CAPRISA
CENTRE FOR THE AIDS PROGRAMME OF RESEARCH IN SOUTH AFRICA
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Fixed dose bNAb similar to weight-based dosing and is easier for implementation

A recent paper published by Mahomed et al. in the *Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy* reports the first evaluation of fixed-dose administration of the potent HIV broadly neutralising antibody CAP256V2LS compared with conventional weight-based dosing in young women. The study was conducted at CAPRISA's eThekwini Clinical Research Site in Durban as part of the CAPRISA 012B trial and explored whether a single 1200 mg dose could match the safety, tolerability, and pharmacokinetics of weight-based regimens.

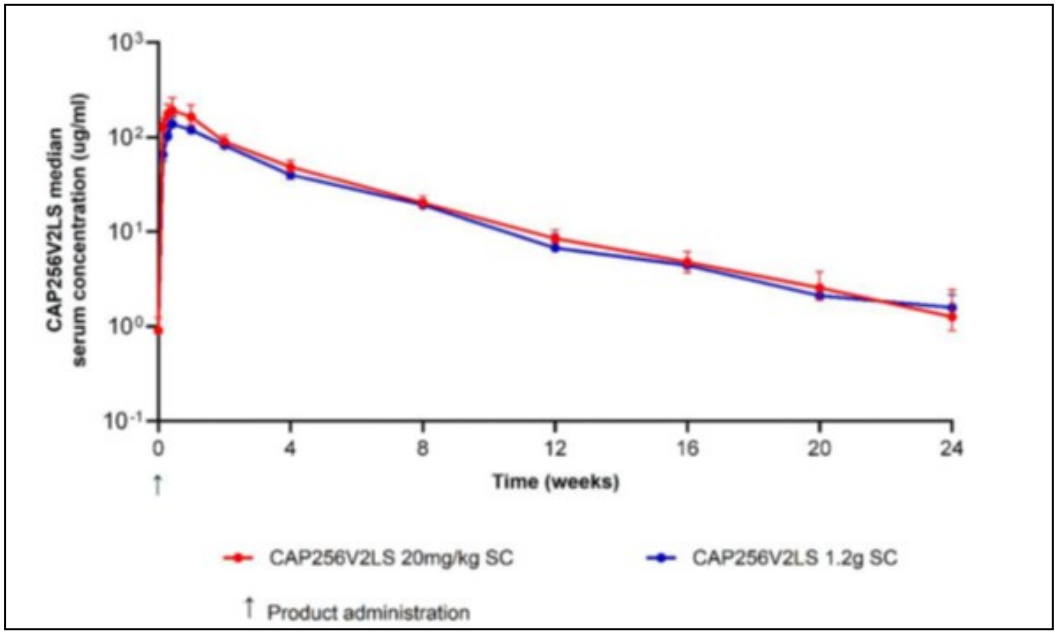
The research found that a fixed dose of CAP256V2LS produced drug concentrations equivalent to those achieved with a 20 mg/kg weight-based dose in women weighing 60–93 kg, with both approaches showing similar safety profiles. Fixed dosing reduced variability in drug exposure and eliminated the substantial product wastage associated with partial vials in weight-based dosing. This efficiency could simplify delivery and maximise the use of limited antibody supplies in large-scale prevention programmes.

Both fixed and weight-based dosing were well tolerated, with mild-to-moderate local reactions and systemic symptoms resolving within days. Population pharmacokinetic modelling confirmed that fixed dosing maintained adequate drug levels across a wide range of body weights, aligning with WHO's preferred product characteristics for bNAbs, which recommend fixed dosing for adults to improve scalability.

The authors note that fixed dosing offers multiple benefits for public health rollout: simplified preparation and administration, faster clinic workflows, consistent dosing without weight calculations, and reduced wastage. These findings mirror fixed-dose successes in other therapeutic areas, such as oncology and rheumatology, and support its adoption for bNAb-based HIV prevention, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

For further reading: Mahomed S, Beliveau M, Heredia-Ortiz R, et al. Population pharmacokinetics of weight-based compared with fixed dosing of CAP256V2LS, a broadly neutralizing antibody for HIV prevention in women. *J Antimicrob Chemother 2025*. https://doi.org/10.1093/jac/dkaf181

Figure: Fixed dosing (blue) of CAP256V2LS achieves comparable blood levels to weight-based dosing (red) over 24 weeks.



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TICAD 9 Yokohama declaration: Co-create innovative solutions with Africa

CAPRISA Director Professor Salim Abdool Karim participated in the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development in Yokohama City in Japan. The Government of Japan has been leading this conference since 1993, co-hosting it with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and the African Union Commission (AUC). According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 49 African countries participated in TICAD 9. Professor Abdool Karim was among the panelists who spoke to a commitment to an Africa-Japan Common Vision on Health, to promote more respectful and equitable partnerships between Africa and Japan.

At a TICAD9 side-event, Professor Abdool Karim participated in a conversation hosted by The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), entitled “Strengthening national capacities, regional networks and global partnerships for improved pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPPR) in Africa. His presentation, “Strengthening research and surveillance capacity in Africa” emphasized the need to strengthen prevention, preparedness and response to health emergencies throughout the region. The TICAD 9 Yokohama Declaration resolved to co-create innovative solutions with Africa. TICAD 10 will convene in Africa.

Photos: Professor Salim Abdool Karim among the panellists developing the Africa-Japan Common Vision on Health at TICAD 9

Friends of the Global Fund - Japan

Bill Gates, Peter Sands and African health care leaders met with Japanese parliamentarians to promote increased pledges for the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria. Strengthening the sustainability of health financing in Africa featured.

Photo: Professor Salim Abdool Karim and representatives of The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the Japan Center for International Exchange

TB (vaccine) or not TB?

South African Health Minister Doctor Aaron Motsoaledi said that the Department of Health is committed to financing and delivering a tuberculosis (TB) vaccine. He was addressing the TB Vaccine Preparedness Workshop in Johannesburg. CAPRISA Deputy Director Professor Kogie Naidoo was among the key stakeholders, including representatives of the WHO, government, scientists and civil society. The two-day meeting discussed advancing policy and decision-making for the introduction of new TB vaccines in South Africa.

In line with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, South Africa aims to end TB as an epidemic by 2030, specifically, committing to an 80% reduction in new TB cases by 2030, relative to 2015 levels. Motsoaledi said, "The COVID-19 pandemic also taught us what becomes possible when urgency meets preparation. We saw how vaccines could be developed, approved, and distributed at record speed but we also learned that science alone is not enough. Public trust, strong systems, clear communication and equitable access are just as essential."

Photo: CAPRISA Deputy Director Professor Kogie Naidoo with AmaZulu Prince Nlanganiso Zulu and Reverend NP Bhengu

Latest stats from the UN's 2025 SDG 3 Fact Sheet

** Tuberculosis is the world's leading cause of death from a single infectious agent. In 2023, an estimated 10.8 million people developed TB with. TB related deaths decreasing to 1.25 million in 2023.*

** Malaria numbers are rising despite global response efforts that have averted an estimated 2.2 billion cases and 12.7 million deaths worldwide since 2000. An estimated 263 million malaria cases occurred in 2023, an increase from 226 million in 2015.*

** AIDS-related deaths halved between 2010 and 2023. Of the estimated 39.9 million people living with HIV in 2023, 9.3 million were not receiving on ARVs treatment . This translates to 1 AIDS-related death every minute.*

CAPRISA Associate Scientific Director Professor Abdool Karim in her capacity as TWAS President delivered a keynote address entitled, "Partnerships and Collaborations for Sustainable Development' at the M.S. Swaminathan Centenary International Conference in New Delhi, India. The renowned agriculture scientist, is known as the father of India's Green Revolution.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented the inaugural TWAS M.S. Swaminathan Award for Food and Peace to Nigerian Scientist Professor Adenle Ademola, for his work to promote sustainable agriculture, in developing small scale farmers and helping them adapt to climate change.

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mssrf M S Swaminathan Research Foundation SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Empowered youth make informed decisions

... and other news.

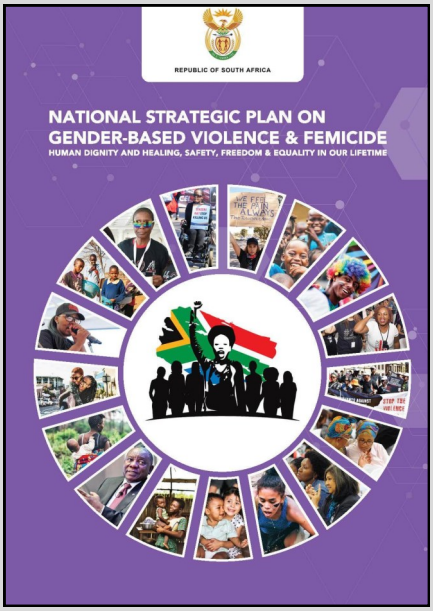
by Siphesihle Gumede

In a heartwarming celebration of Mandela Day, CAPRISA fellows and the Community Outreach team hosted a Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) awareness day at Asibemunye High School in Vulindlela outside Pietermaritzburg. This collaborative effort aimed to empower approximately 1,300 young learners with knowledge and resources to support their health, dignity, and well-being. Through engaging talks and interactive sessions with CAPRISA fellows, learners were introduced to key Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights topics. This included teenage pregnancy, contraception, informed consent, circumcision and mental health.

The aim was not only to raise awareness but also to foster open conversations around issues that are often considered taboo, especially among adolescents. This impactful outreach was combined with a Mandela Day donation drive, where learners received essential hygiene products -sanitary towels, soap and deodorant - as part of CAPRISA's broader commitment to restoring dignity among youth, highlighting the organisation's culture of giving and solidarity with the communities it serves.

In a bid to continue conversations around gender-based violence male students from the University of KwaZulu-Natal came together under the iLawu Lamadoda Male GBV Awareness Programme. It provided an open and non-judgemental platform to speak frankly about a range of sexual health and gender issues, hosted by the UKZN's Department of Student Residence Affairs in partnership with Student Governance and Leadership Development

Head of Community Outreach at CAPRISA Patrick Mdletshe was among the stakeholders that included government, education, health, and law enforcement. Participants raised concerns around issues such as social pressures, multiple sexual partners and a lack of fear of contracting HIV due to the accessibility of ARVs. Mdletshe said, "There is a disjuncture between parents and their young male children. These boys are seeking advice on sex from their peers and not primarily from their parents. We require an update in how we communicate the HIV/Aids message to meet young people where they are and not where we think they should be."



South Africa's National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence & Femicide (GBVF) 2020-2030 violence and femicide

A selection of scientific papers published in 2025

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*Continued from previous newsletter

For the complete list of publications see here: https://www.caprisa.org/Publication/1/1

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