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In this issue...

The lead story for the final issue of the newsletter for 2010 focuses on the paper highlighting the continued high HIV incidence rates in rural KwaZulu-Natal and the need to enhance HIV prevention and treatment modalities.

On page 2 is a summary of the World AIDS Day event held at the CAPRISA Vulindlela Clinic.

Memories from the CAPRISA's year-end function are provided on page 3.



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Stabilizing HIV prevalence masks high HIV incidence rates amongst rural and urban women in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

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Results from a prospective cohort study, conducted at the CAPRISA Vulindlela and eThek-wini Clinics among women aged 14-30 years, were recently published in the International Journal of Epidemiology.

This study, which was conducted between March 2004 and May 2007, aimed to determine the HIV incidence rate among rural and urban women in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa and showed that HIV incidence rates are devastatingly high in young women in rural and urban KwaZulu-Natal, despite reports of stabilized HIV prevalence observed in current surveillance data.

The HIV prevalence at screening was 35.7% [95% confidence interval (CI) 32.7–38.8] amongst rural women and 59.3% (95% CI 56.5–62.0) amongst urban women. A total of 594/2240 (26.5%) enrolled women contributed to 602 person-years of follow-up. The median age

was 22 years [inter-quartile range 18–23 years]. HIV incidence rates were 6.5 per 100 person-years (95% CI 4.4–9.2) amongst rural women and 6.4 per 100 person-years (95% CI 2.6–13.2) amongst urban women. The HIV incidence rate was highest amongst urban women below the age of 20 years (17.2 per 100 person-years (95% CI 2.1–62.2)) and rural women above the age of 25 years (10.2 per 100 person-years (95% CI 4.1–20.9)).

In mature generalized HIV epidemics, as survival from accessing anti-retroviral treatment (ART) increases, HIV prevalence data may be suboptimal and difficult to interpret without HIV incidence rates. The diffuse nature of the HIV epidemic underscores the urgent need to enhance HIV prevention and treatment modalities.

For a more detailed understanding of the paper see: Int. J. Epidemiol. doi:10.1093/ije/dyq176



World AIDS Day at Vulindlela

The Vulindlela site commemorated the World AIDS Day by reflecting on the achievements made in the fight against HIV/AIDS during 2010.

Mrs Mukelisiwe Mlotshwa, the Vulindlela Site Operations Manager, addressed a group of clients and staff in the waiting area. Her presentation focussed on the recent research achievements at CAPRISA. Specifically, she summarised the findings of the TB/HIV treatment study (SAPiT) that was conducted by CAPRISA at the eThekweni clinic. This study changed the global and local policies in treating patients co-infected by TB and HIV and is making a significant impact on the lives of individuals co-infected with TB and HIV.

Mrs Mlotshwa also spoke about the achievement in the HIV prevention field, including the ground breaking results of CAPRISA 004 tenofovir gel and iPRex trial. These results provide hope for the community. Attendees of the World AIDS Day event were encouraged to continue using the protection that is known to be effective in preventing HIV infection and reminded everyone that the Vulindlela site is rolling out Medical Male circumcision, which has been shown to minimise chances of HIV infection by about 54%.

The World AIDS Day event was also an ideal opportunity for Mrs Mlotshwa to raised awareness about the substance called WUUNGA, which is believed to be the mixture of Stocrine, Rattex, steel wool and dagga. This substance is being used as a drug so attendees were encouraged to keeps their medicines safe and out of reach of anyone who might take a chance of it. Attendees who were on antiretrovirals were reminded about the importance



of adherence to treatment and clinic visits as these are important for their well being and monitoring of recovering and stability of a client.

A candle was lit by Mrs Mlotshwa and one of the CAPRISA patients in memory of the lives lost because of the epidemic and the formalities were ended with a prayer.

By: Fanelesibonge Ntombela

5th SA AIDS Conference
7-10 June 2011
ICC DURBAN • SOUTH AFRICA

Important dates

28 January

Closing date for early registrations

Closing date for scholarship applications

Closing date for abstract submissions

20 May

Closing date for pre-conference registrations

7 June

Onsite registrations

Register and/or submit an abstract visit the conference website: www.saaid.com



CAPRISA year-end function at uShaka

CAPRISA staff had an opportunity to relax and enjoy the fresh sea air at the year-end function was held at the uShaka Marine world on the 27 November 2010. The Hawaiian theme was well received and below are some memories of the event, including the finalists in the “So you think you can dance” and “best dressed competitions.



a) Niotha Naik showing us her dance moves; b) Marian Swart and Norma Hatcher enjoying the sunshine at uShaka; c) Nokuthula Miti and Joyce Thembela in their colourful outfits; d) CAPRISA finance team with some of the unique uShaka creatures; e) CAPRISA’s “best dressed” finalists; f) Cheryl Baxter, Tanuja Gengiah and Leila Mansoor relaxing under the marquee; g) Salim Abdool Karim reflecting on the CAPRISA achievements in 2010; and h) “So you think you can dance” finalists strutting their stuff on the dance floor.

Research update - November 2010



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CAPRISA is an official research institute of the University of KwaZulu-Natal. 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

Registration Number:
2002/024027/08

www.caprisa.org

Study	Site	Screened		No. Enrolled	
		Total	Cumulative	Total	Cumulative
Acute Infection	eThekwini (Phase II-IV)	0	62	0	62
	eThekwini (Phase V)	1	17	1	17
TRAPS	eThekwini & Vulindlela	0	98	0	98
CAT	Vulindlela	60	4006	40	1791
	eThekwini	0	3951	40	1638
TRUTH	eThekwini	1	389	1	389
ACTG 5253	eThekwini	0	112	0	112
Microbicide (MTN003 – VOICE)	eThekwini	68	372	39	154
SASHA	eThekwini	0	263	4	191

Scientific Review Committee update

Abstracts submitted for review		Manuscripts submitted for review		Ancillary studies submitted for review	
Total [#]	Cumulative [^]	Total [#]	Cumulative [^]	Total [#]	Cumulative [^]
0	184	3	84	0	22

for month, ^since committee initiation

Upcoming Conference & Workshop Reminders

Conference	dates	Deadlines		
		Abstracts	Registration	website
CROI 2011	27 Feb-02 Mar 2011	12 October 2010	24 Jan 2011	http://retroconference.org/2011/
41st Union World Conference on Lung Health	11-15 Nov 2010	30 July 2010	20 October 2010	www.worldlunghealth.org/confBerlin/
4th SA AIDS Conference	7-10 June 2011	28 January 2011	20 May 2011	http://www.saaids.com/

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