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Quarraisha Abdool Karim receives the Order of the Mapungubwe

Impact on the AIDS response and influence on international and local policy acknowledged in national honours list

Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim, Associate Scientific Director of CAPRISA was bestowed with the Order of Mapungubwe: Bronze by the South African State President on Freedom Day (27 April 2013) in recognition of her “outstanding work in the field of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis research and health policy development.” The Order of Mapungubwe is South Africa’s highest honour.

Minister of Science and Technology, Derek Hanekom commented that “While her influence on South African science and her impact on the country’s AIDS response have been profound, it is her passion and deep commitment to human rights, equity and access to health care that have been the true mark of her character.” He said that Professor Abdool Karim “ranks among the world’s top AIDS researchers, for which she also recently received the ‘DST Women in Science’ Award,” and paid tribute to her as “a remarkable and exemplary role model for future generations of South African scientists.”

Minister of Health Aaron Motsoaledi congratulated Professor Abdool Karim, emphasizing that “Her contributions to fighting the AIDS epidemic in South Africa have been immense. This award is an inspiring tribute to her outstanding achievements in AIDS research, policy and advocacy in South Africa and globally.”



Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim receives the Order of Mapungubwe from President Jacob Zuma on Freedom Day at the Presidential Guest-house.

Section 27, highlighted her research that has “contributed immeasurably to our understanding of HIV, AIDS and TB and has saved and improved the lives of many thousands. Prof Abdool Karim has served on the Board of Directors of Section 27 and previously the AIDS Law Project since 2006, and has been a constant source of guidance and expertise throughout our work to realise the right of access to health care services in South Africa.”

Professor Abdool Karim commented “I am honoured to receive this recognition. It has been a singular privilege to work with such dedicated community members and such a



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Chancellor of Orders, Cassius Lubisi (far right), reads Professor Abdool Karim's citation at the presentation ceremony

fine team of scientists, colleagues and partners in South Africa. Much more remains to be done, as the AIDS epidemic continues to spread in South Africa, particularly among vulnerable young women.”

According to the Chancellor of Orders' citation, Professor Abdool Karim “is pushing the boundaries of scientific excellence in her quest to curb the scourge of HIV/Aids, particularly in young women in Africa. She has been devoted to stemming the global AIDS epidemic for more than two decades; culminating in her recent scientific discovery that Tenofovir gel prevents HIV infection and genital herpes in women... the world's first HIV protection technology for women”.

Professor Abdool Karim is Associate Professor of Epidemiology at Columbia University in New York and Adjunct Professor of Public Health at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine of the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She is an infectious diseases epidemiologist who undertook some of the first community based studies of HIV infection in Africa. She has spent more than twenty years unraveling the reasons for the high incidence of HIV in young women and developing new approaches and technologies to empower women to protect themselves

against HIV. Her research on tuberculosis and HIV infection has had a direct impact on the way this co-infection is treated internationally. She has served as an advisor to WHO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNICEF, and numerous other international organisations on AIDS policy matters. She served as the first National Director of the South African National AIDS Programme established by the Mandela government in 1994.

She has received several major local and international awards, including the 2011 “President's Award for Outstanding Achievement in World Health” from the international Drug Information Association (DIA), the 2012 “TWAS Prize in Medical Sciences” from The Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS) and the “Olusegun Obasanjo Prize for Scientific Discovery and Technological Innovation” from the African Academy of Sciences.

About the Order of Mapungubwe: This Order is awarded to South African citizens for excellence and exceptional achievements that have impacted internationally and have served South Africa's interests. It is named after Mapungubwe, an ancient African nation which existed a thousand years ago in what is now the northern part of South Africa. Since it was instituted in 2002 until this year, there have been 29 recipients. The first recipient was President Nelson R. Mandela who was bestowed the Order of Mapungubwe: Platinum.

New Graduates

Our sincerest congratulations go our three CAPRISA fellows who graduated from the University of KwaZulu-Natal in April 2013.



Sinaye Ngcapu

Virologist, **Sinaye Ngcapu**, was presented with his Master of Medical Science Degree for his dissertation: *Nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors-associated mutations in the RNase H region of HIV-1 isolates in South African adults and children failing highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART).*



Ashley Singh

Laboratory fellow, **Ashley Singh**, received his Bachelor of Medical Science Honours.

Rubeshan Perumal, MBChB, achieved his Master of Public Health following his study on *HIV prevalence among tuberculosis cases and suspects at a tuberculosis facility in Durban.*

Pretoria University delegation



CAPRISA was delighted to host a high-level delegation from the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Health Sciences for an information sharing session. Left to right: Ms Marian Swart, Prof Tiaan de Jager (UP), Dr Nesri Padayatchi, Prof Willie van Heerden (UP), Prof Mavis Mulaudzi (UP), Prof Michael Pepper (UP), Prof Quarraisha Abdool Karim, Prof Salim Abdool Karim, Prof Eric Buch (UP).



CAPRISA Training Programme Re-vitalised

The CAPRISA Training Programme has been in existence since inception of the organisation and has through the years nurtured and grown many young researchers.

Late last year, the programme underwent a review and revitalisation in response to the new generation of medical students and in line with the evolving environment at CAPRISA.



A recent information session held at CAPRISA attracted 40 medical students, of which the majority have been accepted into the Research Placement Programme.

CAPRISA Training Subcommittee

The CAPRISA Training Subcommittee (TSC) is committed to the training of the next generation of scientists, building leadership and developing strategic skills.

The task of the recently recreated TSC chaired by Prof Quarraisha Abdool Karim and consisting of key leadership from the scientific programmes and support cores is to address and prioritise training needs in line with the goals and objectives of the CAPRISA scientific programme.

Training focuses on regulatory training, research methodology, journal clubs, management training, as well as training focused on succession planning.



Staff are also encouraged to pursue both undergraduate and postgraduate studies.

CAPRISA Research Placement Programme

The CAPRISA Research Placement Programme (CRPP) is aimed at medical students at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine of the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

This year's recruitment drive focused on 1st-year medical students and recruitment involved a presentation to the students by Professor Salim Abdool Karim, Director of CAPRISA, as well as a poster campaign placed around the medical school inviting applications.

The aim of the CRPP is to harness and nurture "bright young minds" and the plans are aimed at creating opportunities for students to be introduced to research methodology. In the first year, students will be mentored by senior CAPRISA researchers and participate in a wide range of research related activities such as literature

reviews and referencing, principles of clinical research, protocol preparation, regulatory requirements, community engagement activities, site preparatory activities, data collection, management and analysis.

The programme will progress to students selecting a specific field of study with continued mentorship.

The objective of the CRPP is to build and strengthen the next generation of young, keen and astute re-

searchers and prepare graduates to apply the skills learnt in their chosen career field.



CAPRISA Fellowship Programme

The CAPRISA Fellowship Programme aims to afford Fellows the opportunity to work and exchange ideas with experienced researchers in HIV/AIDS and TB, engages Fellows in cutting edge trans-disciplinary research, deepens Fellows' understanding about HIV pathogenesis, prevention and treatment and helps Fellows to strengthen their research skills.

CAPRISA offers pre- and postdoctoral fellowships to individuals from South Africa.

In addition, CAPRISA also hosts international self-funded fellows.



Scientific papers published in 2013



5* Swindells S., Komarow L., Srikanth T., Cain K.P., MacGregor R., Achkar J. Gupta A. Santos V. Asmelash A., Omozoarhe A. E., **Gengiah S.**, Lalloo U., Allen R., Shibosk C., Andersen J., Qasba S., Katzenstein D.K.(2012). "Sensitivity and Specificity of Pulmonary Tuberculosis Screening and Diagnostics in HIV-Infected Individuals: AIDS Clinical Trials Group Protocol A5253." *The International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease* 2013; 17(4):532–539

6 Gopal M, **Padayatchi N**, Metcalfe JZ, **O'Donnell MR**. Systematic review of clofazimine for the treatment of drug-resistant tuberculosis. *International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease* 2013. E pub ahead of print: doi/10.5588/ijtld.12.0144

7 **Daftary A, Padayatchi N**. Integrating patients' perspectives into integrated TB/HIV healthcare. *International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases* 2013; http://dx.doi.org/10.5588/ijtld.12.0714

8 **Abdool Karim Q, Baxter C**. Microbicides for the prevention of sexually transmitted HIV infection. *Expert Review of Anti Infective Therapy* 2013. 2013;11(1):13-23.

9 Richardson BA, Kelly C, Ramjee G, Fleming T, Makanani B, Roberts S, Musara P, Mkandawire N, Moench T, Coletti A, Soto-Torres L, **Abdool Karim SS** for the HPTN 035 Study Team. Appropriateness of hydroxyethylcellulose gel as a placebo control in vaginal microbicide trials: A comparison of the two control arms of HPTN 035. *Journal of AIDS*; 2013; 63(1): 120–125.

10 Etter P, Landovitz R, **Sibeko S**, Sobieszczyk ME, Riddler SA, Karg C, Tsibris A, Schouten J. Recommendations for the follow-up of study participants with breakthrough HIV infections during HIV/AIDS biomedical prevention studies. *AIDS*. 2013, 27:1119–1128

11 van der Straten A, Montgomery E, **Pillay D**, Cheng H, **Naidoo A, Cele Z, Naidoo K**, Hartmann M, Piper J, **Nair G**. Feasibility, Performance, and Acceptability of the Wisebag™ for Potential Monitoring of Daily Gel Applicator Use in Durban, South Africa. *AIDS Behav* 2013 17(2): 640–648.

12 **Moore PL**, Sheward D, Nonyane M, Ranchobe N, Hermanus T, Gray ES, **Abdool Karim SS, Williamson C, Morris L**. Multiple Pathways of Escape from HIV Broadly Cross-Neutralizing V2-Dependent Antibodies. *Journal of Virology* 2013; 87(9):4882-94.

13 **Naranbhai V, Samsunder N**, Sandler NG, Roque A, **Abdool Karim Q**, Ndung'u T, Carr WH, Altfeld M, Douek DC, **Abdool Karim SS**; and The CAPRISA004 Trial Team. Neither microbial translocation nor TLR responsiveness are likely explanations for pre-existing immune activation in women who subsequently acquired HIV in CAPRISA004. *JAIDS* 2013; Mar 11. [Epub ahead of print]

14 Matthews LT, **Sibeko S, Mansoor LE, Yende-Zuma N**, Bangsberg DR, et al. (2013) Women with Pregnancies Had Lower Adherence to 1% Tenofovir Vaginal Gel as HIV Preexposure Prophylaxis in CAPRISA 004, a Phase IIB Randomized-Controlled Trial. *PLoS ONE* 8(3): e56400. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0056400

15 **Abdool Karim Q**. The Global HIV Epidemic: Current Status and Challenges. *Curr HIV/AIDS Rep* 2013; DOI 10.1007/s11904-013-0160-1

16 **Singh JA**. Antiretroviral resource allocation for HIV prevention. *AIDS* 2013; 27(6): 863–865

17 Woodsong C, MacQueen K, Amico RK, Friedland B, Gafos M, **Mansoor L**, Tolley E, McCormack S. Microbicide clinical trial adherence: insights for introduction. *Journal of the International AIDS Society* 2013, 16:18505. doi.org/10.7448/IAS.16.1.18505

18 Sokal D, **Abdool Karim Q, Sibeko S, Yende-Zuma N, Mansoor LE, Baxter C, Grobler A, Frohlich J, Kharsany A, Mlisana K, Maarshalk S, Abdool Karim SS**. Safety of Tenofovir Gel, a Vaginal Microbicide, in South African Women: Results of the CAPRISA 004 Trial. *Antiviral Therapy* 2013; DOI: 10.3851/IMP2311

*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 [^]
1	298	4	163	2	48

for month, ^ since committee initiation

Conference & Workshop Reminders

Conference	Dates	Deadlines		Website
		Abstracts	Registration	
Keystone Conference: The Innate Immune Response in the Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease — Ouro Preto, Brazil	10-15 May 2013	Closed	10 Mar 2013	www.keystonesymposia.org/13E1
30 Years of HIV Science — Paris, France	21-23 May 2013	Dlosed	20 Mar 2013	www.30yearshiv.org/
6th SA AIDS Conference — Durban, South Africa	18-22 Jun 2013	19 Sep 2012	3 Jun 2013	www.saids.co.za
7th IAS Conference — Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	30 Jun-3 Jul 2013	7 may 2013	-	www.ias2013.org/
AIDS Vaccine 2013 — Barcelona, Spain	7-10 Oct 2013	11 Aug 2013	22 Sep 2013	www.vaccineenterprise.org/conference/2013/

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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