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In our feature article this month we congratulate Professor Salim Abdool Karim on being awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of Cape Town.

On page 2, we highlight some of Dr Andrew Tomita's qualitative research investigating quality of life dynamics in the context of HIV and treatment.

Visits to CAPRISA by officials from PEPFAR, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNAIDS is profiled on page 3. We also congratulate Dr Leila Mansoor on her appointment to the Microbicide Trials Network (MTN) Evaluation Committee.



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Salim Abdool Karim receives honorary doctorate from UCT



Professor Salim Abdool Karim receiving his DSc (honoris causa) degree at the University of Cape Town graduation ceremony held on 12 June 2014

CAPRISA's Director, Professor Salim Abdool Karim was recently awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree in Medicine from the University of Cape Town (UCT) in recognition of the international impact of his research on HIV/AIDS. A media statement released by UCT stated: 'His work epitomises the momentous contribution that innovative multidisciplinary science and medical technology can make to disease prevention, treatment and global health. Professor Abdool Karim's highest-impact scientific discovery was the effect of tenofovir gel, as a microbicide, in preventing both HIV and genital herpes. This landmark study, which he co-led with his wife, provided the first evidence that antiretroviral drugs can prevent sexual transmission of HIV'.

One of Professor Abdool Karim's early stud-

ies which he undertook with his wife, Quarraisha Abdool Karim, showed that young women, especially teenage girls, who were most vulnerable to infection from older men, so the problem needed both behavioural and technological solutions.

This was the context for more than 25 years of HIV prevention research that has included everything from strategic planning and epidemiological studies to clinical trials.

Professor Carolyn Williamson from UCT said "Today Slim Karim is known as "an excellent scholar and an exceptional leader. He has clarity of thought. He understands where things are going, not just in his own field, but in inter-related fields as well."

CAPRISA congratulates Professor Abdool Karim on this well-deserved honour.



HIV and quality of life



Dr Andrew Tomita

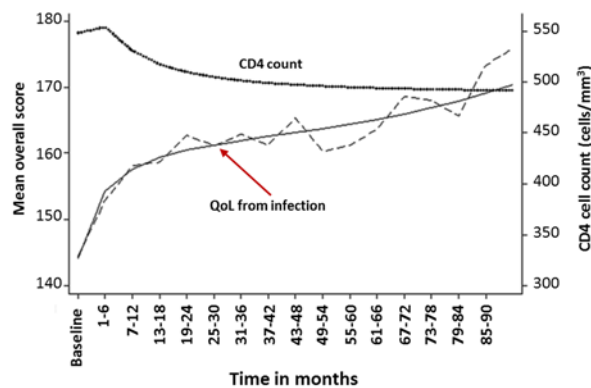
Being diagnosed with HIV is a life-changing event. Although HIV infection is no longer a death sentence with access to antiretroviral therapy (ART), its impact on overall quality of life and sense of well-being are serious concerns. In addition, concerns remain about the long-term side effects of ART and their possible impact on quality of life.

time, and ART is one of several interventions to maximize quality of life.

For further information on these studies see:

- Tomita A, et al. *Health-related Quality of Life Dynamics of HIV-positive ART-naive South African Women: Evidence from the CAPRISA 002 Acute Infection Cohort Study* *AIDS & Behaviour* 2014; 18(6):1114-23
- Tomita A, et al. *Impact of Antiretroviral Therapy on Health-Related Quality of Life among South African Women in the CAPRISA 002 Acute Infection Study.* *AIDS & Behaviour* 2014; DOI 10.1007/s10461-014-0800-5

To gain a better understanding of quality of life dynamics in the context of HIV and treatment, Dr Andrew Tomita and colleagues at CAPRISA repeatedly interviewed 160 South African women from KwaZulu-Natal about their quality of life over a period of several years from early HIV infection. Results from our studies showed that overall quality of life was at its lowest during newly diagnosed HIV infection, but rapidly improved within six months, and continued to improve until ART initiation. Furthermore, Dr Tomita found that ART improved overall quality of life (including physical, emotional and social well-being), and no long-term adverse impact of ART was detected.



Overall FAHI score over time. Long dotted line observed score for FAHI. Solid line fitted score for FAHI. Dark dot line fitted score for CD4 count

Bearing in mind that many of our study participants received various interventions including post-infection counselling and educational support, we concluded that women diagnosed with HIV showed a remarkable resilience over

HIV Vaccine Trials Network meet to discuss HVTN 107 study



diwe Luthuli representing community and Diantha Pillay as the clinic coordinator representative. The meeting was highly productive and we look forward to opening this protocol in 2015.

CAPRISA staff, including Dr. Kathryn Mngadi, Dr. Nigel Garrett, Londiwe Luthuli and Diantha Pillay also attended the annual HVTN meeting for 2014 between 3 and 5 June 2014 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington DC. At the annual meeting exciting new prospects in the way of vaccine design and development was presented. Also many sessions on clinic operations and community were presented and are beneficial for preparing for upcoming protocols that will be open in 2015. We look forward to working with the HVTN on these protocols.

The HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN) held a face-to-face protocol team meeting at their offices in Seattle for an upcoming HVTN 107 protocol on 21-22 May 2014. In attendance from CAPRISA was Dr. Kathryn Mngadi who is the co-chair for this protocol, Lon-



Director of Fogarty International Center visits CAPRISA



Dr Roger Glass (seated centre), Director of the Fogarty International Center, visited CAPRISA in June and took the opportunity to meet with some of the current and past Fellows who have benefitted from training received through the Fogarty-funded Columbia University-Southern African AIDS International Training and Research Program (CU-SA AITRP). Over 500 South African researchers, including several disadvantaged students, have been trained in AIDS and TB through this programme.



Delegates attending 2014 PEPFAR Annual Meeting visit CAPRISA eThekweni Clinic



Several international delegates, who were in Durban for the Annual PEPFAR meeting, visited the CAPRISA eThekweni Research Clinic to discuss the HIV treatment and prevention research being done by CAPRISA. The eThekweni Clinic is one of the PEPFAR / U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-funded sites addressing TB and HIV co-infection in



South Africa. The delegation included Dr Tom Frieden, Director of the CDC, Carmen Villar, Chief of Staff at CDC, Kimberley Dills, Special Advisor to CDC Director, Dr Nancy Knight, Country Director of CDC South Africa as well as a number of US ambassadors, key PEPFAR, USAID, CDC Atlanta, Fogarty and FDA representatives.

Dr Mansoor appointed to MTN Committee



Congratulations to Dr Leila Mansoor on her recent election as a member of the Microbicide Trials Network (MTN) Evaluation Committee. This important committee functions as an arm of the MTN Executive Committee and provides feedback to the network regarding areas for improvement and suggestions for best practices in all areas of the MTN. Dr Mansoor is currently the Co-PI of the CAPRISA 008 tenofovir gel implementation trial.

Deputy Executive Director of UNAIDS visits CAPRISA



Dr Luiz Loures (right), Deputy Executive Director of UNAIDS, recently visited CAPRISA to meet with Professor Salim Abdool Karim who is the Chair of the UNAIDS Scientific Expert Panel.



Scientific papers published in 2014

36*	They MS , Nemes E, Whatney W, de Kock M, Africa H, Barnard C, van Rooyen M, Stone L, Riou C, Kollmann T, Hawn TR, Scriba TJ, Hanekom WA. Maturation of Innate Responses to Mycobacteria over the First Nine Months of Life. <i>The Journal of Immunology</i> 2014; 192(10):4833-43
37	Montague C, Ngcobo N, Mahlase G, Frohlich J, Pillay C, Yende-Zuma N, Humphries H, Dellar R, Naidoo K, Abdool Karim Q. Implementation of Adolescent-Friendly Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision Using a School Based Recruitment Programme in Rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. <i>PLoS ONE</i> 2014; e96468. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0096468
38	Shiboski CH, Chen H, Ghannoum MA, Komarow L, Evans S, Mukherjee PK, Isham N, Katzenstein D, Asmelash A, Omozoarhe AE, Gengiah S , Allen R, Tripathy S, Swindells S, the AIDS Clinical Trials Group Network and the Oral HIV/AIDS Research Alliance. Role of oral candidiasis in TB and HIV co-infection: AIDS Clinical Trial Group Protocol A5253. <i>The International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease</i> 2014; 18(6): 682-688.
39	Tomita A, Garrett N, Werner L, Burns JK, Ngcobo N, Zuma N, Mlisana K, van Loggerenberg F, Abdool Karim SS. Impact of Antiretroviral Therapy on Health-Related Quality of Life among South African Women in the CAPRISA 002 Acute Infection Study. <i>AIDS & Behavior</i> 2014; DOI 10.1007/s10461-014-0800-5
40	Dlova NC, Mankahla A, Madala N, Grobler A , Tsoka-Gwegweni J, Hift RJ. The spectrum of skin diseases in a black population in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. <i>International Journal of Dermatology</i> 2014; DOI: 10.1111/ijd.12589
41	Loveday M, Padayatchi N , Wallengren K, Roberts J, Brust JCM, Ngozi Jf, Master I, Voce A. Association between health systems performance and treatment outcomes in patients co-infected with MDR-TB and HIV in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa: Implications for TB programmes. <i>PLoS ONE</i> 2014; 9(4): e94016
42	Abdool Karim Q, Kharsany ABM, Leask K, Ntombela F, Humphries H, Frohlich JA, Samsunder N, Grobler A, Dellar R, Abdool Karim SS. Prevalence of HIV, HSV-2 and pregnancy amongst high school students in rural KwaZulu-Natal: a bio-behavioral cross-sectional survey. <i>Sexually Transmitted Infections</i> 2014; doi:10.1136/sextrans-2014-051548
43	O'Donnell M , Wolf A, Werner L, Horsburgh CR, Padayatchi N . Adherence in the treatment of patients with extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis and HIV in South Africa: A prospective cohort study. <i>JAIDS</i> 2014; doi: 10.1097/
44	Guffey MB, Richardson B, Husnik M, Makanani B, Chilongozi D, Yu E, Ramjee G, Mgodini N, Gomez K, Hillier SL, Abdool Karim S , on behalf of the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) 035 Study Team. HPTN 035 phase II/IIb randomised safety and effectiveness study of the vaginal microbicides BufferGel and 0.5% PRO 2000 for the prevention of sexually transmitted infections in women. <i>Sexually Transmitted Infections</i> 2014; DOI: 10.1136/sextrans-2014-051537

*continuation from previous newsletter

Scientific Reviews

Abstracts submitted for review		Manuscripts submitted for review		Ancillary studies submitted for review	
Total#	Cumulative [^]	Total#	Cumulative [^]	Total#	Cumulative [^]
0	325	1	187	0	52

for month, ^ since committee initiation

Conference & Workshop Reminders

Conference	Dates	Deadlines		Website
		Abstracts	Registration	
AIDS 2104 - Melbourne, Australia	20-25 Jul 2014	Closed	2 May 2014	www.aids2014.org/
Southern African HIV Clinicians Society—Cape Town, Spout Africa	24-27 Sept 2014	Closed	1 May 2014	http://sahivsoc2014.co.za/;
Third Global Symposium on Health Systems Research — Cape Town, South Africa	30 Sept - 3 Oct 2014	Closed	2 June 2014	http://hsr2014.healthsystemsresearch.org
HIV Research for Prevention 2014: AIDS Vaccine, Microbicide, & ARV-based Prevention Science — Cape Town, South Africa	28-30 Oct 2014	Closed	15 Oct 2014	www.hivr4p.org

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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 Organisation

Registration Number: 2002/024027/08