



### bnAb collaboration yields positive results for the HIV prevention agenda

The HVTN 140 / HPTN 101 Phase 1 clinical trial, conducted across the USA, South Africa, Kenya and Zimbabwe, assessed 3 broadly neutralising antibodies (bnAbs) in combination (VRC07-523LS, PGDM1400LS and PGT121.414.LS), administered intravenously and subcutaneously. The results, published in *The Lancet HIV*, demonstrated that the antibody combination was safe, well tolerated and capable of maintaining potent HIV neutralisation activity over extended periods.

This NIH funded trial was conducted by an international team of researchers, with Dr Sharana Mahomed of CAPRISA as its Principal Investigator. The study showed favourable pharmacokinetic profiles with extended half-lives, supporting the feasibility of long-acting HIV prevention strategies with

dosing intervals of up to six months. A further key finding of the trial was that fixed-dose regimens produced similar results to weight-based dosing strategies. Using fixed-doses will make future large-scale implementation simpler and more practical, especially in resource-limited settings.

This study is an important contribution to the global HIV prevention research by advancing innovative immune-based prevention strategies. The work also strengthens the scientific foundation for upcoming “Combo AMP” efficacy trials evaluating whether combinations of bnAbs targeting multiple HIV epitopes can provide broad and durable protection against HIV acquisition.

**For further reading:** Mahomed S, Paez CA, Huang Y, et al. Safety, Pharmacokinetics, and Neutralization Activity of PGDM1400LS, VRC07-523-LS, and PGT121.414.LS Infused Intravenously or Subcutaneously: A Phase 1 Randomized Trial (HVTN 140/HPTN 101 Part B). *The Lancet HIV*, 2026; 0 [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2352-3018\(25\)00356-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2352-3018(25)00356-X)

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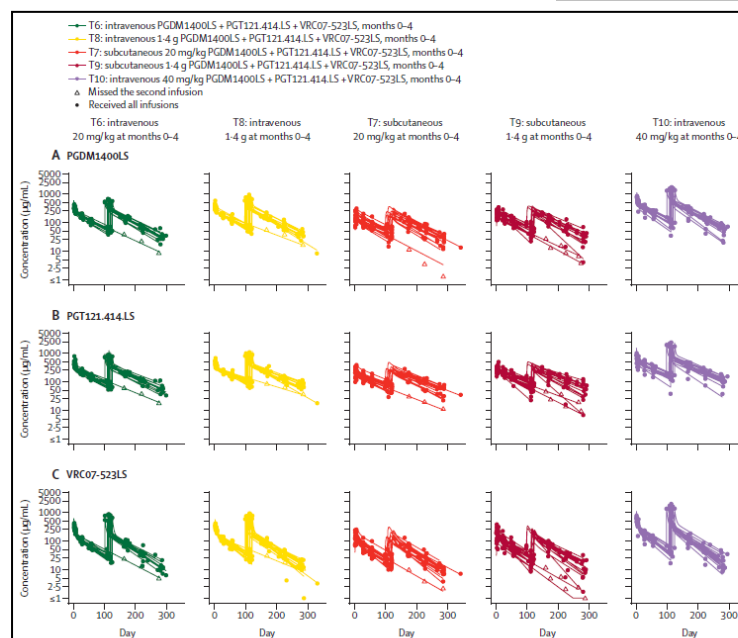


Figure 2: Observed and pharmacokinetic model-predicted individual-level concentrations over time for PGDM1400LS, PGT121.414.LS, and VRC07-523LS. Observed (symbol) and predicted (line) serum concentrations of PGDM1400LS (A), PGT121.414.LS (B), and VRC07-523LS (C) are shown for each of the five treatment groups for each participant. Filled circles=observed concentrations from participants who received all intended study product administrations. Open triangles = subsequently observed concentrations from participants who missed the previous study product administration. T6 etc=infusion group.



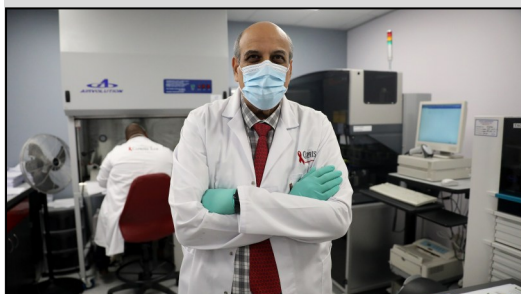
## Order of Mapungubwe: Gold awarded to Professor Salim Abdool Karim



**P**rofessor Salim Abdool Karim, FRS, OMG, has been awarded the Order of Mapungubwe: Gold by President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa. National Orders are the highest awards bestowed by the President. The Order of Mapungubwe is the highest honor in South Africa. This Order is awarded to South African citizens for excellence and exceptional achievement. Specifically, it recognizes South African citizens for excellence that has impacted the world and served South Africa's interests. Professor Abdool Karim's citation reads: *"For your contribution to medical science and public health, particularly in respect of HIV/Aids and tuberculosis research, and health policy development which is placing South Africa on the international stage. Your tireless leadership and swift response during the COVID-19 pandemic was outstanding and commendable."*

CAPRISA now has three recipients of the Order of Mapungubwe. Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim received the Order of Mapungubwe: Bronze in 2013 and CAPRISA Research Associate and close collaborator, Professor Tulio De Oliveira has been bestowed with the Order of Mapungubwe: Gold this year as well. Professors Salim Abdool Karim & Tulio De Oliveira join about a dozen others including South African Nobel laureates in medicine, Sydney Brenner, Aaron Klug and Allan MacLeod Cormack in receiving the Order of Mapungubwe: Gold.

In receiving this honour, Professor Abdool Karim said, *"I am deeply honoured and grateful to accept the Order of Mapungubwe (Gold). This award is actually not mine alone – it is a truly deserved recognition of CAPRISA's great team of scientists, collaborators, study participants and funders who have contributed selflessly to making the world a healthier place through science. I am particularly fortunate to work with many of South Africa's leading medical scientists and to have contributed to training and developing the next generation of researchers so that South Africa remains at the forefront of medical science. At a time when some countries are destroying their scientific institutions, South Africa is sending a strong signal of its support for science and scientific excellence through this award."*



Pics (Top, left): Professor Salim Abdool Karim at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2026 in Davos. (Bottom, left): Prof Abdool Karim served South Africa as chair of the South African Ministerial Advisory Committee on COVID-19. (Right): Prof Abdool Karim addressing the 21st International AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa



## Intrepid TB Head appointed to WHO advisory board

**C**APRISA’s Head of the Treatment Research Programme and Associate Professor and Pulmonologist at the Department of Pulmonology and Critical Care, Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital - Professor Rubeshan Perumal - has been appointed to the WHO/Europe Scientific Advisory Board. The inaugural 10-member committee will provide scientific advise to the World Health Organisation’s European Regional Director - Doctor Hans Henri P. Kluge - in generating evidence-based guidance to its Member States to support the development of effective public health policies, strengthen health systems and enhance global health security. The inaugural meeting of the SAB takes place in July 2026 at the Regional Office in Copenhagen, Denmark.



**C**APRISA’s Head of Community Outreach Patrick Mdlletshe attended the 2026 SKOLL World Forum Meeting in Oxford as a member of the Resilience Action Network Africa (RANA). RANA mobilises networked advocacy to strengthen Africa’s resilience. The SKOLL Forum highlights some of the most promising solutions and impactful social innovations and connects leaders who are driving social progress around the world. This year’s theme, “The Ecology of Us” looked at amplifying community voices within scientific research and building resilient systems for health globally, pandemic preparedness, and recent floods in South Africa and Mozambique. Reflecting on the meeting, Mdlletshe said, *“As African countries we need to deliberately invest in research focusing on climate change and its relationship to sectors such as health and agriculture. Covid told us we need to be better organised to avoid panic, systems are there that have been proven to work. Not unique to SA, throughout the continent. We must recognise the co-dependancy between community and health workers and scientists, to achieving scientific advances for the benefit of all people, especially the most vulnerable communities in Africa.”*



**C**APRISA hosted a delegation from the Manhiça Health Research Centre (CISM) in Mozambique. The team spent time with CAPRISA’s senior leadership, scientific and support heads and visited some of our clinical research sites as part of a hands on, knowledge exchange between the two research institutes.

*Pic seated: Adem Abdella (MANHICA), Tacilta Nhampossa (MANHICA), Prof Kogie Naidoo (CAPRISA), Sunita Panday (CAPRISA). Middle row: Dr Tanuja Gengiah (CAPRISA), Dr Sharana Mahomed (CAPRISA), Devenie Latchmanan (CAPRISA), Prof Desh Archary (CAPRISA), Dr Natasha Samsunder (CAPRISA), Inocência Cuamba (MANHICA), Angela Carr-Hartley (CAPRISA), Dr Nivashnee Naicker (CAPRISA). Top row: Naren Dhoodhanath (CAPRISA), Joshua Moses (CAPRISA), Eleuterio Natosse (MANHICA), Chenjerai Jairoce (MANHICA), Miguel Bene (MANHICA), Lazaro Quimice (MANHICA), Patrick Mdlletshe (CAPRISA).*



# A selection of scientific papers published in 2026

- 21 **Pillay N**, Short CS, **Mzobe GF**, **Mtshali A**, **Ngcapu S**. The vaginal microbiome in pregnancy and pre-term birth: mechanisms, disparities, and therapeutic opportunities. *NPJ Biofilms Microbiomes*. 2026 Mar 12;12(1):89. doi: 10.1038/s41522-026-00945-5
- 22 **Osuala EC**, Nkuhairwe IN, Letsoalo MP, **Naidoo K**, **Perumal R**, Rooney JF, Wiesner L, Wasmann RE, Denti P, Dooley KE, **Naidoo A**; INSIGHT Study Team. Pharmacokinetics of Twice-daily Tenofovir Alafenamide in Adults With HIV-associated Tuberculosis on Bictegravir/Emtricitabine/Tenofovir Alafenamide and Rifampicin. *Clin Infect Dis*. 2026 Apr 30;82(4):e720-e727. doi: 10.1093/cid/ciaf732
- 23 **Mzinyane N**, **Perumal R**, **Amusa LB**, **Chetty D**, **Shunmugam L**, **Boodhram R**, **Narasimmulu R**, O'Donnell M, Wolf A, **Padayatchi N**, **Naidoo K**. Body mass index (BMI) at RR-TB diagnosis as an independent predictor of treatment outcomes: a retrospective analysis. *BMC Infect Dis*. 2026 Mar 24;26(1):869. doi: 10.1186/s12879-026-13121-z
- 24 Butler CC, Pinto AD, Harris V, Holmes J, Rahman NM, Cureton L, Hayward G, Richards DB, Lowe DM, Standing JF, Breuer J, Hood K, Png ME, Petrou S, **Dorward J**, Patel MG, Thomas NPB, Evans P, Hart ND, Jani BD, Hosseini B, Murthy S, McBrien K, Condon A, McDonald EG, Daley P, Greiver M, da Costa BR, Selby P, Jüni P, Lee TC, Shi H, Detry MA, Saunders CT, Fitzgerald M, Berry NS, Saville BR, Khoo SH, Nguyen-Van-Tam JS, Hobbs FDR, Yu LM, Little P; PANORAMIC Trial and Can-TreatCOVID Trial Collaborative Groups. Oral Nirmatrelvir-Ritonavir for Covid-19 in Higher-Risk Outpatients. *N Engl J Med*. 2026 Apr 23;394(16):1583-1594. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa2502457
- 25 Omole TE, Nguyen HM, Marcinow A, Jahan N, Severini G, **Naicker N**, Thomas K, Celum C, Mugo N, Mujugira A, Kublin J, Corey L, Sivo A, Lingappa J, Gray G, McKinnon LR. Pre-Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection Th17 CD4+ T cells as predictors of early HIV disease progression. *PLoS Pathog*. 2026 Apr 24;22(4):e1013852. doi: 10.1371/journal.ppat.1013852
- 26 **Milford C**, Dlamini BL, Mafunda NA, Hardwick TS, **Lewis L**, Khan AA, **Mdladla MN**, Mitchell CM, **Potloane D**. Bacterial Vaginosis [BV] knowledge, attitudes and behavioural changes after BV diagnosis among women enrolled in a clinical trial in Boston, USA and Vulindlela, South Africa: a qualitative study. *BMC Womens Health*. 2025 Dec 12;26(1):32. doi: 10.1186/s12905-025-04210-3
- 27 Abdelgawad N, Chirehwa M, McIlhleron H, Kanyama C, Mwelase N, **Naidoo A**, Kumwenda J, Nyirenda M, Samaneka WP, Lama JR, Mohapi L, Mave V, Veloso VG, Valencia J, Gupta A, Hosseinipour MC, Scarsi K, Denti P. Pharmacokinetic modelling as a tool to assess TB treatment adherence: application to the REMEMBER study. *IJTLD Open*. 2026 Feb 11;3(2):77-83. doi: 10.5588/ijtdopen.25.0467
- 28 Kowarsky M, Dalman M, Moufarrej MN, Okamoto J, Xie Y, Neff NF, **Abdool Karim SS**, **Garrett N**, **Moore PL**, Camunas-Soler J, Quake SR. Cell-free RNA reveals host and microbial correlates of broadly neutralizing antibody development against HIV. *PLoS Pathog*. 2026 Apr 9;22(4):e1014066. doi: 10.1371/journal.ppat.1014066
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- 30 Nelson KN, Harton P, Cohen T, Willis F, Yoshii H, **Naidoo K**, Lutchminarain K, Campbell A, Omar SV, Auld SC, Brust JCM, Gandhi NR, Shah NS. COVID-19 pandemic changes in social behavior relevant for transmission of Mycobacterium tuberculosis. *BMC Res Notes*. 2026 Jan 24;19(1):83. doi: 10.1186/s13104-026-07675-z

For the complete list of publications see here: <https://www.caprisa.org/Publication/1/1>



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