



## **The UWC Centre for Research in HIV and AIDS**

### **Annual Report 2010**

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*Source: School of Public Health, Faculty of Community and Health Sciences, University of the Western Cape. Report of Activities 2009-2010*

This document, extracted from the School of Public Health (SOPH) 2009-2010 Report of Activities, reports on the first full year of operation of the HIV Research Centre and situates the Centre in relation to SOPH's approach to HIV on the one hand, and its overall research portfolio for 2009-2010 on the other. There is no separate financial report on the HIV Research Centre, as the Centre does not exist as a financial entity and is to date funded through research grants held by the School of Public Health.

This report is complemented by the reports submitted to the Advisory Board in March 2010, and reports from September 2010 and September 2011 submitted through the Dean of the Community and Health Sciences Faculty to the Joint Steering Committee of the VLIR-UOS-UWC partnership on "Dynamics of Building a Better Society". This Flemish grant was the funding nucleus for the establishment of the Centre. Copies of these complementary reports are forwarded to the Centre's Advisory Board under separate cover.

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In 2009, the University of the Western Cape established a cross-faculty Centre for Research in HIV and AIDS, housed in the School of Public Health (SoPH) and closely associated with the University's HIV and AIDS Programme. Under the leadership of Prof Christina Zarowsky, the Centre catalyses and co-ordinates multi-disciplinary HIV-related research across the University and beyond, with a view to supporting and adding value to this research and its use in the field from policy and systems development through to implementation. It does this through organizing symposia and seminars, acting as a clearing house for existing and proposed research, recruiting and hosting graduate students and postdoctoral and other fellows; and promoting publications including a series of working papers on HIV/AIDS and related issues.

The Centre's objectives are:

1. to conduct and promote multidisciplinary research in the areas of integrated HIV and AIDS prevention and care, with an initial focus on health policies and systems, education, and gender based violence;
2. to harness, encourage and co-ordinate demonstrated multidisciplinary research potential related to HIV across the faculties of the University through seminars and workshops;
3. to develop sustainable HIV-related research capacity at the University, through providing a research base for staff and student fellows in multidisciplinary research and capacity strengthening related to integrated HIV and AIDS prevention and care;
4. to contribute, through research, to the transformation and strengthened capacities of health and education policies and systems and of broader community and social systems to decrease the burden of HIV and related conditions, including effective responses to gender-based violence;
5. to fundraise for and develop research partnerships around planned projects that are in line with the Centre's broad aims and objectives.

The work of the Centre is currently organised around two large grants held by the SOPH:

- a founding grant from the Flemish Inter-university Council (VLIR) intended to support research for stronger policies and interventions in health systems, education, and gender-based violence; and
- a CDC/PEPFAR grant – given to the School before the Centre was established – intended for strengthening human capacity to address HIV/AIDS and TB in South Africa. (The Centre's Director is now the Principal Investigator for this grant.)

Together these grants provide a foundation for postgraduate research across Africa and an anchor for increasing collaboration and complementarity across both existing and new research across the University and with South African and international partners.

## **ACTIVITIES IN 2010**

The Centre was formally launched in late March 2010, during its international symposium on the theme of 'Public Health in the Age of HIV'. In addition to this event, the highlights of the Centre's first year of operation have included:

- the continued implementation of the existing research grants and development of new interdisciplinary grant proposals;
- our first post-doctoral scholar, Dr Thomas Achia from the University of Nairobi, who is working on spatial statistics and HIV in Kenya and South Africa;
- the joint development with the UWC HIV and AIDS Programme of a UWC AIDS portal ([www.hivaid-uwc.org.za](http://www.hivaid-uwc.org.za)) launched late in 2010;
- the launch in December 2010 of our 'HIV in Context' Seminar Series;
- the publication of the first three 'HIV in Context' Working Papers: *HIV and Health Systems in Southern Africa* by Doherty et al, *Intersections of Gender and HIV* by

Shefer; *Health systems, public health and research capacity strengthening in South Africa: Ongoing literature search and review* by Shamu and Zarowsky;

- a strong presence at the AIDS 2010 conference in Vienna, as well as other international and national conferences;
- the establishment of new linkages with civil society, decision makers and related initiatives in other universities – like the South African universities of Pretoria, Cape Town, KwaZulu-Natal and the Witwatersrand; and, further afield, the universities of Toronto, Montreal and McGill as well as Ghent University and New York University.

Conferences at which SoPH staff presented papers and articles and papers they published are listed on pages 52 – 60 [of the SOPH 2009-2010 Report of Activities]. Students' mini-theses on HIV/AIDS are among those listed on pages 13 – 16 [of that Report].

### **HIV research at UWC**

The 2009 Audit of HIV at UWC conducted by the University's HIV and AIDS Programme identified over 200 discrete research products and activities, covering nearly all faculties of the University and ranging from student research projects to major collaborative research programmes. Some of this work was presented at a March 2009 Symposium organized under the VLIR funding. Participants expressed great interest in learning about one another's work and in finding ways to collaborate or, at least, to share and co-ordinate efforts more regularly and more effectively.

In keeping with UWC's history, much of the research was linked closely to teaching, policy, and on-the ground practice with communities, NGOs, and health and education practitioners, managers, and decision makers.

The large number of Masters' theses in the audit indicates that there is a substantial body of potential researchers who could bring a range of disciplinary and topical perspectives to bear on HIV. Some faculties and departments have developed a particular focus around HIV. For example, the Faculty of Education and UWC's HIV & AIDS Programme have developed a significant body of curriculum and education intervention. The School of Public Health and colleagues in other departments within the Faculty of Community and Health Sciences have developed a large body of HIV-related research, including several large grants involving South African and international partnerships, recent academic appointments, and doctoral students attached to research programmes.

## **Engaging with HIV/AIDS at SOPH**

The extent and diversity of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in South Africa, and the many challenges it creates for the people, households and communities it affects, are well known – as are the associated pressures on health systems, services and personnel. The SoPH devotes a large part of its research to the field of HIV/AIDS. Many of the courses taught to postgraduate students have included issues relating to HIV/AIDS and a short course is taught on ‘Epidemiology and Control of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in the Era of Antiretrovirals’. Many of their mini-dissertations show the practical involvement of these part-time students in issues relating to HIV and AIDS.

Working in the field of HIV/AIDS can entail focusing on particular HIV/AIDS-related issues, but can also include broader or related aspects of health. So, for instance, work on health systems, human resources, social determinants of health or management of chronic diseases, can both inform, and be informed by, this significant health issue. The projects the School of Public Health undertakes (listed below), the publications they produce and conferences papers they have presented (listed on pages 49 – 60 ) attest to work that is both focused on HIV/AIDS as well as on aspects of health that ultimately relate to this pervasive social and health phenomenon.

The School’s history of working in relation to HIV/AIDS – and the breadth of the field of public health more generally – made it the ideal place to locate a university-wide Centre for Research in HIV and AIDS.

Established in 2009 this new Centre seeks to co-ordinate UWC’s HIV/AIDS-related activities and promote collaboration in research.

### **Working in the field**

Since the late 1990s the SOPH has undertaken a range of field-based projects. In a few instances this has entailed establishing a satellite office staffed by employees of the School recruited from the local area. One such site is our office in Harding in the Sisonke district of KwaZulu-Natal. Established in 2002, it has been home to ‘Good Start’-related projects – the most recent of which has been a community-based randomised controlled trial to measure the effect of offering people the opportunity to test for HIV in their homes on HIV testing rates. This is the story of that project.

### ***Knock – Knock! HIV counselling and testing at home***

In 2010, the right to offer and administer HIV tests was extended to lay health workers in South Africa, significantly increasing access to this test, including through community-based services.

In 2009, the SOPH began a community-based randomized controlled trial in collaboration with the Medical Research Council (MRC), the aim being to measure the effect of offering HIV counselling and testing to people in their homes on the uptake of this service. The findings will have important implications for the expansion of community-based HIV testing, for the training of new cadres of health care workers, and for the development of mechanisms to improve linkages between community and facility-based services. Ultimately they may inform government policy and programming.

The process started with eleven lay counsellors conducting door-to-door home visits in several rural communities of the Umzimkulu sub-district of KwaZulu-Natal. Using district-approved rapid HIV test kits, they offered free counselling and testing to people who were interested in knowing their HIV status.

Over 5,000 people agreed to be tested, about three quarters of those approached by the lay counsellors –suggesting that testing at home is highly acceptable. Just over half (about 57%) were being tested for the first time. The majority (78%) were female, reflecting the underlying population in that area as well as patterns of migration for work – and clients ranged from 14 to 96 years old.

Evaluating the accuracy of the test results is one of the key objectives of the trial, given that the tests were done by lay counsellors. Using a second set of tests which were processed in the lab, the trial is finding that adequately trained lay counsellors are indeed capable of conducting high quality rapid HIV tests and of accurately interpreting the results. Of the 3,861 tests done, the counsellors' results and the laboratory results matched in all but eleven cases. Of those who were tested, 11% were found to be HIV positive.

The next step is for these people to find out how advanced the infection is by having their CD4 count taken. Another objective of this project, then, is to assess how effectively newly-diagnosed HIV-positive people access health facilities, especially for care and treatment. While efforts to track the 474 HIVpositive clients are ongoing, by January 2011 only 100 clients had been tracked at a local facility. The median time taken for those who had had their CD4 count taken was 8 days, with three quarters (76%) of clients accessing services within one month. About a fifth (18%) accessed services within three months, while 6% did so after three months. The trial's insight into people's uptake of facility-based services after they have been diagnosed as HIV-positive through a test done at home will increase with further tracking and self-reported data still to be collected. In terms of the levels of infection among those who had had their CD4 count taken, the median CD4 count was 345 – while about a quarter (24%) had a CD count below 200 (the level at which people became eligible for treatment at that time). Of those, 15 (63%) clients started antiretroviral therapy (ART) literacy classes and 13 (54%) initiated ART.

Aside from research-oriented success, this home-based counselling and testing intervention has achieved great success at community level. One of the staff's proudest moments was at a large community gathering in December 2010, when a prominent chief from one of the intervention areas presented the project team with a Certificate of Appreciation. His extensive speech praising the project's efforts was met with cheers and applause from community members. Several other traditional leaders also spoke out, acknowledging that without the project, many people would not know their HIV status.

The study's post-intervention survey will be implemented in 2011. This will provide a more complete assessment of intervention success with regard to HIV testing rates as well as secondary outcomes such as risk behaviour, community-level stigma, disclosure, and intimate partner violence.

## **OTHER PROJECTS of the SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

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These projects undertaken by the staff of the School of Public Health (SOPH) in 2009 and 2010 are often in collaboration with partners, whose organisations are named wherever this is the case. Only the names of the main SOPH staff involved in the project are given here, however.

### **HEALTH SYSTEMS ANALYSIS AND INNOVATION PROJECTS**

#### **Assessment of Waiting Times and Systems Efficiency at primary, secondary and tertiary care facilities**

*Gavin Reagon, Ehi Igumbor, Natasha Titus*

A key component of the Routine Health Management Information System of the Department of Health is routine surveys, one of the important ones being the Waiting Times and Systems Efficiency survey which primarily measures how long people wait for a service and the amount of service time they receive at health facilities. In addition to identifying long waiting times, the survey also identifies the reasons why these arose and suggests ways to reduce them. The survey also measures staff's workloads, the efficiency of service provision and the percentage of time staff spent attending to patients.

The overall project objective is to assist the Department of Health to enhance their health information system via routinely conducting these surveys in all facilities in Cape Town. If successful this would then make it possible for the Department to extend routine Waiting Times and Systems Efficiency Surveys to all facilities in the country, thereby significantly improving the potential for achieving ongoing country-wide

improvements in health service provision. Specifically it would allow health facilities to decrease waiting times where they are high and improve quality of care where it is poor.

### **Revitalizing Health for All: Learning from comprehensive primary health care experiences**

*Nikki Schaay, David Sanders*

This research partnership comprises

- the compilation and analysis of the existing evidence base on Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC) globally,
- the identification of areas for new research on CPHC and the methodologies and methods most suitable to such research

It also includes the provision of training and research funding for junior researchers and their policy or program partners to undertake new studies of CPHC.

The project is funded by the Canadian Global Health Research Initiative and is jointly facilitated by professors David Sanders and Ron Labonté, Institute of Population Health, University of Ottawa, Canada – who work in close collaboration with a project team comprised of representatives from ten other academic and civil society institutions – including

- the Society for Community Health Awareness, Research and Action (SOCHARA), India for the South Asia region;
- the Universidad de El Salvador, El Salvador; the Universidad Javeriana, Colombia and Radboud University of Nijmegen in Holland for the Latin American region; and
- the Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre, Canada, the Co-operative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health and the Department of Public Health at Flinders University and the South Australian Community Health Research Unit, Australia for the project's focus on indigenous/ aboriginal health.

### **Developing roles and competencies of district pharmacists: A case study from Cape Town**

*Hazel Bradley, Uta Lehmann*

The aims of this project are

- to define the roles and competencies of pharmacists providing primary level services at district and sub-district levels in Cape Town;
- to develop a competency framework for these pharmacists; and
- to develop and pilot a training programme to enhance these competencies.

Divided into three phases, the study commenced in 2008 and will be completed in 2011.

## **Evaluation of aspects of the training of home community-based carers within the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)**

*Uta Lehmann, Busisiwe Nkosi*

This evaluation study was commissioned by the Department of Health of the Western Cape with a view to developing a better understanding of the outcomes of training of home community-based carers and their alignment with the departmental service delivery platform in the Western Cape.

## **Developing human capacity in the context of HIV/ AIDS:**

### **An integrated university-wide approach**

*David Sanders, Debra Jackson, Christina Zarowsky, Verona Mathews, Suraya Mohammed, Jessica Rebert, Harry Hausler*

The programme focuses on developing approaches and interventions which will strengthen the human capacity within the South African health system, focusing specifically on managers and health, education and community workers. It also aims to support and consolidate the implementation of services at the primary level of care, with a particular focus on HIV and AIDS and opportunistic infections, such as tuberculosis. All projects within this programme will focus on the overall aim, namely strengthening and expanding the development and implementation of comprehensive HIV and AIDS prevention, care and treatment programmes in South Africa in order to mitigate the impact of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, and specifically on human capacity development. The projects in which the SOPH is involved – all of which are funded by CDC/PEPFAR – include the following:

### **Human resource information systems for district level planning and management**

*Verona Mathews*

Human Resources (HR) are the backbone of any health system. Managing HR data – and ensuring the data collected are both relevant and useful is vital. South Africa has an extensive health system that operates across nine provinces and 53 districts; developing and maintaining good local HR information ensures that HR are effectively managed.

Working in two Western Cape districts, this project focuses on helping district level HR management understand and tailor their district's HR information system framework. Its bottom-up, participatory approach ensures that local staff have full ownership of resulting indicators and their HR information system.

## **Improving quality of community health worker programmes for delivery of HIV/AIDS services**

*Uta Lehmann*

Community health workers (CHWs) are key service providers for many community-based HIV and AIDS initiatives in South Africa. This project initially sought to train CHWs, but it quickly found that the issues for many CHWs revolved around the policy environment, not training. The project now focuses on getting CHW stakeholders in the Western Cape to discuss their issues, both together in workshops and individually with researchers, rather than initiating new policies without consultation. This has already improved policy development at a number of levels.

## **Addressing TB/HIV through the development of health promoting schools**

*Patricia Struthers, Suraya Mohamed*

Health promoting schools (HPS) have been developed internationally to ensure that the school environment is a healthy setting for learning and working.

Growing a healthy school environment is an intensive process including the capacity development of individuals and the organisation. It includes the development of school TB policies, skills development, addressing challenges in the school's physical and psycho-social environments, developing the school-community network, and facilitating links to appropriate support services.

In South Africa's context, HIV and TB are key issues to address at schools. Based in three Western Cape secondary schools, this project works with school managers, teachers and other school staff, learners and parents, as well as the district education and health departments.

## **Strengthening health information and human resource management systems in South Africa**

*Vera Scott, Hilton Synders, Feroza Amien*

In this project, project staff have worked with health service partners to develop health information management tools to assess the extent of comprehensive and integrated HIV/TB/STI services in public health facilities in urban and rural health districts. Based on the information generated, the team has identified the human resources and health systems constraints to ensuring quality and sustainability of comprehensive and integrated services. Approaches that strengthen planning, leadership and management capacity have been explored and modelled – including the utilization of health information management tools.

This project is undertaken in partnership with the health departments of the City of Cape Town and the Provincial Government of the Western Cape – and is funded by the Department of Health and the Rockefeller Foundation.

## **SOCIAL DETERMINANTS AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS PROJECTS**

### **Transforming health and education policies and systems for improved HIV prevention and care**

*Christina Zarowsky*

This project has entailed the establishment of an HIV Research Centre within the SOPH, which will attract a multi-disciplinary team of experts to conduct research that will inform policies and transform health and education systems. The aims are to improve HIV and TB prevention and care, to improve the impact of education on HIV/AIDS prevention and to develop proper responses for prevention of and response to gender-based violence. The research conducted will provide training ground for postgraduate students and postdoctoral candidates.

This work is funded by VLIR-UOS under the Dynamics of Building a Better Society partnership with UWC.

### **Understanding barriers to access and adherence to antiretroviral treatment in South Africa's Western Cape province**

*Brian Van Wyk, Thato Ramela, Paschaline Stevens*

Barriers to access and adherence to anti-retroviral treatment (ART) have been identified as issues of major concern in the Western Cape province, despite the fact that the province is at the forefront in the rollout of ART in South Africa. Such barriers, much like the diseases being treated, are the result of the complex intertwining of political, economic, social-cultural, gender, and biological factors. This three-year ethnographic study assessed the nature and extent of HIV and AIDS treatment initiation and barriers to adherence at three ART sites (Atlantis, Vredenburg and Malmesbury) and their surrounding communities. This project was undertaken in partnership with Fiona Larkan of Trinity College, Dublin and was funded by Irish Aid.

## **HEALTH PROGRAMMES AND INTERVENTIONS PROJECTS**

### **School interventions to prevent non-communicable diseases**

*Thandi Puoane, Khumbula Ndibaze*

Childhood obesity is becoming a problem in South Africa, giving rise to the development of programmes that can be implemented at schools. We are collaborating with the Medical Research Council and the University of Cape's Town Sport Science Research Institute in a project aimed at reducing obesity at schools among learners and

educators. The aim of this intervention in two schools in Khayelitsha in Cape Town is to develop a programme to promote healthy eating and increased physical activity, as a means of preventing obesity in the black African community. Baseline data found 20% of females were obese, while the prevalence of obesity among high school learners was 32,4%. Lack of physical activity and high body mass index (BMI) suggest that there is a need for interventions that will increase physical activity and improve nutritional habits.

### **Promoting Healthy Lifestyle project**

*Thandi Puoane, Lungiswa Tsolekile, Moise Muzigaba, Khumbula Ndibaze*

Community health workers' concern about increasing levels of diabetes and hypertension in their community resulted in 2000 in a multi-faceted intervention being offered by a multi-sectoral team led by the SOPH. After initial research, training and community-based activities, community health clubs were established in 2005 – and continue to be run by the CHWs with support from the School. Most recently, CHWs have been trained in using Motivational Interviews – with a view to demonstrating the feasibility and acceptability of an MI-based common risk factors disease prevention intervention delivered by CHW to health club members.

### **Chronic Disease Initiative for Africa**

*Thandi Puoane (Executive member), David Sanders (Board member), Lungiswa Tsolekile (PhD student)*

The SOPH is part of the Chronic Diseases Initiative in Africa (CDIA) network which aims to build internal capacity within Africa to respond to CNCD. The network comprises three South African universities – the universities of Cape Town, Stellenbosch and Western Cape, the South African Medical Research Council, the Hindu Mandal Hospital in Tanzania and Harvard University in the United States. One aspect of the network has been to develop a chronic disease centre – based at the University of Cape Town – whose vision is the ultimate reduction of the growing burden of chronic diseases and their risk factors in the African region. The School's Promoting Healthy Lifestyle project (above) is linked to the CDIA initiative.

### **Improving the hospital management of severe malnutrition**

*David Sanders, Thandi Puoane, Moise Muzigaba*

This study evaluates the effectiveness of the WHO treatment guidelines for severe malnutrition ('10 steps') in the management of malnourished children who are HIV-positive. Children who meet these criteria who are admitted to two district hospitals in the Eastern Cape are tested for HIV on admission, then treated according to the guidelines. Outcome measures are rate of weight gain, length of hospital stay and case fatality rates.

While recruitment has been slow due to the relatively slow rate at which children are admitted to both hospitals, 80% of the required study sample size has been recruited to date. Although there were inconsistencies between both hospitals we began to see some differences with respect to patterns of case fatality rates, rate of weight gain as well as length of stay between HIV-infected and HIV-uninfected children who had been admitted with severe malnutrition in both hospitals.

**Antiretrovirals and sexual behaviour: A qualitative study to explore the impact of ART on the sexual behaviour of people on therapy**

*Jessica Rebert, Brian van Wyk, Nikki Schaay, Harry Hausler*

Conducted in two sites in KwaZulu-Natal, this study aimed to assess the impact of antiretroviral therapy (ART) on the sexual behaviour of people on ART – and to consider the implications this has for the information and support provided to these patients by health workers in public health facilities. The final results of this research will be available in 2011.

**Options Western Cape: Implementation and evaluation of a positive prevention intervention among HIV-positive people on ARVs in Cape Town**

*Nikki Schaay*

The aim of this MRC/UCT/HSRC initiated project is to evaluate the implementation of a clinic-based behavioral intervention centered on HIV risk behaviours (entitled 'Options') in the Western Cape, and to test whether it is effective in reducing risky sexual behaviour among patients on ARVs. A report 'Preliminary Findings on the Feasibility of Incorporating Options into Routine Adherence Counselling Practice' has been presented – and a qualitative analysis of counselling practice before and after the intervention is now being undertaken.

This project is being undertaken as a collaboration between the Medical Research Council, the University of Cape Town and the Human Science Research Council as well as the Western Cape Provincial Department of Health, in association with Tulane University, Brown University, Centers for Disease Control, University of Connecticut, University of Western Ontario.

## **Reproductive intention in the context of HIV**

*Debra Jackson*

In this collaboration with the University of Missouri, the reproductive intention and family planning in the context of HIV in rural South Africa is explored.

## **Multi-country EU and CDC-funded cluster randomized trial of peer support to promote exclusive breastfeeding**

*PROMISE-EBF – Mickey Chopra, Debra Jackson, David Sanders, Tanya Doherty*

This project was one study in the PROMISE consortium with three collaborators each from Africa (Zambia, Uganda, Burkina Faso) and Europe (France, Norway, Sweden). It was a cluster randomised trial in the four African countries to examine the effectiveness of using in-home peer support to promote exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months of life. In South Africa there were three project sites and the project included sub-studies on peer support to assist with obtaining social welfare grants, and infant feeding in HIV-positive mothers.

## **Saving newborn lives: An effectiveness study of integrated, community-based package for maternal, newborn, child and HIV care in disadvantaged communities in South Africa, 2008-2010**

*Debra Jackson, Tanya Doherty*

This project is a cluster randomized trial on community health workers' promotion of newborn health in Umlazi, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal. It is being undertaken in collaboration with South African Medical Research Council and Stellenbosch University.

## **Cluster randomized trial of home-based VCT and TB/HIV/PMTCT Integration – Sisonke District**

*Debra Jackson, Jeannine Uwimana, Weliswa Binza, Tanya Doherty*

This project comprises several CDC (SA) funded studies – undertaken in collaboration with MRC and TBHIV Care. They include the Facility Nurse Mentor Project aimed at promoting integration of HIV/TB/STI and PMTCT services; Action research to examine comprehensive integrated CHW services for HIV/TB/STI and PMTCT services; and a cluster randomized trial to examine the effectiveness of a home-based VCT programme.

### **Best practices and PMTCT-MNWCH integration**

*Debra Jackson, Tanya Doherty*

This project documented best practices in the integration across South Africa of prevention of HIV transmission from mother to child (PMTCT) – and MNWCH (maternal, neonatal, women and child health). A publication on best practices in PMTCT and handbook for district-level integration of PMTCT into MNWCH services was developed.

### **National PMTCT evaluation**

*Debra Jackson, Wondwossen Lerebo, Tanya Doherty, Selamawit Woldesenbet*

A situation analysis of EID (early infant development) services and a national survey of six-week expanded programme of immunisation (EPI) clinics were undertaken in all nine provinces to investigate HIV transmission and outcomes in the national PMTCT programme.

### **Rwanda PMTCT Evaluation: 2010-2011**

*Debra Jackson*

Rwanda is implementing a national PMTCT programme evaluation, using routine testing of mothers and infants at the six-week infant immunization visit. As a co-Principal Investigator, on the South African PMTCT Evaluation, Debra Jackson is consulting with Rwanda UNICEF, National University of Rwanda and Rwanda Department of Health to provide technical assistance and promote collaboration across these two important studies.

### **Sisonke baseline survey for community-based intervention for TB/HIV/PMTCT integrated care**

*Debra Jackson, Harry Hausler, Jeannine Uwimana, Wondwossen Lerebo*

Despite being advocated by national and international agencies such as the World Health Organisation (WHO), the integration of TB and HIV programmes has been slow, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. This project aims to integrate TB/HIV & PMTCT services at both facility and community levels using a QI approach, nurse mentors and comprehensive supervision and training of community health workers.

**A double blind randomised placebo-controlled trial of the efficacy and safety of infant peri-exposure prophylaxis with lamivudine to prevent HIV-1 transmission by breastfeeding ANRS 12174 - PROMISE-PEP, 2008-2010**

*David Sanders, Debra Jackson, Tanya Doherty, Cheryl Nikodem, Mandisa Singata et al ANRS/EDCTP*

This is a second study within the PROMISE consortium. This is a randomised controlled clinical drug trial examining the effectiveness of alternative drugs to prevent mother to child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) through breastfeeding. Currently only Nevirapine is recommended. No other drugs have been tested for this purpose so results are important for potential options for clinicians in the management of infants at risk for acquiring HIV during the first year of life.

**Strengthening African research for responsive health policy and systems: Mapping and analysis of public health research and capacity strengthening initiatives in Africa**

*Christina Zarowsky, David Sanders, Uta Lehmann, Debra Jackson*

This three-year project contributes to the broad-based vision of the new UWC Centre for Research in HIV/ AIDS through research and synthesis about broader health policy and systems-oriented capacity development initiatives and approaches, beyond a focus primarily on HIV/AIDS. This project is mapping, analysing, and fostering linkages among programmes of health policy and systems research, training and capacity strengthening in sub-Saharan Africa. It is also strengthening linkages and exchanges between UWC and Canadian researchers and institutions. This will complement the Centre's vision of integrating HIV/ AIDS into broader health systems, education, and gender analysis and practice.

**African capacity development for complex intervention trials - Phase 2 (ADAPT2)**

*Christina Zarowsky (Co-investigator)*

The goal of the ADAPT programme is to support African researchers and institutions to prepare for and lead large, multi-centre AIDS prevention trials. Building on the experience and networks created in ADAPT1, Phase 2 will feature a range of opportunities – like a series of intensive short courses on epidemiology and clinical trials methods for researchers from southern African countries; an ongoing HIV prevention trial being undertaken in Botswana, Namibia and Swaziland; support in developing fundable proposals and partnerships to increase sustainability. The School has been assisting in planning and early stages of implementation of this second phase of the programme, which is being funded through Global Health Research Initiative, Canada.