"Mathematical models show that available interventions have the potential to reduce HIV incidence to a level that it no longer represents a public health threat," says Dr. Abdool Karim. But, he warns, "Ending AIDS will not be an easy task and will require much more than political commitment or biomedical tools."

During the lecture, Abdool Karim discussed the need for a more detailed understanding of HIV transmission at the local level along with an increased effort to address ongoing transmission and develop effective interventions tailored to fit a given community. He also discussed the need to address gender inequalities, violence against women, stigma and discrimination to lessen the HIV/AIDS burden among at-risk populations, while strengthening health systems and programs for HIV testing, prevention, and treatment. The need to bolster research for an effective HIV vaccine and cure was also discussed.

A podcast of the lecture can be viewed at: <http://videocast.nih.gov/summary.asp?live=13753&bhcp=1>



New research on potent HIV antibodies opens up possibilities for HIV prevention and treatment



The results of research on broadly neutralising antibodies that could lead to new HIV vaccine strategies were recently announced at a press conference in Johannesburg. Attending the press conference were (from L to R): Steven Smith (US Health Attaché), Michelle Mulder (SHIP/MRC), Minister Derek Hanekom (DST), Salim Abdool Karim (Director, CAPRISA), Minister Aaron Motsoaledi (DoH), Lynn Morris (NICD), and Sagie Pillay (CEO of the NHL)

The discovery of how a KwaZulu-Natal woman's body responded to her HIV infection by making potent antibodies (Abs) (called broadly neutralising antibodies (bNAbs), because they are able to kill multiple strains of HIV from across the world), was reported on March 2, 2014 by the CAPRISA consortium of AIDS researchers jointly with scientists

from the United States. The study, published in the prestigious scientific journal, *Nature*, describes how the research team found and identified these Abs in her blood and then duplicated them by cloning the Abs in the laboratory. The cloned Abs were then used in a series of experiments in the laboratory to elucidate the pathway fol-

lowed by her immune system to make these potent Abs.

For further reading see:
Doria-Rose NA, et al. Developmental pathway for potent V1V2-directed HIV-1-neutralizing antibodies. Nature 2014; doi: 10.1038/nature13036

CAPRISA Happenings



MTN Executive Committee Membership Appointment for Dr Gonasagrie (Lulu)

CAPRISA congratulates Dr Gonasagrie (Lulu) Nair on her recent appointment

as a Microbicides Trials Network Executive Committee Member, and Clinical Trials Unit site representative.

Appointment as Deputy Chief Operations officer



Congratulations to Dr Carl Montague on his appointment as Deputy Chief Operations Officer at CAPRISA in January 2014.

CAPRISA receives Honour at the Second Annual Wenze Kahle Mayoral Breakfast Ceremony



Professor Salim Abdool Karim, Director of CAPRISA (The Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa),

and Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim, Associate Scientific Director of CAPRISA, were honoured at the second annual Wenze Kahle Mayoral Breakfast Ceremony, held on Tuesday,

11th March 2014 at Moses Mabhida Stadium, Durban, in recognition with CAPRISA for the groundbreaking research and innovation in the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and as the recent recipient of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) award in the category of Science and Technology Pioneers.

This prestigious ceremony is held in honour of local citizens who have represented the City positively various fields.

- *The Witness, 12 Mar 2014*

Appointment as Professor of Epidemiology, Columbia University

Prof Quarraisha Abdool Karim received an appointment as Professor of Epidemiology at the Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health, from Associate Professor of Clinical Epidemiology. CAPRISA congratulates Prof Abdool Karim on her promotion.





CAPRISA conducts training in Swaziland



The ICAP Swaziland Training Participants, Mentors and Trainees

In February, training was facilitated by Tanuja Gengiah and Charlene Harichund at the International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programme (ICAP) Office in Swaziland, as part of their Health Research Training Programme. ICAP Swaziland is supported by Columbia University. The aim of the training was to review practical issues in meeting Good Clinical Practice (GCP) and Human Subjects Protection (HSP) compliance requirements, and field practices for the conduct of research involving human subjects. Trainees benefited greatly from the didactic sessions, group discussions, hearing about CAPRISA experiences, and feedback on site monitoring visits.

Trainee Profiling: Deepak Soowamber



Deepak Soowamber, CAPRISA Research Fellow

In this month's training feature, we interviewed Mr Deepak Soowamber on his research interests and experiences.

Originally from KwaZulu-Natal, Deepak holds a Bachelors of Business Science Degree in Quantitative Management, from the University of Cape Town. His research focus is statistics, with a particular interest in missing data and ways of modelling repeated measures.

Deepak is currently working towards finalising his Masters' dissertation in medical research, which he hopes to submit later on

this year. During his traineeship, he has enjoyed having access to "real world data from studies like SAPIT and TRUTH", as well as the interactions he has had with the study staff working on these projects.

During his time with CAPRISA, Deepak has found sharing an office with the CAPRISA statisticians to be an enriching experience, and fantastic learning opportunity. He values having had the opportunity to gain more insight towards the different facets of a research study, which are included in running and maintaining an office for the world class research conducted by CAPRISA.

Once Deepak has successfully completed his Masters' in medical research, he hopes to seek further opportunities through which he can continue to develop his skills and grow.

To students who are considering applying to be a research fellow with CAPRISA, Deepak advises that they ask many questions and learn as much as they can in order to achieve the most they can from their training opportunity, whilst enjoying the experience.

CAPRISA Research Placement Programme



A fourth year UKZN medical student, Mr Bonginkosi Mafuze addressed 48 UKZN medical students who attended a General Information Session held as part of the 2014 recruitment drive for the CAPRISA Research Placement Programme.

Guest Lecture: Dr Bill Horsnell



Dr Bill Horsnell of the Division of Immunology/Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine at the University of Cape Town conducted a Basic Science Lecture on Immunity and Helminth Infections at CAPRISA on the 25th February 2014.



Scientific papers published in 2014

19*	Abdool Karim Q, Dellar R. Inclusion of adolescent girls in HIV prevention research an imperative for an AIDS-free generation. <i>Journal of the International AIDS Society</i> 2014; 17:19075, http://dx.doi.org/10.7448/IAS.17.1.19075
20	Doria-Rose NA, Schramm CA, Gorman J, Moore PL, Bhiman JN, DeKosky BJ, Ermandes MJ, Georgiev IS, Kim HJ, Pancera M, Staube RP, Altae-Tran HR, Bailer RT, Crooks ET, Cupo A, Druz A, Garrett NJ, Hoi KH, Kong R, Louder MK, Longo NS, McKee K, Nonyane M, O'Dell S, Roark RS, Rudicell RS, Schmidt SD, Sheward DJ, Soto C, Wibmer CK, Yang Y, Zhang Z, NISC Comparative Sequencing Program, Mullikin JC, Binley JM, Sanders RW, Wilson IA, Moore JP, Ward AB, Georgiou G, Williamson C, Abdool Karim SS, Morris L, Kwong PD, Shapiro L, Mascola JR. Developmental pathway for potent V1V2-directed HIV-1-neutralizing antibodies. <i>Nature</i> 2014; doi: 10.1038/nature13036
21	Naranbhai V, Chang CC, Durgiah R, Omarjee S, Lim A, Moosa MY, Elliot JH, Ndung'u T, Lewin SR, French MA, Carr WH. Compartmentalisation of innate immune responses in the central nervous system during cryptococcal meningitis/ HIV co-infection. <i>AIDS</i> 2014; 28(5): 657-666.
22	Wei X, Hunt G, Abdool Karim SS, Naranbhai V, Sibeko S, Abdool Karim Q, Li J-F, Kashuba ADM, Werner L, Passmore J-AS, Morris L, Heneine W, Johnson JA. Sensitive Tenofovir Resistance Screening of HIV-1 from the Genital and Blood Compartments of Women with Breakthrough Infections in the CAPRISA 004 Tenofovir Gel Trial. <i>Journal of Infectious Diseases</i> 2014; doi: 10.1093/infdis/jiu026
23	Fowler MG, Coovadia H, Herron CM, Maldonado Y, Chipato T, Moodley D, Musoke P, Aizire J, Manji K, Stranix-Chibanda L, Fawzi W, Chetty V, Msweli L, Kisenge R, Brown E, Mwatha A, Eshleman SH, Richardson P, Allen M, George K, Andrew P, Zwierski S, Mofenson LM, Jackson JB; HPTN 046 Protocol Team.. Efficacy and Safety of an Extended Nevirapine Regimen in Infants of Breast-feeding Mothers With HIV-1 Infection for Prevention of HIV-1 Transmission (HPTN 046): 18-Month Results of a Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial. <i>J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr</i> 2014; 65(3):366-74.
24	Singh R, Patel V, Mureithi M, Naranbhai V, Ramsuran D, Tulsi S, Hiraman K, Werner L, Misana K, Altfeld M, Luban J, Kasprowitz V, Dheda K, Abdool Karim S, Ndung'u T. TRIM5α and TRIM22 are differentially regulated according to HIV-1 infection phase and compartment. <i>Journal of Virology</i> 2014; DOI: 10.1128/JVI.03603-13

*continuation from previous newsletter



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

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Scientific Reviews

Abstracts submitted for review		Manuscripts submitted for review		Ancillary studies submitted for review	
Total#	Cumulative [^]	Total#	Cumulative [^]	Total#	Cumulative [^]
0	308	2	180	0	52

for month, [^] since committee initiation

Conference & Workshop Reminders

Conference	Dates	Deadlines		Website
		Abstracts	Registration	
AIDS 2104 - Melbourne, Australia	20-25 Jul 2014	closed	2 May 2014	www.aids2014.org/
Southern African HIV Clinicians Society—Cape Town, Spout Africa	24-27 Sept 2014	Closed	1 May 2014	http://sahivsoc2014.co.za/;
Third Global Symposium on Health Systems Research — Cape Town, South Africa	30 Sept - 3 Oct 2014	Closed	2 June 2014	http://hsr2014.healthsystemsresearch.org
HIV Research for Prevention 2014: AIDS Vaccine, Microbicide, & ARV-based Prevention Science — Cape Town, South Africa	28-30 Oct 2014	25 July 2014	15 Oct 2014	www.hivr4p.org

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