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In our cover story we summarise the recent UNAIDS-Lancet commission report that outlines the path to ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

The visit by representatives from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the HIV vaccine research being conducted at CAPRISA is highlighted on page 2.

On page 3 we congratulate Dr Vivek Naranbhai on being selected to participate in the 65th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting in Germany.



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Defeating AIDS—Advancing Global Health



Lancet-UNAIDS Commission Meeting in London – 14 February 2014

After extensive international and regional consultation through meetings and social media, the UNAIDS–Lancet Commission report on Defeating AIDS—Advancing Global Health was launched in London on 25 June and simultaneously published online in *The Lancet*. CAPRISA's Director and Chair of the UNAIDS Scientific Expert Panel, Professor Salim Abdool Karim, attended the launch and was part of the team that wrote the report.

The UNAIDS–Lancet Commission, which includes a diverse group of experts in HIV, health, and development, young people, people living with HIV and affected communities, activists, and political leaders, was established in May 2013 to investigate how the AIDS response could evolve in a new era of sustainable development.

The UNAIDS–Lancet Commission report highlights that after more than a decade of major achievements, the AIDS response is at a crucial juncture, both in terms of its immediate trajectory and its sustainability, as well as its place in the new global health and development agendas. The report outlines the path to ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

Key recommendations from the report were:

- Get serious about HIV prevention and continue the expansion of access to treatment.
- Forge new paths to uphold human rights and address criminalisation, stigma, and discrimination.
- Urgently ramp up and fully fund AIDS efforts efficiently, and emphasise sustainability.
- Demand robust accountability, transparency, and better data.
- Reinforce and renew the leadership and engagement of people living with HIV.
- Invest in research and innovation in all facets of the AIDS response.
- Promote more inclusive, coherent, and accountable AIDS and health governance.

For further reading see:

Piot et al. *Lancet* 2015; 386: 171–218. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0140673615606584>



CAPRISA hosts senior officials from the Gates Foundation

Dr Emini, the recently appointed Director of HIV for the Global Health program at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in the US, recently visited CAPRISA. He assumed his new position at the Foundation on July 6, 2015. During his trip to Africa, Dr Emini visited several research organisations, including CAPRISA. Prior to joining the Foundation, Dr. Emini was the Chief Scientific Officer and Senior Vice President of Vaccine Research at Pfizer Inc. He also served as senior advisor to the Gates Foundation's HIV team and as Senior Vice President and Head of Vaccine Development at the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative.



From left to right: Professor Salim Abdool Karim, Director of CAPRISA, welcomes Dr Emilio Emini, Dr David Allen (left back), Gates Foundation country representative in South Africa, and Professor Geoff Garnett, Deputy Director of HIV for the Global Health Program, to CAPRISA.

Vaccine research at CAPRISA



CAPRISA's vaccine team at the eThekweni Clinic in Durban

CAPRISA, as part of the international HIV Vaccine Trial Network (HVTN), and in collaboration with Janssen Pharmaceuticals, have launched an ambitious vaccine programme.

The HVTN component of the programme aims to improve on the RV144 trial results by rapidly testing new HIV vaccine components, and move them forward into efficacy trials, whilst simultaneously moving the South African clade specific vaccine toward licensure. So far, CAPRISA has enrolled 44 participants into the HVTN100 study, which is testing the safety and immunogenicity of an ALVAC/protein/MF59 com-

bination.

In addition, the CAPRISA team at the eThekweni site are currently recruiting volunteers into the HIV-V-A004 Phase 1/2a study, which is testing a new mosaic vaccine with potential efficacy against multiple HIV subtypes. So far, 21 volunteers have been screened and 7 enrolled into this study.

CAPRISA's involvement in vaccine research is expected to expand rapidly over the next two years, both in our urban and rural clinics, with the planned Antibody Mediated Prevention study using VRC01 mAb, currently scheduled to start in 2016.



Scientist participates in 65th Nobel Lindau meeting

CAPRISA's research associate, Dr Vivek Naranbhai, was one of 672 young scientists from 88 countries who joined 70 Nobel laureates in the 65th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting held in the Southern German town of Lindau at Lake Constance from 28th to 3rd July.

The distinguished Rhodes scholar who is completing his second PhD at Oxford University in the United Kingdom successfully passed a 'multi-step international selection process' to participate in the six-day interdisciplinary meeting of workshops and presentations aimed at promoting exchange, inspiration and networking.

"To be a participant at this meeting is recognition of excellence and potential future leadership in science and Vivek's selection as a participant is affirmation of the high calibre of emerging scientists in South Africa and Africa" says Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim who nominated Vivek to participate in this meeting.

The young participants, who include PhD candidates and post-doctoral students aged up to 35, have their research focus in the fields of medicine, physics, or chemistry. "The scientific landscape of the future will be significantly more interdisciplinarily organised than today because this is the only way we can succeed in dealing with the pending big challenges of mankind. With our interdisciplinary meetings we want to make a contribution to educating the next generation of leading researchers working at the interface of the classical scientific disciplines", said Wolfgang Lubitz, Director of the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Energy Conversion and Vice-President of the Council for the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings.

Dr Naranbhai said that, "this is, without doubt, a life-altering experience". He expressed his "heartfelt appreciation" to Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim, "for the opportunities you've afforded me throughout my training and particularly in nominating me to attend the Lindau Nobel meeting in 2015."



Dr Vivek Naranbhai

Dr Naranbhai's work spans immunology, genetic epidemiology and bioinformatics in a range of infectious diseases including HIV, tuberculosis and herpes-virus infections and inflammatory diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis. He co-leads the International Tuberculosis Host Genetics Consortium, a global effort to understand how the genetic background of humans affects our risk of Tuberculosis. The clinician-scientist is a Rhodes Scholar at the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics, University of Oxford where he is pursuing a second PhD/DPhil in genetics of infectious disease. In 2009 he was named as one of the 100 brightest young minds in South Africa and in 2011 was elected as a young scientist representative for South Africa to the World Economic Forum 'Summer Davos'. In 2013 Dr Naranbhai was recognised as one of the top 200 Young South Africans shaping the country's future by the Mail and Guardian.



Scientific papers published in 2015

43*	Madansein R, Parida S, Padayatchi N , Singh N, Master I, Naidu K, Zumla A, Maeurer M. Surgical Treatment of Complications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, including Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis. <i>International Journal of Infectious Diseases</i> 2015; 32: 61-67.
44	Drain PK, Gounder L, Grobler A , Sahid F, Bassett IV, Moosa M-YS. Urine lipoarabinomannan to monitor antituberculosis therapy response and predict mortality in an HIV-endemic region: A prospective cohort study. <i>BMJ Open</i> 2015; 5(4) e006833.
45	Noguchi LM, Richardson BA, Baeten JM, Hillier SL, Balkus JE, Chirenje ZM, Bunge K, Ramjee G, Nair G , Palanee-Phillips T, Selepe P, van der Straten A, Parikh UM, Gomez K, Piper JM, Watts DH, Marrazzo JM, for the VOICE Study Team. Risk of HIV-1 acquisition among women who use different types of injectable progestin contraception in South Africa: a prospective cohort study. <i>Lancet HIV</i> 2015; doi.org/10.1016/S2352-3018(15)00058-2.
46	Arnold KB, Burgener A, Birse K, Romas L, Dunphy LJ, Shahabi K, Abou M, Westmacott GR, McCorrister S, Kwatampora J, Nyanga B, Kimani J, Masson L , Liebenberg LJ , Abdool Karim SS , Passmore J-AS , Lauffenburger DA, Kaul R, McKinnon LR . Increased levels of inflammatory cytokines in the female reproductive tract are associated with altered expression of proteases, mucosal barrier proteins, and an influx of HIV-susceptible target cells. <i>Mucosal Immunology</i> 2015; doi:10.1038/mi.2015.51
47	Singh JA . How Bioethics Is Complementing Human Rights in Realizing Health Access for Clinical Trial Participants: The Case of Formative PrEP Access in South Africa. <i>Health and Human Rights Journal</i> 2015; 1(17): 58-62.
48	Richardson SI, Gray ES, Mkhize NN, Sheward DJ, Lambson BE, Wibmer CK, Masson L, Werner L4 , Garrett N , Passmore J-AS , Abdool Karim Q , Abdool Karim SS , Williamson C , Moore PL , Morris L . South African HIV-1 subtype C transmitted variants with a specific 1 V2 motif show higher dependence on $\alpha 4\beta 7$ for replication. <i>Retrovirology</i> 2015; 12: DOI 10.1186/s12977-015-0183-3
49	Madan RP, Masson L , Tugetman J, Werner L , Grobler A , Mlisana K , Lo Y, Che D, Arnold KB, Karim Abdool S , Passmore J-AS , Herold B. Innate antibacterial activity in female genital tract secretions is associated with increased risk of HIV acquisition. <i>AIDS Research and Human Retroviruses</i> 2015; doi:10.1089/AID.2015.0011.
50	Piot P, Abdool Karim SS , Hecht R, Legido-Quigley H, Buse K, Stover J, Ryckman T, Resch S, Mogedal S, Dybul M, Goosby E, Watts C, Kivlongo N, McManus J, Sidibe M on behalf of the Lancet-UNAIDS Commission on HIV/AIDS. The UNAIDS-Lancet Commission: Defeating AIDS—advancing global health. <i>Lancet</i> 2015; 386: 171–218.
51	Birse KDM, Cole AL, Hirbod T, McKinnon L , Ball TB, Westmacott GR, Kimani J, Plummer F, Cole AM, Burgener A, Broliden K. Non-Cationic Proteins Are Associated with HIV Neutralizing Activity in Genital Secretions of Female Sex Workers. <i>PLoS One</i> 2015; 10(6):e0130404. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0130404

*continuation from previous newsletter

Scientific Reviews

Abstracts submitted for review		Manuscripts submitted for review		Ancillary studies submitted for review	
Total#	Cumulative ^a	Total#	Cumulative ^a	Total#	Cumulative ^a
1	328	2	213	1	62

for month, ^a since committee initiation

Conference & Workshop Reminders

Conference	Dates	Deadlines		Website
		Abstracts	Registration	
World STI & HIV Congress - Brisbane, Australia	13-16 Sept 2015	13 April 2015	31 August 2015	http://www.worldsti2015.com/home/index.php?eventid=91027&
46th Union World Conference on Lung Health - Cape Town, South Africa	2-6 Dec 2015	24 Apr 2015	20 Aug 2015	http://capetown.worldlunghealth.org/
International Conference on AIDS & STI in Africa (ICASA) - Hammamet, Tunisia	8-13 Nov 2015	May 2015	29 Oct 2015	http://icasa2015tunisia.org/
Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections - Boston, Massachusetts, USA	22-25 Feb 2016	30 Sept 2015	26 Jan 2016	http://www.croiconference.org/



CAPRISA hosts a DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in HIV Prevention



CAPRISA is the UNAIDS Collaborating Centre for HIV Research and Policy



CAPRISA hosts a MRC HIV-TB Pathogenesis and Treatment Research Unit

Partner institutions:



Columbia University
Mailman School
of Public Health



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