In this issue...
Our feature story covers the results of a CAPRISA 004 sub-study, which showed that tenofovir 1% gel carries no safety concerns in Hepatitis B virus carriers

On page two, leading researchers address KZN community representatives to give their perspective, past SA AIDS, on getting to zero

Turn to page 3 to see which CAPRISA research fellow reached the Mail and Guardian’s top 200 list of interesting and amazing Young South Africans

CONTACT DETAILS
CAPRISA
Doris Duke Medical Research Institute (DDMRI), 2nd Floor University of KwaZulu-Natal Private Bag X1, Congella 4013 South Africa
T: +27-31-260 4555
F: +27-31-260 4566
E-mail: caprisa@ukzn.ac.za
www.caprisa.org.za
Facebook: caprisaofficial

CAPRISA IS A UNAIDS COLLABORATING CENTRE FOR HIV PREVENTION RESEARCH

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From left: Grace London (recipient of the Discovery Health Clinical Excellence Award presented at the SA AIDS 2013 conference), Priscilla Dlamini, Ashraf Kangue, Bronwyne Coetzee

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Obituary: Pius Langa

It was with deep sadness that CAPRISA learnt of the loss of former Chief Justice Pius Langa at the age of 74 after a long illness. Justice Langa was a member of CAPRISA’s Board of Control.

‘He was a strong supporter of CAPRISA since it was created in 2002 when he was the Chancellor of the University. We shall sorely miss his wise counsel, support and friendship,’ commented CAPRISA Director, Professor Salim Abdooll Karim.

Justice Langa’s long and distinguished legal career, which had humble beginnings as a factory worker to finance his law studies, saw him rise to the top judicial post in South Africa, the Constitutional Court.

Described as a true ‘jurist’, Justice Langa received many awards for advancing justice and human rights.
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www.caprisa.org
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To build on the huge gains from scientific evidence already gathered, researchers need to increase their knowledge of the behaviourial challenges that affect acceptability and/or use of effective HIV-prevention methods. ‘Bridging the gap’ with adolescents, particularly young women, posed a significant challenge and their inclusion in biomedical trials was deemed to be a priority. According to Dr van Rooyen lower rates of condom use, slow MMC uptake (possibly attributed to young men to being be dissuaded by the bad press associated with traditional circumcision) and the struggle to encourage men to access HIV services were all cause for concern. ‘Enthusiasm for some good practices has fallen away,’ she said.

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Top left clockwise: Mafakatini Home Base Care enjoying lunch; staff from CAPRISA and Carrington Primary doing food preparation in the kitchen; Brooklyn Primary school children at play time; the production line for meal service.
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To build on the huge gains from scientific evidence already gathered, researchers need to increase their knowledge of the behavioural challenges that affect acceptability and/or use of effective HIV-prevention methods. ‘Bridging the gap’ with adolescents, particularly young women, posed a significant challenge and their inclusion in biomedical trials was deemed to be a priority. According to Dr van Rooyen lower rates of condom use, slow MMC uptake (possibly attributed to young men to being be dissuaded by the bad press associated with traditional circumcision) and the struggle to encourage men to access HIV services were all cause for concern. ‘Enthusiasm for some good practices has fallen away,’ she said.

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‘He was a strong supporter of CAPRISA since it was created in 2002 when he was the Chancellor of the University. We shall sorely miss his wise counsel, support and friendship,’ commented CAPRISA Director, Professor Salim Abdool Karim.

Justice Langa’s long and distinguished legal career, which had humble beginnings as a factory worker to finance his law studies, saw him rise to the top judicial post in South Africa, the Constitutional Court.

Described as a true ‘jurist’, Justice Langa received many awards for advancing justice and human rights.

From left: Professor Jerry Coovadia, Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim and Dr Heidi van Rooyen
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CAPRISA congratulates Dr Vivek Naranbhai, CAPRISA Research Associate, who was named in the top 200 Young South Africans 2013 published by the Mail and Guardian. Now in its eighth year, the list honours ‘interesting young people doing amazing things’ across diverse disciplines.
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Amanda (left) is pictured with Dr Lenine Liebenberg (CAPRISA post doctoral fellow).

From left clockwise: Mafakatini Home Base Care enjoying lunch; staff from CAPRISA and Carrington Primary doing food preparation in the kitchen; Brooklyn Primary school children at play time; the production line for meal service.
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At enrolment, 34 women were identified as being HBV carriers and 22 women acquired HBV infections during follow-up.

On average the gel was used 5.9 times per month by women with HBV infection.

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Science in the form of prophylactic use of antiretrovirals—whether in tablet or microbicide form—as well as medical male circumcision (MMC), have shown that ‘the cup is half full’. Part of the solution to getting to zero lies in the continued research and development of much needed additional HIV-prevention choices, that can be used by women, in particular. Using the example of how multiple contraceptive choices can be incorporated to suit women’s different life stages, Professor Abdool Karim said, ‘When science shows evidence to support multiple options, people like choice.’

To build on the huge gains from scientific evidence already gathered, researchers need to increase their knowledge of the behavioural challenges that affect acceptability and/or use of effective HIV-prevention methods. ‘Bridging the gap’ with adolescents, particularly young women, posed a significant challenge and their inclusion in biomedical trials was deemed to be a priority. According to Dr van Rooyen lower rates of condom use, slow MMC uptake (possibly attributed to young men to being dissuaded by the bad press associated with traditional circumcision) and the struggle to encourage men to access HIV services were all cause for concern. ‘Enthusiasm for some good practices has fallen away,’ she said.

Moving forward, further behavioural studies would be needed to fully comprehend the effect of social and cultural issues on the acceptance of HIV prevention methods.

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T: +27-31-260 4555
F: +27-31-260 4566
E-mail: caprisa@ukzn.ac.za

www.caprisa.org.za
facebook caprisaofficial

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From left: Grace London (recipient of the Discovery Health Clinical Excellence Award presented at the SA AIDS 2013 conference), Priscilla Dlamini, Ashraf Kagre, Bronwanye Coetzee

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