



CAPRISA

CENTRE FOR THE AIDS PROGRAMME OF RESEARCH IN SOUTH AFRICA



CAPRISA IS A UNAIDS COLLABORATING CENTRE FOR HIV PREVENTION RESEARCH

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In this issue...

The lead story for this issue of the newsletter focuses Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim's Distinguished Women in Science Award in recognition of her contributions to science broadly but mainly for the CAPRISA 004 tenofovir gel trial.

On page 2 we highlight the visit by the Parliamentary Portfolio Committees for Science and Technology and Health to CAPRISA.

Our contributions toward Mandela Day are summarised on page 3.



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Quarraisha Abdool Karim receives "Distinguished Woman in Science" Award



From L-R: Professors Cheryl Potgieter, Quarraisha Abdool Karim, Deeva Bhana, Pearl Sitole and Ms Tricia Naicker at the Distinguished Women in Science Award event

Infectious diseases epidemiologist, Quarraisha Abdool Karim, received the South African government Department of Science and Technology's (DST) Distinguished Woman in Science Award in the Life, Natural and Engineering Sciences for 2011. The award, which was presented by Minister Naledi Pandor on 19 August at a Gala Dinner function held at the Presidential Guest House in Pretoria, was made in recognition of her contributions to science broadly but mainly for the CAPRISA 004 tenofovir gel trial, which provided the first clinical trial evidence that antiretroviral drugs can prevent sexually transmitted HIV infection in women. Quarraisha is Associate Professor of Epidemiology at Columbia University, Adjunct Professor in Public Health at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and Associate Scientific Director of CAPRISA.

The Distinguished Women in Science Awards are part of the DST's efforts to increase the number of women scientists and researchers in the country, to in-

crease women's access to research professions in the country, and to profile successful scientists and researchers as role models for younger women and girls. In accepting the award Quarraisha paid tribute to the women who had been part of the CAPRISA 004 trial and said "The real heroines are the 889 women who participated in the CAPRISA 004 trial. This award recognises their contribution as much as it recognises my contribution to HIV prevention."

Quarraisha has made seminal contributions on the evolving epidemiology and prevention of HIV in women, ethics and human rights. She has conducted critically important research on TB-HIV treatment, where the findings have served as the basis for the WHO's international policies and guidelines on TB and HIV co-treatment. She serves on several boards including Section 27 and is a Commissioner on the KwaZulu-Natal Planning Commission. She is a consultant to

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Women in Science award

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WHO, UNAIDS and UNDP on several AIDS-related expert committees on gender, ethics, treatment, and research capacity building. She is also the Director of the Columbia University - Southern African Fogarty

AIDS International Training and Research Program, which has contributed to post-graduate training of several hundred young South African scientists in HIV and TB research. In addition to her research and capacity building contributions, Quarraisha has extensive policy experience that stems from her term as the first National Director of the South African National HIV/AIDS and STD Program

CAPRISA congratulates Quarraisha on this prestigious award.

To read more about the DST awards see: <http://www.dst.gov.za/other/wsa>



Quarraisha Abdool Karim accepting the Distinguished Women in Science award from Minister Naledi Pandor.

Parliamentary Portfolio Committee visits CAPRISA

CAPRISA was honoured to host several members of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committees for Science and Technology and for Health on the 3rd and 4th August 2011. Included in the delegation were Dr N Ngcobo, Mr P Smith, Ms M Shinn, Ms P Mocumi, Ms Z Nellazi, Ms H Line, Ms S Plaatjie, Adv Nonkonyana, and Ms S Isaacs from the Science and Technology Committee and Dr MB Goqwana, Ms C Dube, Ms BT Ngcobo, Ms E Mre, Mr DA Kganare, and Ms VB Majalamba from the Health Committee. The primary purpose of their visit was to gain first-hand information about the tenofovir gel research that was funded by the Department of Science and Technology.

On the first day, delegates visited the CAPRISA Vulindlela Clinical Research site and had the opportunity to tour the facility and to meet with local leadership and patients. The University of KwaZulu-Natal's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Malegapuru William Makgoba, hosted a dinner at the Killie Campbell Collections for the delegates and other leaders from the University.

On the second day the delegates

were met by Dr Nesri Padayatchi, Dr Sengeziwe Sibeko, Dr Leila Mansoor, Dr Lulu Nair and Dr Kogie Naidoo at the CAPRISA eThekweni Clinical Research site and had an opportunity to tour the prevention and treatment facilities at CAPRISA as well as the tuberculosis treatment facilities at the Prince Cyril Zulu Communicable Disease Centre. Professor Salim Abdool Karim gave a presentation on "HIV and women in South Africa: New hope in antiretroviral microbicides to prevent HIV". This presentation captured the current state of the HIV and women in South Africa, provided a summary of the key CAPRISA 004 trial results and discussed CAPRISA's future plans with tenofovir gel.

The delegates then went to the Doris Duke Medical Research Institute, located at the Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine where they enjoyed a lunch which was hosted by the Dean of the Medical School, Professor Umesh Laloo, and Professor Salim Abdool Karim.

The Parliamentary Portfolio Committees also had the opportunity to meet with Professor William Bishai, Director of K-RITH and to visit the Moses Kotane Institute while in Durban.



From L-R: Discussing new research projects on TB and HIV in the CAPRISA boardroom were Dr Nqaba Ngcobo, Chair of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Science and Technology; Professor Malegapuru William Makgoba, Vice Chancellor of the University of KwaZulu-Natal; Ms Glaudina Loots, Department of Science and Technology; Professor Jerome Singh, CAPRISA; Professor Umesh Laloo, University of KwaZulu-Natal; Professor William Bishai, K-RITH; and Mr Peter Smith, member of Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Science and Technology.



CAPRISA gives "67 minutes" for Mandela Day



CAPRISA's Vulindlela paediatric and adolescent patients and other orphans and vulnerable children join in the Mandela Day celebrations

Famous Caprisa IT guy...

In celebration of "Mandela Day", CAPRISA staff dedicated 67 minutes of their time toward community service on July 18, 2011. The CAPRISA Vulindlela staff hosted about 100 paediatric and adolescent patients, orphans and vulnerable children from crèches and other NGO's in the Inadi ward of Vulindlela. Activities on the day included face painting, finger painting a banner for Mr Mandela, dancing and singing. Children recited bible verses and poems on HIV/AIDS and how they cope and the pain of losing loved ones.

Mandela Day was also celebrated at the Doris Duke Medical Research offices in Durban. Prof Salim Abdool Karim gave a moving speech about Nelson Mandela's trial and the staff donated used clothing and food which was distributed to the Welbedacht community.

Everyone joined in singing the national anthem and Happy Birthday to Nelson Mandela (Madiba).

The overarching objective of Mandela Day is to inspire individuals to take action to help change the world for the better, and in doing so build a global movement for good. Ultimately it seeks to empower communities everywhere. In recognition of the 67 years that Mr Mandela spent serving his community, his country and the world, people everywhere were encouraged to "Take Action; Inspire Change; Make Every Day a Mandela Day."

To read more about Mandela Day see: <http://www.mandeladay.com/static/faqs>



A) Some of CAPRISA's DDMRI staff sing happy birthday to Madiba.
B) The collection of clothes that were donated to the Welbedacht community

2011 Scientific publications



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

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

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**this list continues from the previous newsletter - providing all CAPRISA publications in 2011*

Upcoming Conference & Workshop Reminders

Conference	dates	Deadlines		
		Abstracts	Registration	website
Microbicides 2012	April 2012	17 Nov 2011	15 Mar 2012	http://www.microbicides2010.org/microbicides-2012

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