



In this Issue

The feature article this month is the correspondence in *The Lancet* that highlights the important contributions that the NIH's Fogarty Center has made to US and global health.

On page 2 we report on Professor Quarriasha Abdool Karim's participation in the launch of the End AIDS Coalition at the IAS Conference in Paris and the NIH grant training grant awarded to Dr Cheryl Baxter.

We announce the launch of the KwaZulu-Natal Research, Innovation and Sequencing platform (KRISP) and the participation of CAPRISA investigators at the World STI and HIV conference in Brazil on page 3.

CONTACT DETAILS


CAPRISA
Doris Duke Medical
Research Institute (DDMRI)
2nd Floor
University of KwaZulu-Natal
Private Bag X7, Congella 4013
South Africa


T: +27-31-260 4555

F: +27-31-260 4566

E-mail: caprisa@caprisa.org

www.caprisa.org.za

 Caprisaofficial

 @CAPRISAofficial

Strong support for Fogarty Center

Following the Trump administration's announcement of its budget for the 2018 fiscal year, which proposed to cut about \$6 billion in funding to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and specifically planned to eliminate the John E. Fogarty International Center, there was an overwhelming global outpouring of support for the Fogarty Center. Testimonials, opinion pieces and editorials describing the contributions of the Fogarty Center over the past 50 years appeared in *Science*, *JAMA*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Nature* and several international blogs and newspapers.

In last week's issue of *The Lancet*, 12 of the world's leading authorities in Global Health from low- and middle-income countries, including Salim Abdool Karim and Quarraisha Abdool Karim (CAPRISA); Alash'le Abimiku (Institute of Human Virology in Nigeria); Linda-Gail Bekker (The Desmond Tutu HIV Centre in Cape Town); Elizabeth Bukusi (Kenya Medical Research Institution); Marie Marcelle Deschamps (GHESKIO Centers in Haiti); Miliard Derbew (Addis Ababa University); Patricia Garcia (Ministry of Health in Peru); Glenda Gray (South African Medical Research Council); Moses Kanya (Makerere University School of Medicine in Uganda); Soumya Swaminathan (Indian Council of Medical Research) and Zunyou Wu (China CDC) showed their support of the Fogarty Center in a letter to the editor that describes the important role the US has played in protecting the US and the world from infectious disease threats through the NIH's Fogarty Center.

They provide evidence of the contribution made by the US in helping several countries around the world deal with imminent threats like bird flu, SARS, AIDS, etc and how the proposed closure of the NIH's Fogarty Center would imperil this in future.

Further support for the Fogarty Center was evident at the recent 9th IAS Conference on HIV Science that was held in Paris. During a special symposium, a panel of senior HIV/AIDS research leaders from low- and middle-income countries reflected on how their early research training through the Fogarty International Center enabled them to become leaders in the field and facilitate discoveries and development of drugs and best practices. Speakers at the session included Dr Linda-Gail Bekker, Quarraisha Abdool Karim, Glenda Gray and Salim S. Abdool Karim. At the session, Dr Roger Glass from the Fogarty International Center announced that the immediate threat of closure of the FIC is now past as both the House and Senate have passed the appropriations bill. However, President Trump still needs to sign it – though this should be a formality.

Read the full letter here:

Abdool Karim S.S. et al. Closing the NIH Fogarty Center threatens US and global health. *Lancet* 2017; 390:451.

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(17\)31912-8/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(17)31912-8/fulltext)



Organisers and presenters at the IAS Conference Fogarty Symposium were (L-R): Jean Pape, Peter Kilmarx, James Hakim, Linda-Gail Bekker, Quarraisha Abdool Karim, Glenda Gray, Geetha Bansal, Salim Abdool Karim and Roger Glass



Quarraisha Abdool Karim speaks at the launch of the End AIDS Coalition at the IAS in Paris

Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim joined leading AIDS experts, scientists, clinicians, policy-makers, faith leaders, business leaders and activists at the official launch of the End AIDS Coalition (EAC). This initiative, which was launched on 25th July at the 9th International AIDS Conference on HIV Science in Paris marks an unprecedented strong multi-sectoral, inclusive collaboration, aimed at ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030.

The EAC, founded by Kenneth Cole a UNAIDS International Goodwill Ambassador, aims to amplify efforts to end the AIDS epidemic by strengthening linkages across research, resources and implementation, by encouraging the aggregation and analysis of data from the global AIDS response. The EAC also aims to identify barriers and encourage efficiencies by inspiring a movement to mobilize and engage the next generation of young leaders in the response to HIV.

"Globally, preventing HIV remains a major challenge particularly among young women and girls," said Abdool Karim Associate Scientific Director of CAPRISA. "Now is not the time to slow down responses or investments to the epidemic. If we don't act now we could reverse the



At the launch of the End AIDS Coalition in Paris (L-R): Kenneth Cole UNAIDS International Goodwill Ambassador, Michel Sidibé Executive Director UNAIDS, Quarraisha Abdool Karim associate scientific Director CAPRISA and Marijke Wijnroks: Interim Executive Director for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

gains made to date. By collectively focusing on a common goal through the EAC, we will be able to link research to funding and implementation, which, in turn, will accelerate the widespread use of innovation and expedite the end of the epidemic," said Abdool Karim.

Cole said the world was at a tipping point in the response to the HIV epidemic. He stressed the need for all actors to join together to gain control of the epidemic before the window of opportunity closed.

NIH grant funds the CAPRISA Research Administration and Management Training Programme



Dr Izukanji Sikazwe



Dr Cheryl Baxter

We congratulate Dr Cheryl Baxter, CAPRISA Research Associate, on being awarded an NIH training grant to establish the CAPRISA Research Administration and Management Training Program.

This 3-year training programme will provide targeted grant writing and grant administration training through workshops and internships.

An important component of the training programme is the provision of capacity building opportunities for research administration staff at other southern African institutions. CAPRISA has partnered with the Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ). Research administration staff from CIDRZ will complete internships at CAPRISA and will receive ongoing mentorship in grants administration. The programme also aims to build research administration leadership at both organisations and selected staff will be offered the opportunity to complete a Masters in research administration.

"This training programme is an important opportunity to build the capacity of young investigators and research administrators in grant writing and administration at CAPRISA and CIDRZ. I look forward to working with the CIDRZ Chief Executive Officer Dr Izukanji Sikazwe and her team to make this training programme a success." said Dr Baxter.



KRISP - KZN Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform launched

Tulio de Oliveira, a CAPRISA Research Associate, is leading the newly launched KwaZulu-Natal Research and Innovation Sequencing Platform (KRISP) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). KRISP was established following an agreement between the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) and UKZN in South Africa. Professor Salim Abdool Karim will chair the Scientific Advisory Board of KRISP.

De Oliveira, says that KRISP aims to produce and analyse omics data at the speed and quality of leading global genomics centres.

De Oliveira, an expert in HIV genetics and bioinformatics, is Professor in the College of Health Sciences at UKZN. "A critical function of KRISP will be to enable and facilitate access to genomics, epigenetics and bioinformatics technology to a broader community of users who might not otherwise pursue these technologies or use alternative international resources," said de Oliveira.

'We decided that it was wise to build KRISP on our strength in genomics, epidemiology and bioinformatics and to use our existing facilities at the School of Laboratory

Medicine and Medical Sciences in the College of Health Sciences to host it,' said de Oliveira. KRISP has recently received much academic and general media attention, which highlighted this as an important development in South Africa. For more information please visit <http://www.krisp.org.za>



Prof Tulio de Oliveira, head of KRISP

CAPRISA team presents at the STI & HIV World congress

Investigators from the CAPRISA 083 STI study attended the STI & HIV World Congress in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The delegates included PI Dr Nigel Garrett (CAPRISA), Professor Koleka Mlisana (UKZN, NHLS), Professor Adrian Mindel (CAPRISA Associate), Jessica Naidoo (CAPRISA Laboratory Technician) and Nireshni Mitchev (UKZN MSc student). The team presented 6 abstracts at the conference on diagnostic point-of-care STI testing using the GeneXpert platform, improved partner treatment systems, and a costing study of a diagnostic care model in South Africa. The CAPRISA 083 study was funded by the US – SA Program for Collaborative Biomedical Research grant through the South African MRC and the NIH.



R to L – Nigel Garrett, Koleka Mlisana, Jessica Naidoo, Nireshni Mitchev, Adrian Mindel; (back row – Christ the Redeemer)



Salim, Quarraisha and Safura Abdool Karim together with Ida Susser, celebrate Zena Stein's 95th birthday in New York



During the IAS meeting in Paris, Dr Viraj Mehta, of Cipla in India and Dr Ishwar Gilada, President of the AIDS Society of India at dinner with Professors Quarraisha and Salim Abdool Karim.



Scientific papers published in 2017

43* Bhiman JN, **Moore PL**. Size Doesn't Matter: Shorter Antibody Loops Can Infiltrate HIV's Env Apex Defenses. *Immunity* 2017; 46(5):762-764. doi: 10.1016/j.immuni.2017.04.012

44 Craig GM, **Daftary A**, Engel N, O'Driscoll S, Ioannaki A. Tuberculosis stigma as a social determinant of health: a systematic mapping review of research in low incidence countries. *International Journal of Infectious Diseases* 2017; 56: 90-100.

45 Cazabon D, Alsdurf H, Satyanarayana S, Nathavitharana R, Subbaraman R, **Daftary A**, Pai M. Quality of tuberculosis care in high burden countries: the urgent need to address gaps in the care cascade. *International Journal of Infectious Diseases* 2017; 56: 111-116.

46 **Naidoo A, Ramsuran V**, Chirehwa M, Denti P, McIlleron H, **Naidoo K, Yende-Zuma N**, Singh R, **Ncgapu S**, Pepper M, Chaudhry M, and **Padayatchi N**. The Effect of Genetic Variation in UGT1A and ABCB1 on Moxifloxacin Pharmacokinetics in South African Patients with Tuberculosis. *Clinical Therapeutics* 2017; 39(8): S44-S45.

47 **Chimukangara B**, Samuel R, **Naidoo K, de Oliveira T**. Primary HIV-1 Drug Resistant Minority Variants. *AIDS Reviews* 2017; 19(2):89-96.

48 Tlou B, Sartorius B, **Tanser F**. Space-time patterns in maternal and mother mortality in a rural South African population with high HIV prevalence (2000-2014): Results from a population-based cohort. *BMC Public Health* 2017, 17(1) 543 doi: 10.1186/s12889-017-4463-9.

49 **Jaumdally SZ**, Picton A, Tiemessen CT, Paximadis M, Jaspan HB, Gamielien H, **Masson L**, Coetzee D, Williamson AL, Little F, **Gumbi PP, Passmore JS**. CCR5 expression, haplotype and immune activation in protection from infection in HIV-exposed uninfected individuals in HIV-serodiscordant relationships. *Immunology* 2017; 151(4):464-473.

50 Riddler SA, Husnik M, Ramjee G, Premrajh A, Tutshana BO, Pather A, Siva S, Jeenaarain N, **Nair G**, Selepe P, Kabwigu S, Palanee-Phillips T, Panchia R, Mhlanga F, Levy L, Livant E, Patterson K, Elharrar V, Balkus J. HIV disease progression among women following seroconversion during a tenofovir-based HIV prevention trial. *PLoS One* 2017; 12(6):e0178594. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0178594.

51 **Abdool Karim SS, Abdool Karim Q**, Abimiku A, Bekker L-G, Bukusi EA, Deschamps MMH, Derbew M, Garcia PJ, Gray G, Kanya MR, Swaminathan S, Wu Z. Closing the NIH Fogarty Center threatens US and global health. *Lancet* 2017; 390(10093):451.

*continuation from previous newsletter

Scientific Reviews

Abstracts submitted for review		Manuscripts submitted for review		Ancillary studies submitted for review	
Total#	Cumulative^	Total#	Cumulative^	Total#	Cumulative^
1	388	3	220	1	80

for month, ^ since committee initiation



Board of Control: AC Bawa (Chair) • Q Abdool Karim • SS Abdool Karim • R Bharuthram • D Clark • LP Fried (US) • S Madhi • LE Mazwai
 K Naidoo • B Ntuli • N Padayatchi • RM Phakeng • M Rajab • D Ramjugernath • ZM Yacoob
 Scientific Advisory Board: C Hankins (Chair) F Abdullah • F Barré-Sinoussi • SM Dhlomo • P Godfrey-Faussett • FG Handley • G Hirschall • J Mascola • Y Pillay T Quinn
 Registration number: 2002/024027/08 • PBO number: 930 018 155