



CAPRISA addresses UNAIDS in Geneva

In this issue...

We highlight Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim's address at UNAIDS in Geneva.

On page 2, we report on the coverage of the main findings of the HPTN 046 clinical trials following its publication in *The Lancet*.

On page 3, we report on some personal achievements and a sad loss to the research world.



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Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim addressing the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board in December 2011. Photo: UNAIDS gallery

The impact of tenofovir microbide during trials (CAPRISA 004) to reduce HIV infection rates in women has brought us one step closer to reaching the goal of 'getting to zero'.

This was the topic of a presentation given by CAPRISA's Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim at the 29th meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) of UNAIDS, which took place on 15 December 2011 in Geneva.

Attended by several hundred participants and observers from the UN member states, the objective of the meeting was to review and follow up on recommendations of the 2011 UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS.

In her presentation entitled: *"Women & HIV: The key to reaching the three zeros"*, Professor Abdool Karim emphasised the need to urgently address the high HIV

prevalence amongst women in Africa.

Sub-Saharan Africa has become the epicentre of the HIV pandemic with 22.4 million people living with HIV. South Africa carries 17% of the global HIV burden and has the most AIDS cases worldwide.

HIV prevalence is particularly high amongst young South African women who live in the rural areas. By the age of 16 years, there is already a 10.6% HIV prevalence rate in pregnant women. This percentage increases dramatically to 51.1% in 24 year-old pregnant females. Statistics gathered from other countries on the continent reflect a similar picture of young female infection rates.

The potential impact of tenofovir gel in 8 to 20 years' time could see a significant drop in HIV prevalence to $\pm 1\%$ in young female teenage girls, rising to just $\pm 10\%$ in 24 year-old women.

Microbicides, in combination with other proven HIV prevention technologies could bring about a "prevention revolution", by dramatically changing the trajectory of the HIV epidemic amongst young women.

Professor Salim Abdool Karim, who co-presented at the PCB meeting, concluded by stating that microbicides offered new hope in HIV prevention. The tenofovir gel is an HIV prevention technology that empowers vulnerable women to directly control their HIV risk.



Extended nevirapine for breastfeeding infants reduces HIV transmission

The findings of the HPTN 046 clinical trial, which sought to research the effect of nevirapine as a prophylaxis to reduce mother to child HIV transmission in breastfeeding mothers, was published in *The Lancet* on 23 December 2011.

Postnatal HIV transmission through breast milk accounts for more than one-third of all HIV infections in children.

Formula feeding poses a number of challenges to mothers in developing countries. Formula feeding may simply not be an affordable option to mothers. The requirement to maintain strict feeding hygiene may not be



practicable. Formula fed babies are less resistant to illnesses.

The preliminary clinical trial data indicated that a daily dose of nevirapine given to breastfeeding infants of HIV-infected mothers for six months halved the risk of HIV transmission to the infant. The longer nevirapine regimen achieved a 75% reduction in HIV transmission to the child.

As a result of the study, the World Health Organisation has published guidelines recommending that maternal ARV prophylaxis should be coupled with a daily dose of nevirapine to the infant from birth until one week after breastfeeding has ended.

For more information, visit: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(11\)61653-X/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(11)61653-X/abstract)

FACTS annual meeting

The Follow-on African Consortium for Tenofovir Studies (FACTS) held its annual meeting in Johannesburg from 23 to 25 January 2012. FACTS was established in 2010 to provide confirmatory research after the results of the successful CAPRISA 004 were published.

Professor Quarraisha Abdook Karim painted the picture of HIV prevalence in young women and the potential impact on infections rates should development of tenofovir gel be advanced.

Dr Leila Mansor, microbicide project coordinator, shared the counselling and educational interventions that would be used in FACTS to ensure more stringent adherence by patients during the trial.

French scientists visit CAPRISA



Left to right: Ms Tanuja Gengiah, Ms Natasha Samsunder, Mr Andrew Gray, Professor Salim Abdool Karim; Mrs Judith Annakie-Eriksen, Mr Blaise Figuereo, Professor Bruno Pozzetto, Dr Leila Mansoor, Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim, Mrs Marian Swart, Dr Jo-Anne Passmore, Dr Desh Archary, Dr Lenine Liebenberg

CAPRISA was delighted to host to Professor Bruno Pozzetto of GIMAP, University Hospital of St Etienne, France and his associate Mr Blaise Figuereo in January 2012. Discussions were held concerning possible future research collaborations between the two institutes.



New appointment for Nancy Mahon



Ms Nancy Mahon of M•A•C AIDS Fund, has been appointed by US Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to Chair the US Presidential Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS (PACHA).

As senior vice president at M•A•C and executive director of the M•A•C AIDS Fund, Ms Mahon serves as a member of the brand's senior management team, while overseeing the strategic direction and day-to-day operation of the Fund.

PACHA provides advice, information, and recommendations to the Secretary regarding programs and policies intended to promote effective prevention of HIV disease, and to advance research on HIV and AIDS.

Obituary: Dr Mark Colvin

CAPRISA was saddened by the news of the death of Dr Mark Colvin, CEO of Maromi Health Research in Durban. Mark was a medical doctor and epidemiologist in the field of public health research in southern Africa. His main focus over the last 15 years has been on infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections and TB.

Lenine Liebenberg, PhD



CAPRISA Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Lenine Liebenberg, officially received her PhD at the University of Cape Town in December 2011. Her thesis was entitled: "Mucosal immune responses in HIV infected women: The impact of inflammation and T-cell activation on CD4 depletion and HIV shedding at the female genital tract".

Dr Liebenberg is currently furthering her interest in genital tract immunology at CAPRISA's newly instituted Mucosal Immunology Laboratory. Her immediate focus is set on establishing the infrastructure require to address the mucosal immune contribution to the clinical results of the CAPRISA 004 trial.

Welbedacht Outreach

An appeal from Vinotha Naik of CAPRISA's eThekweni Clinic led to an overwhelming response from colleagues in aid of the Welbedacht Community Project.

Contributions from staff totalled R10 025, which was used to purchase food packs benefiting 102 families in the impoverished area of Welbedacht.

Vinotha wishes to thank everyone who contributed to the project.





CAPRISA Scientific Publications in 2011/2012



UNIVERSITY of the WESTERN CAPE



THE AURUM INSTITUTE

40*	Sibeko S, Baxter C, Yende N, Abdool Karim Q, Abdool Karim SS , on behalf of the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) 004 Trial Group. Contraceptive Choices, Pregnancy Rates, and Outcomes in a Microbicide Trial. <i>Obstet Gynecol</i> 2011; 118(4): 895–904
41	Loveday M, Wallengren K, Voce A, Margot B, Reddy T, Master I, Brust J, Chaiyachati K, Padayatchi N . Comparing early treatment outcomes of MDR-TB in a decentralised setting with a centralised setting in South Africa. <i>Int Journal of Tub Lung Dis.</i> 2012 16(2):209-215
42	Roberts L, Passmore J-A S, Mlisana K, Williamson C , Little F, Bebell LM, Walzl G, Abrahams M-R, Woodman Z, Abdool Karim Q, Abdool Karim SS . Genital Tract Inflammation during early HIV-1 infection predicts higher plasma viral load set point in women. <i>J Infect Dis</i> 2012; 205(2): 194-203 doi: 10.1093/infdis/jir715
43	Grobler AC, Abdool Karim SS . Design challenges facing clinical trials of the effectiveness of new HIV prevention technologies. <i>AIDS</i> 2012, 25:000-000. DOI:10.1097/QAD.0b013e3283509a29
44	Coovadia HC , Brown ER, Glenn Fowler M, Chipato T, Moodley D , Manji K, Musoke P, Stranix-Chibanda L, Chetty V , Fawzi W, Nakabiito C, Msweli L, Kisenge R, Guay L, Mwatha A, Lynn DJ, Eshleman SH, Richardson P, George K, Andrew PRN, Mofenson LM, Zwierski S, Maldonado Y, for the HPTN 046 protocol team. Efficacy and safety of an extended nevirapine regimen in infant children of breastfeeding mothers with HIV-1 infection for prevention of postnatal HIV-1 transmission (HPTN 046): a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. <i>Lancet</i> , 2011; 379(9812): 221-228.
44	Bhagwan S, Naidoo K . Aetiology, clinical presentation and outcome of meningitis in patients co-infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Tuberculosis, <i>AIDS Research and Treatment</i> 2011; 2011: 180352

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

Scientific Reviews

Abstracts submitted for review		Manuscripts submitted for review		Ancillary studies submitted for review	
Total#	Cumulative [^]	Total#	Cumulative [^]	Total#	Cumulative [^]
0	271	3	208	0	27

for month, [^] since committee initiation

Upcoming Conference & Workshop Reminders

Conference	Dates	Deadlines		
		Abstracts	Registration	Website
19th CROI	5-8 Mar 2012	17 Jan 2012	3 Feb 2012	http://retroconference.org/
Keystone Symposia	21-26 Mar 2012	21 Nov 2011	21 Mar 2012	http://keystonesymposia.org/12x5
Microbicides 2012	April 2012	17 Nov 2011	15 Mar 2012	http://www.microbicides2010.org/microbicides-2012
3rd SA TB Conference	12-15 Jun 2012	20 Jan 2012	18 May 2012	http://www.tbconference.co.za/
AIDS 2012	22-27 Jul 2012	15 Feb 2012	3 May 2012	http://www.aids2012.org
Tuberculosis 2012	11-15 Sept 2012	15 June 2012	15 June 2012	http://www.pasteur.fr/infosci/conf/sb/tuberculosis2012/index.html

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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