



# CAPRISA

CENTRE FOR THE AIDS PROGRAMME OF RESEARCH IN SOUTH AFRICA



CAPRISA IS A UNAIDS COLLABORATING CENTRE FOR HIV PREVENTION RESEARCH

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## In this issue...

The lead story for this issue of the newsletter focuses the Columbia University's 3rd Annual Alumni Summit which focussed on medical breakthroughs and achievements in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

On page 2 we highlight the VOICE trial's event to celebrate the end of accrual for the study.



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## Columbia University Alumni Summit Focuses on AIDS@30

**M**ore than 175 Mailman School alumni gathered for the School's 3rd Annual Alumni Summit on June 16, along with faculty, staff, and students. The summit's theme was the 30th anniversary of the outbreak of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the U.S. To mark the occasion, a panel of scientists and research leaders in the field explored the latest medical breakthroughs and achievements in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and addressed how education and scaled-up prevention can help stop the spread of this disease in the U.S. and globally.

Dean Linda Fried made introductory remarks and welcomed returning alumni. Dr. Ariel Pablos-Mendez, managing director, The Rockefeller Foundation, and recently nominated for the position of assistant administrator for Global Health at USAID, served as moderator for the distinguished panel of experts. The panelists:

Quarraisha Abdool Karim, Salim Abdool Karim, Wafaa El-Sadr, professor of Epidemiology at Mailman and director of International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs (ICAP); and Monica Sweeney, assistant commissioner, Bureau of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.



*Panel participants from left to right: Wafaa El Sadr, Ariel Pablos Mendez, Monica Sweeney, Quarraisha Abdool Karim, Linda Fried, and Salim Abdool Karim*

Among the many provocative questions discussed by the panel were: How does the HIV/AIDS research agenda translate into policy? What sorts of collaborations are needed to prevent HIV/AIDS? What is the role of academic institutions?

Panelists noted that many new approaches are on the horizon for disease prevention and treatment, including the use of microbicide gels to prevent male-to-female transmission—a breakthrough approach developed by the husband-wife team of the Drs. Abdool Karim.

While the virus continually undergoes rapid evolution—.....

*continued on page 2.....*



## Columbia University Alumni Summit Focuses on AIDS@30

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....a significant scientific challenge to prevention and treatment—it remains within our grasp to end the epidemic if the scientific community continues to be creative, open-minded, and takes an activist role.

They also stated how it is imperative to use all the “tools that are available in our toolbox” to stop the epidemic. They noted the critical role that schools of public health must play -- to train and create the next generation of scientists -- for achieving this goal.

At a reception following the panel, alumni had a chance to reconnect with their fellow graduates. The Allan Rosenfield Alumni Award for Excellence was presented at the reunion dinner to Drs. Salim and Quarraisha Abdool Karim, who are faculty members and graduates of the class of 1989.

Recognized for their exceptional contributions to public health research and education, Drs. Abdool Karim have achieved what the National Institutes of Health deemed a "significant milestone in HIV prevention" by developing the first-ever microbicide to effectively prevent HIV infection in women. The breakthrough made global headlines when announced at last summer International AIDS Conference in Vienna.

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a) Quarraisha Abdool Karim (middle) and Salim Abdool Karim (right) receiving the Allan Rosenfield Alumni Award for Excellence from Linda Fried; b) Linda Fried (at podium) and panel members (from L-R): Ariel Pablos-Mendez, Monica Sweeney, Salim Abdool Karim, Wafaa El Sadr, and Quarraisha Abdool Karim; and c) From L-R: Quarraisha Abdool Karim, Anke Erhard, Ida Susser, Mervyn Susser and Zena Stein





## Commemorating the completion of the VOICE trial accrual

**I**N July the VOICE team at the eThekweni Clinical Research Site hosted an event for participants to celebrate the end of accrual in VOICE.

In addition to thanking the participants for their continued participation and commitment to the study, the event, which was attended by 170 enrolled participants, was also used as a platform to disseminate new information in HIV prevention, including the recent results from the iPrEX and FeMPREP studies. Participants were also reminded of the purpose of the VOICE trial and other important issues relating to product adherence, contraception, pregnancy and retention were discussed.

After being provided with the updates, participants were asked their opinions on the VOICE trial and what the implications of the other HIV prevention trial results may be for the VOICE study.

The importance of involving males in HIV prevention research was also highlighted and participants were encouraged to invite or come to site with their partners for



*VOICE study participants listening to HIV prevention updates*

HIV counselling and testing services as well as to access STI treatment should the need arise. They were also informed that the site hosts periodic male involvement workshops where partners are educated broadly on the VOICE study, issues which relate to HIV and AIDS, as well as reasons as to why men are encouraged to get involved.

VOICE participants were also asked to share their current and past experiences or perceptions of clinical trial participation. A participant shared her thoughts, "... At first I experienced some difficulties in swallowing the tablets and some side effects such as headaches and nausea, but now I am used to my thing, even at home they remind me when it is Generations time (local television soapie) that 'hhayi bo' (hey), it is time, do not forget..."

*- Ms Londiwe Luthuli on behalf of the VOICE Recruitment Team*



*Dr Gonasagrie Nair, VOICE trial Investigator of Record, at the eThekweni Clinical Research Site addressing the participants*



### **Announcement:**

The next International Microbicides Conference will be held from Sunday, 15 April 2012 to Wednesday, 18 April 2012 in Sydney, Australia, at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre.

### **Important dates:**

*Abstract Submission:* Thursday 17 November 2011  
*Scholarship Application:* Thursday 17 November 2011  
*Notification of Acceptance:* Friday 16 December 2011  
*Early Bird Registration:* Monday 31 January 2012  
*Late Breaker Abstracts:* Sunday 13 February 2012  
*Accommodation Booking:* Friday 9 March 2012  
*Standard Registration:* Thursday 15 March 2012  
*Conference Registration:* Friday 30 March 2012

For more information visit the Conference website:  
[www.microbicides2012.org](http://www.microbicides2012.org)

## 2011 Scientific publications



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

- 22\* **Abdool Karim SS, Abdool Karim Q.** Antiretroviral prophylaxis: a defining moment in HIV control. *Lancet* 2011 Published online July 15, 2011 DOI:10.1016/S0140-6736(11)61136-7
- 23 **Abdool Karim SS, Kashuba A, Werner L, Abdool Karim Q.** Drug concentrations following topical and oral antiretroviral pre-exposure prophylaxis: Implications for HIV prevention in women. *Lancet* 2011 378: 279-281
- 24 **Abdool Karim SS.** Stigma impedes AIDS prevention. *Nature* 2011, 474: 29-31.
- 25 Chopera DR, Mlotshwa M, Woodman Z, **Mlisana K**, de Assis Rosa D, Martin DP, **Abdool Karim S, Gray CM, Williamson C**; the CAPRISA 002 Study Team. Virological and Immunological Factors Associated with HIV-1 Differential Disease Progression in HLA-B\*58:01 Positive Individuals. *Journal of Virology* 2011 85(14):7070-7080
- 26 Madlala P, Gijssbers R, Christ F, Hombrouck A, **Werner L, Mlisana K, An P, Abdool Karim SS, Winkler CA, Debyser Z, Ndung'u T.** Association of Polymorphisms in the LEDGF/p75 Gene (PSIP1) with Susceptibility to HIV-1 Infection and Disease Progression. *AIDS* 2011 (in press). [Epub ahead of print]
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- 28 Padian NS, McCoy SI, **Abdool Karim S**, Hasen N, Kim J, Bartos M, Katabira E, Bertozzi S, Schwartzländer B, Cohen MS. HIV prevention transformed: the new prevention research agenda. *Lancet* 2011; 378: 269-78.
- 29 Singh A, Sunpath H, Green TN, **Padayachi N**, Hiramani K, Lie Y, Anton ED, Murphy R, Reeves JD, Kuritzkes DR, **Ndung'u T.** Drug Resistance and Viral Tropism in HIV-1 Subtype C-Infected Patients in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa: Implications for Future Treatment Options. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr.* 2011 Jun 24. [Epub ahead of print]
- 30 Munira K, **Naidoo K.** Unusual presentation of extrapulmonary tuberculosis: a case report on mammary tuberculosis. *Southern African Journal of HIV Medicine* 2011; 40: 45-46
- 31 Brust JCM, **O'Donnell MR, Metcalfe JZ.** TB/HIV: An Orphan Disease? *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine* 2011, 183: 1441-1442.
- 32 Mamtani M, Mummidi S, **Ramsuran V**, Pham MH, Maldonado R, Begum K, Valera MS, Sanchez R, Castiblanco J, Kulkarni H, **Ndung'u T**, He WJ, Anaya JM, Ahuja SK. Influence of Variations in CCL3L1 and CCR5 on Tuberculosis in a Northwestern Colombian Population. *Journal of Infectious Diseases* 2011, 203(11): 1590-1594 DOI: 10.1093/infdis/jir145

*\*this list continues from the previous newsletter - providing all CAPRISA publications in 2011*

## Upcoming Conference & Workshop Reminders

Conference	dates	Deadlines		
		Abstracts	Registration	website
Microbicides 2012	April 2012	17 Nov 2011	15 Mar 2012	<a href="http://www.microbicides2010.org/microbicides-2012">http://www.microbicides2010.org/microbicides-2012</a>

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