



### In this issue...

The lead story for the October / November issue of the newsletter focuses on the positive results from the iPREX trial which showed that Truvada can reduce the risk of HIV infection by 43.8% in MSM.

On page 2 we highlight the Fogarty-funded Implementation Science Workshop that was hosted in Durban during October.

CAPRISA congratulates the Aurum Institute for Health Research on the opening of the Gavin Churchyard Legacy Centre on page 3.



### CONTACT DETAILS

Doris Duke Medical Research Institute (DDMRI) (2nd Floor)  
Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine  
University of KwaZulu-Natal,  
Private Bag X7, Congella 4013  
South Africa

T: +27-31-260 4555  
F: +27-31-260 4566

E-mail: caprisa@ukzn.ac.za

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Preexposure Chemoprophylaxis for HIV Prevention in Men Who Have Sex with Men

Robert M. Grant, M.D., M.P.H., Javier R. Lama, M.D., M.P.H.,  
Peter L. Anderson, Pharm.D., Vanessa McMahan, B.S., Albert Y. Liu, M.D., M.P.H.,  
Lorena Vargas, Pedro Goicochea, M.Sc., Martín Casapá, M.D., M.P.H.,

**CAPRISA congratulates the iPrEx Team for their momentous finding that Truvada (the tablet form of tenofovir, in combination with emtricitabine) reduces the risk of HIV infection by 43.8% in men who have sex with men. In keeping with the recent results of the CAPRISA 004 trial on tenofovir gel, the ground-breaking iPrEx study provides significant additional evidence of the potential of antiretroviral drugs in preventing HIV infection.**

Dr Quarraisha Abdool Karim, Associate Director of CAPRISA and Associate Professor of Epidemiology at Columbia University commented, "The results are cause for optimism and excitement as they bring the world one step closer to the day when antiretroviral drugs are routinely used for HIV prevention."

Dr Salim S. Abdool Karim, CAPRISA's Director and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal said that, "The iPrEx study result is good news for Africa as well, since unprotected anal sex is common from Cape to Cairo". The prevalence of HIV in men who have sex with men is 6.2% in Cairo while anal sex in the last 3 months was reported by 14% of 2593 Cape Town men; about a third of these sex acts were not protected by condoms. Once it is li-

censed for HIV prevention, Truvada could be a valuable addition to HIV prevention programs in Africa, which has a largely hidden HIV epidemic in men who have sex with men. Future implementation of Truvada in HIV prevention programs aimed at men who have sex with men will need to promote high adherence, prevent compensatory reductions in condom use and monitor drug resistance, especially resistance to emtricitabine. Further, an assessment is needed of the costs and benefits of this new approach to HIV prevention, that has the potential to impact on the HIV epidemic both globally and in Africa.

The iPrEx study results, which may not be directly applicable to women, raise hope that current studies testing tenofovir (on its own or in combination with other antiretroviral drugs) may show success in protecting women against HIV infection. CAPRISA is participating in the VOICE (Vaginal and Oral interventions to Control the Epidemic) study which is assessing whether the tablet and gel forms of tenofovir can prevent HIV acquisition in women. The results of the VOICE study are expected in about two years from now.

- Salim Abdool Karim and Quarraisha Abdool Karim





## PEPFAR-Funded Implementation Science Workshop hosted in Durban



*Participants at the Implementation Science Workshop (from L-R): Dr Fatima Suleman, Zinhle Thusini, Jenny McLoughlin, Nomonde Nozulu, Nirupa Misra, Tamlyn Suenanden, Thabo Phakathi, Colleen Ntshangase, Thandeka Mazibuko, Ndumiso Sidzatane, Nokothula Miti*

### **T**he Columbia University-Southern African Fogarty AIDS International Training and Research Programme recently hosted an Implementation Science Workshop from 25-29 October 2010.

This workshop is part of a larger year-long programme aimed at creating an Implementation Science Scholars Programme and is funded by the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). This initiative is partly a consequence of PEPFAR shifting from an emergency response approach to promoting sustainable country programs, and is a training opportunity for promising researchers and health professionals in the field of Implementation Science in KwaZulu-Natal.

The training consists of an initial workshop, a mentored research project during the course of the year, and a final workshop when the Scholars will be assisted with writing up their research for publication. The first workshop, from 25-29 October 2010, consisted of didactic, group and individual components to prepare the partici-

pants for the year ahead during which they will undertake a research project.

The course started with an overview of the theory of Implementation Science using the South African example of Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) on how empirical research can inform policy and implementation strategies. It was facilitated by Drs Fatima Suleman (Head of School: Pharmacy and Pharmacology, UKZN) Kedar Mate (Country Director, South Africa, Institute for Healthcare Improvement) and Nesri Padayatchi (CAPRISA Deputy Director). Each delegate has two mentors who will guide them through the research process during the next year. The 11 participants are currently preparing their research protocols which will be submitted to the University of KwaZulu-Natal Biomedical Research Ethics Committee for approval.

- Carrin Martin

## Gavin Churchyard legacy Centre Launched

**C**APRISA congratulates the Aurum Institute for Health Research on the opening of the Gavin J Churchyard Legacy Centre, which was officially launched in Klerksdorp on the 26th October 2010 and is dedicated to the eradication of TB and HIV in South Africa,

Below are a few photographs of the opening of the Centre. For more information and details of the event please see the Aurum Health Institute website for more details: [www.auruminstitute.org](http://www.auruminstitute.org).



*Above from L-R: Dr Dave Clark welcomes everyone to the official opening of the centre and introduces the speakers; Guests admiring the art work at the Centre—The red handprints and messages of support were done by the Klerksdorp team in support of World AIDS Day 2009, in recognition of the importance of knowing your HIV status; Professor Gavin Churchyard presenting a gift to Mr Farouk Dangor; and The Klerksdorp team welcoming the guests as they arrive.*

*Below from L-R: Guests admiring the art work at the Centre; Professor Gavin Churchyard unveils the plaque for the Gavin J. Churchyard Legacy Centre; and Guests admiring more of the art work at the Centre.*



## Gavin Churchyard appointed Honorary Professor at the University of the Witwatersrand



**C**APRISA congratulates Professor Gavin Churchyard, Aurum's Chief Executive Officer, on his recent appointed as an Honorary Professor at the School of Public Health of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Gavin, who is an Executive Committee Member of CAPRISA and also holds professorial appointments at the Universities of KwaZulu-Natal and Cape Town, said that this honour bestowed by his alma mata was a particular privilege and that he looked forward to participating enthusiastically in the activities of the Faculty of Health Sciences at Wits in the years ahead.

## Research update - October 2010



UNIVERSITY OF  
KWAZULU-NATAL



UNIVERSITY  
OF CAPE TOWN



National Institute for  
Communicable Diseases



Columbia University  
MAILMAN SCHOOL  
OF PUBLIC HEALTH



UNIVERSITY of the  
WESTERN CAPE



THE AURUM  
INSTITUTE

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.capriska.org](http://www.capriska.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	43	3946	31	1751
	eThekwini	108	3951	35	1574
TRUTH	eThekwini	19	385	3	388
ACTG 5253	eThekwini	0	112	0	112
Microbicide (MTN003 – VOICE)	eThekwini	59	304	28	115

## Scientific Review Committee update

Abstracts submitted for review		Manuscripts submitted for review		Ancillary studies submitted for review	
Total <sup>#</sup>	Cumulative <sup>^</sup>	Total <sup>#</sup>	Cumulative <sup>^</sup>	Total <sup>#</sup>	Cumulative <sup>^</sup>
3	184	8	81	1	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	<a href="http://retroconference.org/2011/">http://retroconference.org/2011/</a>
41st Union World Conference on Lung Health	11-15 Nov 2010	30 July 2010	20 October 2010	<a href="http://www.worldlunghealth.org/confBerlin/">www.worldlunghealth.org/confBerlin/</a>
4th SA AIDS Conference	7-10 June 2011	28 January 2011	20 May 2011	<a href="http://www.saaids.com/">http://www.saaids.com/</a>

**Board of Control:** JM van Bever Donker (Chair) • SS Abdool Karim • AC Bawa • D Clark • LP Fried • NM Ijumba • BD Schoub • DP Visser • PN Langa

**Scientific Advisory Board:** SM Dhlomo • HL Gabelnick • C Hankins • R Hoff • D Martin • Y Shao • FG Handley • Y Lo

**Executive Committee:** SS Abdool Karim • Q Abdool Karim • G Churchyard • HM Coovadia • J Fröhlich • CM Gray • A Kharsany • K Mlisana • D Moodley • L Morris • K Naidoo • N Padayatchi • JCM Swart • C Williamson