

## In this issue...

Our feature story this month focuses on the WHO Technical Consultation on HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for Women and Adolescent Girls

We congratulate post-docs Dr Jinal Bhiman and Dr Zanele Ditse on receiving prestigious fellowships and Dr Christina Thobakgale-Tshabalala on being inducted into the African Academy of Science as an affiliate on page 2. Drs Kogje Naidoo and Halima Dawood are also congratulated on their appointments to the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Clinical Governance and Pharmacovigilance Advisory Committee.

On page 3 we congratulate the CAPRISA laboratory team for an outstanding audit by FHI360/ Westat and also congratulate Professor Lynn Morris who was inducted into the Royal Society of South Africa.



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# WHO Consultation on HIV PrEP for women and adolescent girls



Delegates at the WHO Technical Consultation on HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for Women and Adolescent Girls held over two days at the Elangeni hotel in Durban.

**T**he World Health Organisation (WHO) Technical Consultation on HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for Women and Adolescent Girls brought together public health and clinical experts at a two-day meeting in Durban on 27-28 September.

The meeting, which was convened by the WHO and hosted by CAPRISA, was attended by representatives from WHO, UNITAID, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Foundation for Professional Development, CHAI, Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordina-

tor, Pangaea, JHPIEGO, as well as leading HIV research organisations in Africa. During the consultation experts on HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), sexual and reproductive health and antenatal care services (including prevention of mother-to-child transmission) and HIV services for adolescents, highlighted issues that have implications for the implementation of PrEP for women and adolescent girls.

These include PrEP safety in pregnancy; the utility and feasibility of including PrEP during the antenatal and breastfeeding period; data to support prioritisation of

PrEP services for women and adolescent girls; and service delivery approaches for different settings and populations.

The outcomes from the meeting will be incorporated into the WHO PrEP implementation guidelines. "These guidelines will provide countries with programmatic guidance for the safe, strategic and cost effective implementation of PrEP for women and adolescent girls including pregnant women and those who are breastfeeding," said Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim, associate scientific Director CAPRISA.



## Scientists appointed to Advisory committee

**D**rs Kogieleum Naidoo and Halima Dawood from CAPRISA have been invited to serve on the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Provincial Clinical Governance and Pharmacovigilance Advisory Committee. As committee members they will provide technical support to district managers in KZN to strengthen Clinical Governance and Pharmacovigilance on the Antiretroviral Program. The advisory committee provides technical guidance and support to clinicians and program managers on the management of complicated patients and those with virological failures and the assessment and monitoring of access to quality care in facilities that provide HIV and TB services in KZN. Dr Naidoo is the head of Treatment in HIV and TB and Dr Dawood is a research associate at CAPRISA.



*Dr Halima Dawood*



*Dr Kogieleum Naidoo*

## Induction into AAS early career development initiative

Dr Christina Thobakgale-Tshabalala, who is a Research Associate at CAPRISA, was among the first cohort of 15 young scientists selected by the African Academy of Sciences for a programme to recognise, mentor and help early career professionals develop into world class research leaders. The 15, who are PhD holders and below the age of 40, were selected from the five regions of Africa to be AAS Affiliates for a five-year period running from 2016 to 2020. They were inducted at the AAS 10th General Assembly taking place in Kasane, Botswana.



AAS will work with their institutions to offer them training in areas that include proposal writing and manuscript preparation to help them win more grants and improve their publication records, respectively. Other training will be offered in ethical research conduct and intellectual property to ensure they are equipped with the knowledge need to develop their careers. Berhanu Abegaz, the AAS Executive Director said: "Unless we provide opportunities to attract, train and retain our young scientists, especially those who are showing promise in their different fields, through a rewarding career path we will continue to lose them." Africa loses 20,000 thousands of professionals every year to developed countries some of whom are scientists who are frustrated by the lack of infrastructure and mentors.

AAS Affiliates will be mentored by experts in their fields from across the globe, some of whom are senior scientists drawn from AAS Fellows. Mentorship is a conduit for young professionals to gain the knowledge they need to be successful in their careers.

## Post-docs awarded prestigious fellowships

**D**rs Bhiman and Ditse, post-doctoral fellows hosted by Prof Lynn Morris at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases have been awarded prestigious fellowships.

Dr Jinal Bhiman was awarded the 2016 James Gear Fellowship, which is presented to outstanding candidates to enable them to develop their research careers in international academic institutions. In early 2017, Jinal will join Prof Dennis Burton's laboratory at the Scripps Research Institute as a Postdoctoral Research Associate, where she will be involved in the

development of first generation trimeric HIV envelope immunogens needed for a preventative HIV vaccine.

Dr Zanele Ditse was awarded the prestigious 2016 Hillel Friedl and Fellowship from the University of the Witwatersrand for her project entitled: Characterization of broadly neutralizing antibody responses in HIV-1 subtype C infected children. This 3 year Fellowship is intended for young individuals who have completed a doctorate in the past five years and who wish to conduct cutting-edge research in a topic relevant to the health domain.



*Dr Jinal Bhiman*



*Dr Zanele Ditse*





## CAPRISA laboratories receives a clean audit

CAPRISA congratulates the Laboratory team for receiving an excellent audit by FHI360/Westat. This follows an audit from 26-29 July for studies that include IMPAACT, HVTN, HPTN and MTN.

The CAPRISA main laboratory as well as the site laboratories at the eThekweni and Vulindlela Research Clinics underwent intense audit of the Quality Management Systems for compliance to the ISO 15189:2012 Standard and Code of Federal Regulations 42 part 21. The audit reports received on 31<sup>st</sup> August and 9<sup>th</sup> September “had not a single finding or observation at all of the CAPRISA Laboratories”, explained Ms Natasha Samsunder Director CAPRISA Laboratories. “This was an amazing accolade and evidence of the strong quality management system in place across all CAPRISA laboratories.” She lauded laboratory staff and said, “credit for this amazing achievement has to be awarded to all of the CAPRISA Laboratory staff who ensure that quality is the highest priority and adherence to the quality management system is effectively integrated into daily functioning of the laboratories.” CAPRISA laboratories are accredited by the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) as



From L-R (Front Row): Shannie Kamal, Natasha Samsunder, Phindile Tshabalala. Back Row (L-R): Panji Pillay, Zanele Mchunu, Lenine Liebenberg, Athena Lemon, Ross Cromarty, Chèli Kamaran, Jacqui Kasavan, Damien Sookoo, Sahil Tulsi, Sanele Mhlungu, Ashley Singh

well as international laboratory accreditation authorities like DAIDS DCLOT and PPD. The laboratory quality management system is in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations Title 42: Public Health, Part 493 Laboratory Requirements; Title 21: Food and Drugs, Part 58 Good Laboratory Practices for Non-Clinical Laboratory Studies and ISO International Standard 15189 Medical Laboratories for quality and competency requirements.

## Prof Lynn Morris inducted into the Royal Society of South Africa



Professor Lynn Morris head of the HIV Virology Section at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) and CAPRISA Research Associate was inducted as a fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa on 27 September. She delivered a public lecture at the event titled ‘Closing in on an AIDS Vaccine’ that stimulated a lot of discussion. Lynn is a founding member

of CAPRISA directing the antibody studies that included the isolation of the CAP256-VRC26.25 monoclonal antibody that is soon to be tested in the CAP012 trial. She is an NRF A-rated scientist and has published over 200 papers and holds an H-index of 51. The event was attended by Professors Salim and Quarraisha Abdool Karim, Prof Thumbi Ndung’u, Prof Jo-Ann

*Professor Lynn Morris being inducted into the Royal Society of South Africa by Em. Professor Cesareo Dominguez, a Theoretical Physicist from UCT. The book on the left is a Fellowship Register which she signed. The register began when the Society was renamed in 1908 and contains signatures of some famous scientists including Robert Broom, Raymond Dart, Phillip Tobias, George Ellis, etc.*



## Scientific papers published in 2016

- 46 Sobieszczyk ME, **Werner L**, **Mlisana K**, **Naicker N**, Feinstein A, Gray CM, **Masson L**, **Passmore J-AS**, **Williamson C**, **Abdool Karim Q**, **Abdool Karim SS**, **Garrett NG**. Metabolic syndrome after HIV acquisition in South African women. *JAIDS* 2016 July. DOI: 10.1097/QAI.0000000000001123 [Epub ahead of print]
- 47 **Padayatchi N**, **Mahomed S**, Loveday M, **Naidoo K**. Antibiotic Stewardship for Drug resistant Tuberculosis. *Expert Opinion On Pharmacotherapy* 2016 Oct; 17(15):1981-3. doi: 10.1080/14656566.2016.1225724. www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27550243
- 48 Wibmer CK, Gorman J, Anthony CS, Mkhize NN, Druz A, York T, Schmidt SD, Labuschagne P, Louder MK, Bailer RT, **Abdool Karim SS**, Mascola JR, Williamson C, Moore PL, Kwong PD, **Morris L**. Structure of an N276-dependent HIV-1 Neutralizing Antibody Targeting a Rare V5 Glycan Hole adjacent to the CD4 Binding Site. *Journal of Virology* 2016 August 31. pii: JVI.01357-16. [Epub ahead of print]. DOI: 10.1128/JVI.01357-16.
- 49 Tlou B, Sartorius B, **Tanser F**. Spatial-temporal dynamics and structural determinants of child and maternal mortality in a rural, high HIV burdened South African population, 2000–2014: a study protocol. *BMJ open*. 2016 Jul 1; 6(7):e010013. DOI: 10.1136/bmjopen-2015-010013. http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=PMC4964211
- 50 Schomaker M, Leroy V, Wolfs T, Technau KG, Renner L, Judd A, Sawry S, Amorissani-Folquet M, Noguera-Julian A, **Tanser F**, Eboua F. Optimal timing of antiretroviral treatment initiation in HIV-positive children and adolescents: a multiregional analysis from Southern Africa, West Africa and Europe. *International Journal of Epidemiology*. 2016 Jun 24:dyw097. [Epub ahead of print]. DOI: 10.1093/ije/dyw097.
- 51 Bradley T, Trama A, Tumba N, Gray E, Lu X, Madani N, Jahanbakhsh F, Eaton A, Xia SM, Parks R, Lloyd KE, Sutherland LL, Searce RM, Bowman CM, Barnett S, **Abdool Karim SS**, Boyd SD, Melillo B, Smith AB, Sodroski J, Kepler TB, Alam SM, Gao F, Bonsignori M, Liao HX, Moody MA, Montefiori D, Santra S, **Morris L**, Haynes BF. Amino Acid Changes in the HIV-1 gp41 Membrane Proximal Region Control Virus Neutralization Sensitivity. *EBioMedicine*. 2016 Aug 31. pii: S2352-3964(16)30402-9. doi: 10.1016/j.ebiom.2016.08.045. [Epub ahead of print]

\*continuation from previous newsletter

## Scientific Reviews

Abstracts submitted for review		Manuscripts submitted for review		Ancillary studies submitted for review	
Total#	Cumulative <sup>a</sup>	Total#	Cumulative <sup>a</sup>	Total#	Cumulative <sup>a</sup>
3	367	2	207	0	73

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

## iSpotU awards

The CAPRISA iSpotU Innovation Award is an initiative implemented in 2015 to recognise and reward employees for innovation and initiative, which demonstrate that “There Is a Better Way” of doing a task, process or system. The innovation has to add value to the organisation and/or improve CAPRISA’s organisational reputation. Recipients of the award during September included:

### For enhancing CAPRISA’s reputation and stature:

Bhavna Maharaj, Vinotha Naicker, Kim Cousins, Angela Carr-Hartley, Norma Hatcher, Smita Maharaj, Cheryl Baxter, Kogie Naidoo, Nigel Garrett, Kathy Mngadi, Leila Mansoor, Helen Hingle,

Hilton Humphries, Fanelisibonge Ntombela, Halima Dawood, and Sinaye Ngcapu.

### For going over and above his normal duties and assisting:

Mahomed Mather

### For suggestions or design of innovative approach, solution or idea for the improvement to a working practice or process within the team/ department/ organisation:

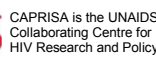
Yajna Duki



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:



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 • M Rajab • DP Visser • ZM Yacoob

Scientific Advisory Board: C Hankins (Chair) • F Barré-Sinoussi • SM Dhlomo • P Godfrey-Faussett • FG Handley • G Hirschall • J Mascola • Y Pillay  
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