



CENTRE FOR HEALTH SYSTEMS RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Newsreport

2008

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2008 Year in retrospect

The past year has been particularly productive for the CHSR&D in numerous respects. With HIV and AIDS continuing to dominate the health and health systems landscape of South Africa, its prevention and mitigation again shaped the Centre's interest, focus and endeavours during 2008. Our long-term projects in this domain substantially contributed to and facilitated research collaboration and output, in particular the projects to monitor and evaluate the implementation of public sector antiretroviral treatment; measure the effectiveness of AIDS treatment and support; and develop, implement and evaluate a strategy to promote HIV counselling and testing among TB patients. In addition, the Centre participated in a multi-African country study of PMTCT effectiveness, evaluated TB-HIV/AIDS informatics in the Free State, and assessed TB and HIV-related capacity needs in Mozambican facilities.

Inter-institutional research, be it nationally or internationally, increasingly characterises the Centre's activities and modus operandi. Our long-standing partnership with the University of Antwerp was again productive through the collaborative dissemination of research results to international audiences. The year also saw further expansion of international collaboration, in particular with the State University of New York (USA), through the Twinning initiative, and the University of British Columbia (Canada) regarding research and information technology in the spheres of occupational health, safety and well-being of hospital staff. Local partnerships, in particular with the University of Cape Town, benefitted the Centre's TB/HIV counselling and testing and PMTCT research in the Free State. Internal partnerships – especially with the School of Nursing and the Departments of Psychology and Industrial Psychology – equally paid off in the form of publications, research collaboration and the supervision of post-graduate students.

An important observation about 2008 relates to the Centre's research output. Increasingly, researchers and collaborators publish in international and a variety of national journals, while presentations reach broader international and national audiences. At the same time, communicating research results to our local clients/partners remains an important mandate of the Centre. This year, evidence and recommendations regarding the health systems and patient dimensions of HIV counselling and testing in the context of tuberculosis control were disseminated through five district-level workshops. These platforms serve to share findings with decision-makers, as well as to "give back" to and promote ownership of research by frontline workers. Such activities contribute to the applied approaches the Centre strives toward in health systems research and development.

As in the past, financial support from the National Research Foundation and the University of the Free State facilitated staff and student development through conference attendance, bursaries, research assistantships and training opportunities. These mechanisms also assist the Centre's researchers in supervising an ever-broadening scope of post-graduate studies from a variety of disciplines, both within and outside the Faculty of the Humanities.

Lastly, we thank our funders, research partners, staff and students for their tireless contributions, support and loyalty in making 2008 another successful year for the Centre. Sincere appreciation is extended to the many organisations and people – both within and outside the UFS – who support our work and initiatives. In particular, the Free State Department of Health is thanked for its ongoing involvement in our endeavours, while the conducive environment the UFS creates for health systems research is much appreciated. Gratitude is also extended to Prof Christo Heunis who compiled this Newsreport for 2008.

May 2009
Bloemfontein



CHSR&D

- Dingie
van Rensburg
Director

- Francois Steyn
Acting Director

The Centre for Health Systems Research & Development

Background

Established at the UFS in 1993, the CHSR&D stems from a rich tradition of research and training in medical sociology/sociology of health and health care in the Department of Sociology. Founded specifically to address the need for social scientific and operational research and related skills in the field of health and health care, the CHSR&D has shown unremitting growth and expansion in terms of staffing, projects, the scope and diversity of R&D activities, and financial standing. After sixteen years of successful operation, the Centre has built commendable experience and expertise in a number of fields of study and methodological approaches and amid ever-widening local, national and international research collaboration and partnerships.

Mission and goals

The CHSR&D is committed to efficiency, equity and equality in health and health care. It strives to contribute constructively towards optimising health services and the health of the people of South and southern Africa. The main goals of the Centre are to:

- Meet the need for social scientific research and development work skills in the field of health and health care.
- Generate and disseminate research findings and information in respect of health and health care.
- Assist in developing and restructuring health systems with a view to enhancing equity, equality, effectiveness and efficiency.
- Empower staff, students, clients and beneficiary groups through active involvement in R&D activities.
- Provide training and expand expertise in the spheres of health systems research and development.

The Centre for Health Systems Research & Development

Nature and scope of work

Within the framework of these broad goals, the CHSR&D perceives its role as both generating scientific knowledge and acting upon the prevailing policy, information and development needs in the health system of the Free State Province and South Africa. The focus areas and activities of the Centre comprise eight main programmes, namely:

- HIV/AIDS/STIs, antiretroviral treatment, HIV counselling and testing, sexuality and reproductive health.
- Tuberculosis control and TB/HIV programme integration.
- Health information systems, health surveys and environmental profiling.
- Health systems research development.
- District health system development.
- Health economics.
- Health policy, legislation and human rights.
- Health management and development.

Events in 2008

- Three completed projects.
- Five ongoing projects.
- One new project.
- Nine scientific articles.
- Two books/chapters in books.
- One technical report.
- Eleven international presentations.
- Forty-two national/local presentations.

The Centre's staff

New appointments

Dr Katinka de Wet took up a post-doctoral student position (funded by the NRF). Mosilo Machere was appointed as junior researcher and Belinda Jacobs as financial/administrative officer.

Staff departures

Hlengiwe Hlophe, researcher, commenced a Ford Foundation International Scholarship. John Matlabe, professional nurse in the PEARL Project, returned to the public health service. Anike Erasmus, assistant, left to work as language practitioner at the Free State Legislature. Heila Oelofse, secretary, retired after four years of service. Boitumelo Tlhapuletsa, research assistant, resigned to pursue full-time study.

Staff achievements, awards and grants

Anja Pienaar received the Dean's Medal and Alumni Trust Prize for Best Master's Student in the Faculty of the Humanities, the Psychology of Education Departmental Prize for Best MEd student (24 April), and UFS Academic Honours (21 May).

Dr Christo Heunis was promoted to associate professor, Dr Michelle Engelbrecht to senior researcher, and Nandipha Jacobs to researcher (1 July).

Francois Steyn was officially appointed Acting Director (1 November).

Prof Dingie van Rensburg was honoured with membership of the Scientific Committee of the Research Centre on Health Systems and Welfare Policies (CRISP), University of Bologna, Italy.

The Centre's staff



Prof Dingie van Rensburg
Director (since 1993)



Francois Steyn (since 1997)
Acting Director (since Oct 2007)



Prof Helen Schneider
Professor Extraordinary
(since 2005)



Prof Herman Meulemans
Senior Research Consultant
(since 2007)



Dr David Coetzee
Senior Research Consultant
(since 2007)



Prof Frikkie Booysen
Senior researcher
(since 2000)



Prof Christo Heunis
Associate professor
(since 1997)



Dr Michelle Engelbrecht
Senior researcher
(since 1997)



Nandipha Jacobs
Researcher
(since 2004)



Chantell de Reuck
Researcher
(since 2004)



Hlengiwe Hlophe
Researcher
(since 2002)



Michele Pappin
Junior researcher
(since 2006)



Gladys Kigozi
Junior researcher
(since 2007)



Anja Pienaar
Junior researcher
(since 2007)



Mosilo Machere
Junior researcher
(since 2008)



Belinda Jacobs
Financial/administrative officer
(since 2008)



Jo-Ann Sejanamane
Research assistant
(since 2006)



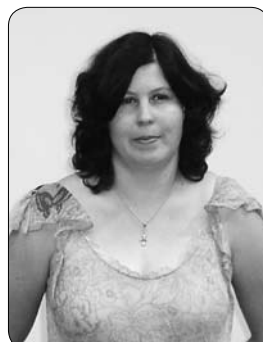
Dr Katinka de Wet
Post-doctoral student
(since 2008)



Bridget Smit
Data manager/
financial manager
(since 2004)



Hannes van Biljon
Data manager
(since 2007)



Theresa Neuhoff
Data capturer
(since 2007)

Completed projects

Rapid assessment of TB-HIV/AIDS informatics in the Free State

Project leader:	Prof Dingie van Rensburg (CHSR&D)
Researchers:	Prof Christo Heunis, Dr Michelle Engelbrecht and Gladys Kigozi (CHSR&D)
Fieldwork:	Leona Smith (formerly District TB co-ordinator: Lejweleputswa)

Background and aims: Commissioned by the Free State Department of Health, the main aim of the research was to assess the TB-HIV/AIDS information system in the province. More specifically, the objectives were to (1) compare information in health facility files with information aggregated at the provincial corporate level, and (2) determine key users' views of the strengths and weaknesses, as well as their suggestions for improvement, of the current system.

Research strategy: During November-December 2007, fieldwork was conducted in all five districts of the Free State. In each district, one mobile and one fixed clinic, one community health centre (or large clinic if there was no CHC), and one district hospital were purposively selected and visited per appointment. Firstly, data were recorded on a random sample of TB and TB/HIV patients (20 per facility) selected directly from facility-based records. These data were compared with the data for the same patients retrieved from the provincial-level records. Secondly, semi-structured interviews were conducted with TB programme co-ordinating nurses at each facility. Simple content analysis of the interview data was conducted.

Findings: In respect of seven indicators/data items, a 21% discrepancy was found between facility and provincial level records. Nevertheless, half of the TB co-ordinating nurses interviewed (n=20) did not perceive the TB-HIV information system to be particularly problematic. The remaining half pointed especially to problems related to staff shortages, lack of training, "*too many forms*", and the difficulty of keeping track of patients. The main suggested improvements to the TB-HIV information system were to increase the number of staff responsible for the TB Programme, provide improved/more TB-HIV-related IEC to patients and communities, and to institute a single/integrated information system for TB and HIV/AIDS.

Funding: Free State Department of Health.

Public sector antiretroviral treatment: documenting, monitoring, evaluating and facilitating implementation of the national treatment plan in the Free State

- Project leader:** Prof Dingie van Rensburg (CHSR&D)
- Senior researchers:** Profs Helen Schneider (CHSR&D and Infectious Disease Epidemiology Unit, UCT), Frikkie Booysen (CHSR&D and Department of Economics, UFS), Herman Meulemans (Department of Sociology, University of Antwerp), Christo Heunis, Dr Michelle Engelbrecht and Francois Steyn (all CHSR&D)
- Researchers:** Chantell De Reuck, Hlengiwe Hlophe, Nandipha Jacobs (all CHSR&D), Joe Serekoane (Department of Anthropology, UFS) and Edwin Wouters (Department of Sociology, University of Antwerp)
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The overall project

Background and aims: In order to document, monitor, evaluate and facilitate the rollout of ART in the Free State, longitudinal research (2004-2008) was carried out to construct a 'moving picture' of the introduction, structuring, rollout and impact of the ART programme. The larger project comprised three foci, namely (1) client/patient surveys, (2) health services/systems appraisals, and (3) studies of the contexts, processes and policies amid which the rollout of the ART programme takes place. Respectively, the aims of the three projects' were to (1) ascertain how ART influences patients and how patients respond to ART; (2) establish the effects and influences of ART on facilities, staff and other health programmes; and (3) critically assess the contexts, processes and policies and also situate the ART scale-up in the Free State against the experiences of other provinces and countries. All the component projects endeavoured to discern important lessons and good practices for wider application; inform ART policy, management and practice; and ultimately support the Free State Department of Health in its efforts to effectively implement and expand ART provision.

Research strategy: The *client/patient surveys* entailed both longitudinal and cross-sectional surveying among clients/patients eligible for ART. At baseline, respondents were randomly sampled in proportion to the number of patients at each health care facility providing ART. Trained enumerators conducted structured interviews with study participants at baseline and at six-monthly follow-ups. Interviews were also conducted with additional random samples of patients who initiated ART during the interim periods. Clinical data for cohort patients were hand-collected from patient files prior to being integrated with the survey data to enable statistical and econometric analysis.

The *ART facility appraisals* followed an explorative, descriptive and evaluative research design. A baseline appraisal was followed up by four waves of data gathering taking the form of personal interviews with facility managers, ART co-ordinating nurses, and a selection of community-based health and support workers.

Note: Aspects of both the patient survey and the facility appraisal components have since been carried forward in the FEATS Project – see section on New projects.

The *contexts, processes and policies study* entailed literature and policy reviews, as well as in-depth interviews with strategic informants at various levels and diverse locations. These activities were complemented by systematic documenting and analysis through participant observation of the proceedings of the Free State ARV Task Team.

Findings: In 2008, the findings of the different component projects were reported in six published scientific articles – see Publications: Jacobs *et al*, Janse van Rensburg *et al*, Schneider *et al*, Van Rensburg *et al*, Wouters, and Wouters *et al*. Two doctoral and one master's study emanating from the project are also well advanced.

Funding: The overall project was funded mainly by the IDRC, but contributions also came from AusAID, CIDA, DfID, USAID, and the UNDP of South Africa. Other research support included research grants from the MRC and the NRF. Assistance was provided by Joint Economics, Aids and Poverty Programme (JEAPP), which is affiliated to the African-Asian Society (AAS).

TB/HIV in Mozambique: Rapid assessment to inform “twinning” with a Brazilian partner

Project leader: John Capati (American International Health Alliance)

Researcher: Prof Christo Heunis (CHSR&D)

Research facilitator/translator: Romão Xavier (American International Health Alliance)

Background and aims: Commissioned by the HIV/AIDS Twinning Center of the American International Health Alliance (AIHA), a rapid assessment was conducted to provide a general overview of TB/HIV in Mozambique, assess extant levels of TB/HIV work, establish TB/HIV-related needs in selected public health facilities, and propose Mozambican public health facilities for a possible “twinning” partnership with a Brazilian partner experienced in integrated TB-HIV/AIDS management.

Research strategy: A field assessment was conducted in the week of 20-24 October. This comprised semi-structured interviews with key informants (public health nurses, doctors and managers) and recording of facility-based statistics (where available). The field observations were supplemented by a review of the available literature on the topic.

Findings: The key informants overwhelmingly expressed a need for training and indicated that all staff types of staff – lay counsellors, nurses, *técnicos de medicina*, doctors and laboratory personnel – would benefit from training by an experienced Brazilian partner. The expressed training needs were not limited to technical and clinical aspects of TB/HIV care and treatment. Capacity building in respect

of patient/community/social problems was also deemed necessary: How to combat stigmatisation? How to encourage treatment adherence? How to engage communities to take up VCT? All the facilities visited were clearly in dire need of both infrastructural improvement and sufficient numbers of staff trained in TB and HIV/AIDS management. Beira Central Hospital was one of the Mozambican health facilities proposed for a possible “*twinning*” partnership.



TB ward at Beira Central Hospital, Beira, Mozambique.

Funding: HIV/AIDS Twinning Center of the American International Health Alliance (AIHA) funded by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, USA) through the US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

Ongoing projects

Effective AIDS Treatment and Support in the Free State (FEATS)

Project leaders: Prof Frikkie Booysen (CHSR&D), Dr Damien De Walque (The World Bank) and Dr Mead Over (Center for Global Development)

Principal researchers: Prof Alok Bhargava (Department of Economics, University of Houston, Texas), Mrs Marianne Reid (School of Nursing, UFS) and Dr Corinna Walsh (Department of Human Nutrition, UFS)

Researchers: Dr Michelle Engelbrecht, Francois Steyn, Hlengiwe Hlophe, Nandipha Jacobs and Michele Pappin (all CHSR&D)

Background and aims: The study has three broad objectives, namely to: (1) present a broader view of treatment success (e.g. how access to ART impacts on labour productivity and time allocation of patients and other household members, and how access to nutritional supplementation impacts on educational and health outcomes of children in households with ART patients); (2) develop a more complete model of the determinants of treatment success (e.g. individual, household and facility-level characteristics, including access to peer adherence support and/or to nutritional supplementation); and (3) understand the nature of links between treatment and prevention (e.g. how access to ART impacts on the sexual behaviour of ART patients and other household members). The FEATS study incorporates and expands on the *Public sector antiretroviral treatment: documenting, monitoring, evaluating and facilitating implementation of the national treatment plan in the Free State* study conducted by the CHSR&D during 2004-08, by continuing the patient cohort study (CP6), as well as the longitudinal facility survey (CP7).

Research strategy and progress: The study is conducted in twelve PHC clinics/CHCs in the Free State where ART has been available since 2004/05. During 2007/08, 648 public sector ART clients who had recently initiated ART were recruited into the study. Trained enumerators conducted baseline interviews with patients and patient households. In addition, these enumerators interviewed 208 randomly selected comparison households residing in these communities. During November-December 2008, the experimental component of the study was implemented. ART clients in the study were randomly assigned to one of three groups: the first group receiving ART only; the second group receiving peer adherence support from experienced ART patients; and the third group receiving both peer adherence support and nutritional supplementation. During 2009/10, two further rounds of follow-up interviews will be conducted with patients and comparison households in order to track the impact of ART, as well as of the experimental interventions, on various study outcomes. Currently, the research team is in the process of analysing the data gathered in the baseline survey.

Funding: Development Economics Research Group (DERG) and the World Bank-Netherlands Support Programme of The World Bank.



Prof Frikkie Booyesen, Mojela Mokokoane, Nthabiseng Magagula, Dr Damien De Walque, Lineo Ntsiela, Patricia Bogopa, Lewit Veronica Mosola

Non-uptake of HIV counselling and testing among TB patients: research to inform intervention

Project leader: Prof Dingie van Rensburg (CHSR&D)

Researchers: Prof Christo Heunis, Dr Michelle Engelbrecht, Gladys Kigozi and Anja Pienaar (all CHSR&D)

Background and aims: The goal of the first priority area (prevention) of the *National HIV and AIDS and STI Strategic Plan for South Africa, 2007-2011* is to reduce the number of new HIV infections by half by 2011. The targets of the *Tuberculosis Strategic Plan for South Africa, 2007-2011* are 70% case detection, 85% cure, and >85% treatment success by 2011. One of the eleven subsidiary indicators to measure progress to these targets is the proportion of TB patients who are offered counselling and tested for HIV. The *TB Strategic Plan's* target for this is 100% by 2011. However, TB patients' uptake of HIV testing remains low in many parts of South Africa and the Free State Province. The overall project entails (1) fact-finding research to identify barriers and facilitators to uptake in the two study areas, Lejweleputswa and Thabo Mofutsanyana Districts, and (2) development, implementation and quasi-experimental evaluation of a multifaceted intervention to increase uptake. The project is conducted in collaboration with and aims to inform the Free State Department of Health in its efforts to integrate TB and HIV/AIDS-related services. It focuses on HIV counselling and testing as the all-important entry point.

Research strategy and progress: The fieldwork for Part I (the fact-finding research) was completed during 2008. The professional (n=81) and community (n=97) health worker surveys were conducted in all ten subdistricts of the two districts, Thabo Mofutsanyana and Lejweleputswa. The patient survey (n=600) was carried out in one predominantly urban and one mainly rural subdistrict in each district. The line manager survey (n=13) involved sub-district, district, provincial and national managers responsible for TB, HIV/AIDS, VCT and TB-HIV/AIDS programmes. All the surveyed interest groups were asked to identify barriers to and facilitators of uptake

of HIV counselling and testing. The fact-finding research culminated in a research feedback workshop in each of the five districts in the Free State. These workshops were aimed at district health managers, TB and HIV co-ordinators and nurses, as well as medical officers, facility managers, CHWs, M&E and health information officers, community development officers, non-governmental organisation representatives, and traditional healers. These attendee groups were also asked to partake of group discussions, suggest solutions and make recommendations towards the intervention.

Findings: In summary, the main factors thought to hinder TB patients from going for HIV counselling and testing include TB patients' indecisiveness, fear of stigmatisation, lack of PHC facility infrastructure, and the shortage/high workload of health care workers. In respect of facilitating factors, all interest groups agreed that IEC efforts to inform patients about the link between TB and HIV/AIDS should be improved, patients' fear of stigmatisation be addressed, and that public health facilities require better physical and more human resources to heed the call for provider-initiated HIV testing of TB patients.

Note: The fact-finding research report, *Counselling and testing for HIV/AIDS among TB patients in the Free State: fact-finding research to inform intervention*, is available at www.ufs.ac.za/tbhctreport.

Funding: Department for International Development (DfID, UK), National Research Foundation (NRF) and UFS.



Group discussions, Fact-finding Research Feedback Workshops

PEARL study – PMTCT effectiveness in Africa: research and linkages

Project leader (SA): Dr David Coetzee (Infectious Disease Epidemiology Unit, UCT)

Senior researcher (Free State): Dr Michelle Engelbrecht (CHSR&D)

Professional nurse: John Matlabe (CHSR&D)

Background and aims: The Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ) oversees the overall implementation of the PEARL study in four African countries – Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Zambia and South Africa. In South Africa the study takes place in the Western Cape (co-ordinated by the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Unit, UCT, which also oversees the project in South Africa) and the Free State (co-ordinated by the CHSR&D). The overall purpose of the study is to determine the effectiveness of the PMTCT Programme. The research comprises three components: (1) cord blood surveillance, (2) a survey of facilities providing antenatal care, and (3) a community survey.

Research strategy and progress: During 2007-08 the cord blood surveillance was undertaken in the Free State, the objectives of which were: (1) to measure the prevalence of HIV among pregnant women in designated delivery facilities, and (2) to ascertain the proportion of HIV-exposed infants delivered to women who receive a PMTCT intervention. Ten delivery facilities in the province (five clinics all located in Botshabelo, and five hospitals, one each in Botshabelo, Ladybrand, Clocolan, Ficksburg and Senekal) were randomly selected. Birth-assisting nurses completed short questionnaires and collected anonymous specimens of cord blood from discarded placentas, which were subsequently tested for HIV antibodies. In total, 1 669 specimens were collected over an eight-month period. Specimens found to be seropositive are tested for nevirapine. Analyses will be conducted by CIDRZ to provide a community-wide picture of HIV-prevalence and PMTCT coverage in the four participating countries.

Towards the end of 2008, preparations were underway for the facility and community surveys in the Free State. Four clinics will be visited and patients and staff interviewed on antenatal service provision. The community survey entails interviews among women with children younger than two years. A total of 1 200 households in the areas surrounding the cord blood surveillance sites have been randomly selected for inclusion. In addition to completing questionnaires, permission is obtained to take blood samples from the women and their children. The blood will be tested for HIV antibodies and specimens found to be HIV-positive will be tested for CD4 counts.

Funding: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

CHSR&D–SUNY-DMC Twinning Partnership

Project leaders: Francois Steyn (CHSR&D) and Prof Jack DeHovitz (SUNY-DMC)

CHSR&D team: Prof Christo Heunis (co-ordinator), Dr Michelle Engelbrecht, Nandi Jacobs, Hannes van Biljon and data capturing staff, Gladys Kigozi and Anja Pienaar

**State University of
New York Downstate
Medical Center**

(SUNY-DMC) team: David Odegaard (co-ordinator) Drs Anjali Sharma (Division of Infectious Diseases) and Michael Joseph (Master of Public Health Program), Peter Vavagiakis (Data Management Consultant) and Kevin Gravesande (Data Manager)

Background and aims: In 2007, with support of the TBHIV Activity Manager of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) South Africa, the HIV/AIDS Twinning Center of the American International Health Alliance (AIHA) initiated a partnership between CHSR&D and SUNY-DMC in respect of capacity building in TB and HIV/AIDS-related research. The partnership took effect at the beginning of 2008. The three main objectives of the continuing twinning partnership are to strengthen the CHSR&D's (1) data management capacity, (2) ability to disseminate research findings, and (3) skills to translate research findings into improved TB and HIV-related policies and practice.

Strategy and progress: These objectives are pursued through training, technical and academic assistance and mentoring. In July, three CHSR&D staff members enrolled and completed a number of epidemiology and biostatistics short courses at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA. A need for extension of this kind of training to other CHSR&D staff was identified, and a curriculum in basic epidemiology and biostatistics was designed collaboratively. In November, SUNY-DMC in collaboration with the Department of Community Health (UFS) presented a three-day workshop comprising of both didactic and practical sessions. These culminated in two facilitated sessions to workshop ideas towards developing, implementing and evaluating an intervention to increase the uptake of HIV testing by TB patients. Representatives from other departments/institutions – including the Department of Psychology, School of Nursing (UFS), Free State Department of Health, and the South African Medical Research Council – also attended the training and work sessions. Individualised assistance and mentoring with publications will be a priority of further interactions with SUNY-DMC. Future training in HIV counselling and operational/implementation science is also planned.

Funding: American International Health Alliance (AIHA) Twinning Center funded by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, USA) through the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).



Dr Anjali Sharma, Prof Christo Heunis, David Odegaard, Hannes van Biljon, Prof Jack DeHovitz, Nandi Jacobs, John Capati, Peter Vavagiakis, Rebecca Sutton in New York



SUNY-DMC practical training session in Bloemfontein

Baseline study to inform the Youth and Community Wellness Programme in Xhariep, Free State

Project leader: Francois Steyn (CHSR&D)

Researchers: Boitumelo Tlhapuletsa, Mosilo Machere and André Janse van Rensburg (all CHSR&D)

Background and aims: Continued collaboration between the Flemish and Free State Provincial Governments resulted in the establishment of the Youth and Community Wellness Programme (YCWP) in Xhariep District. The initiative has four main intervention areas: (1) HIV and AIDS awareness and prevention; (2) support for the infected and affected; (3) access to health care; and (4) infrastructural development at schools. The CHSR&D was tasked to undertake a baseline study prior to the implementation of the YCWP. The aims of the baseline study are to guide and facilitate the implementation of the YCWP, as well as to inform the impact of the programme over a five-year period.

Research strategy and progress: Data was collected at 97 public schools in the district (only one school refused participation). The data set covers the intervention areas of the YCWP, in particular the situation regarding school policies, nutrition services, food production, sanitation, infrastructure, water provision, access to and use of health care services, support for vulnerable learners, and developmental activities for school-going and out-of-school youth. Furthermore, 968 Grade 6 learners participated in a knowledge, attitudes and beliefs survey about HIV and AIDS. A profile was also constructed of existing activities related to and civil society organisations working in the focus areas of the YCWP. A draft baseline report has been compiled and the next step is to workshop the results with stakeholders in order to streamline and finalise the activities of the YCWP. Once this has been completed, the research team will construct verifiable indicators for the programme.

Funding: Flemish International Cooperation Agency.

Information technology-enhanced capacity building to promote health, safety and well-being of the health workforce: collaborating to reduce infectious diseases

Project leaders: Drs Michelle Engelbrecht (CHSR&D) and Annalee Yassi (University of British Columbia, Canada), Prof Willem Kruger and Lucky Nophale (both Department of Community Health, UFS)

Background: The *World Health Report 2006* indicated that health systems worldwide are plagued by difficulties in recruitment and retention of professional staff, work absenteeism and occupational concerns such as injuries, violence and stress, as well as exposure to biological, chemical and physical hazards. While concerns about the health care workforce are global, the greatest need for health care workers and their protection is in Africa. The WHO estimates that the African health workforce will need to increase by 140% to overcome critical shortages. South Africa faces its own crisis in terms of human resources for public sector health. Adding to this burden is the AIDS epidemic, which challenges public health services in a way unprecedented by anything else in the past 50 years.

In keeping with the need for improved occupational health, safety and well-being for health workers, the University of British Columbia, the University of the Free State (CHSR&D and Department of Community Health) and the Free State and South African Departments of Health are collaborating on a research and development project to promote and protect the health, safety and well-being of the health workforce in South Africa, starting in the Free State. This project fits in well with the recently launched draft *Public Service Employee Health and Wellness Strategic Framework*, which, among others, stresses the importance of providing treatment and support to all infected HIV employees, their families and the community.



Standing: Francois Steyn, Lucky Nophale, Dr Mokhethi Pule, Justin LoChang, Dr Jerry Spiegel, Lyndsay Dybka. *Seated:* Dr Annalee Yassi, Dr Lindiwe Ndelu

Aim and objectives: The aim is to develop and implement (at seven regional hospitals in the Free State) a well-designed workplace intervention that will improve health care workers' health, safety and well-being. The following objectives will be pursued: (1) assess the state of occupational health, safety and well-being (including knowledge, attitudes, practices and barriers to compliance with occupational health service norms and infection control practices); (2) develop and implement a well-designed workplace health programme (including the establishment of health and safety committees; routine HIV counselling and testing for all health workers; a referral system for health workers' immediate family to access treatment; training for health workers on occupational health and safety; support for health workers experiencing occupational stress; and a state-of-the-art health information system); (3) evaluate and monitor the workplace health programme; (4) disseminate research findings; and (5) build research capacity in occupational health services research in the Free State and solidify inter-institutional and international collaboration.

Publications and presentations

Articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals

ENGELBRECHT M, BESTER C, VAN DEN BERG H & VAN RENSBURG HCJ

A study of predictors and levels of burnout: the case of professional nurses in primary health care facilities in the Free State. *South African Journal of Economics*, 76:S1: S15-S27.

ENGELBRECHT MC, HEUNIS JC & KIGOZI GN

Primary health care nurses' views on HIV counselling and testing services for tuberculosis patients in two districts of the Free State Province of South Africa. *Africa Journal of Nursing and Midwifery*, 10(2): 70-83.

JACOBS N, SCHNEIDER H & VAN RENSBURG HCJ

Rationing access to public sector anti-retroviral treatment during scale-up in South Africa – implications for equity. *African Journal of AIDS Research*, 7(1):19-27.

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Resources and infrastructure for the delivery of antiretroviral therapy at primary health care facilities in the Free State Province, South Africa. *Journal of Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS*, 5(3): 52-58.

SCHNEIDER H, HLOPHE H & VAN RENSBURG D

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Lifeskills training for children with problem and deviant behaviour: the Noupoot Youth and Community Development Project. *Acta Academica*, 40(2): 205-243.

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De impact van het publieke antiretrovirale programma op de fysieke en emotionele levenskwaliteit van HIV/AIDS-patiënten in Zuid-Afrika. *Tijdschrift voor Sociologie*, 29(2-3): 313-334.

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Patient satisfaction with antiretroviral services at primary health-care facilities in the Free State, South Africa - a two-year study using four waves of cross-sectional data. *BMC Health Services Research*, 2008, 8(210).

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Impact of baseline health and community support on antiretroviral treatment outcomes in HIV patients in South Africa. *AIDS*, 22(18): 2545-8.

Books/chapters in books

SCHNEIDER H, VAN RENSBURG D & COETZEE D.

Round-table Conference Report: *Health systems and antiretroviral access: Key findings and policy recommendations*. Bloemfontein: CHSR&D.

DAL POZ MR, DREESCH N & VAN RENSBURG D

Redefining HIV/AIDS care delivery in the face of human resources scarcity. Zuniga JM, Whiteside A, Ghaziani, A, Bartlett JG (Eds.) *A Decade of HAART. The development and global impact of highly active antiretroviral therapy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press; pp. 477-495.

Research reports

STEYN F, THLAPULETSA BJ, MACHERE MM & JANSE VAN RENSBURG AP

Baseline to inform the Xhariep Youth and Community Development Project. Bloemfontein: CHSR&D.

Presentations

International

BESTER CL, ENGELBRECHT MC, VAN DEN BERG H & VAN RENSBURG HCJ

The prediction of burnout by means of the availability of resources, workload, conflict and social relations and locus of control of professional nurses in public health centres in the Free State, South Africa. EABR Conference, Clute Institute for Academic Research, Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Germany: 18-20 June.

BESTER CL, ENGELBRECHT MC, VAN DEN BERG H & VAN RENSBURG HCJ

Differences between professional nurses of different population groups in public health centres in the Free State regarding burnout and related variables. Fourth International Conference on Contemporary Business, Somerset-West: 29 September-2 October.

DE WET K

Redefining volunteerism: the rhetoric of home-based care in post-apartheid South Africa. Conference on a Quarter Century of Research on HIV/AIDS: Lessons and Challenges. Abidjan, Ivory Coast: 6-9 October.

HEUNIS JC

TB and HIV/AIDS in South Africa and the Free State. Guest Lecture at State University of New York Downstate Medical Center, New York: 7 July.

HEUNIS JC, WOUTERS E & VAN RENSBURG HCJ

Patient satisfaction with ART services at PHC facilities in the Free State. CD ROM abstract nr. CDB0231. XVII. International AIDS Conference, Mexico City, Mexico: 3-8 August.

HLOPHE H

Community health workers and the response to HIV/AIDS in the Free State. PHC in the 21st century. New Challenges and Opportunities for the First Line. Institute of Tropical Medicine. Antwerp, Belgium: 24-25. November.

New models for human resources for health at first line. Community Health Workers in South Africa. PHC in times of Globalisation. Alma Ata, back to the future. 50th Annual Colloquium. Institute of Tropical Medicine. Antwerp, Belgium: 26-27 November.

The role of treatment buddies in enhancing adherence among patients in the public sector antiretroviral treatment programme in the Free State. PhD Seminar Presentation. London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. London, UK: 8 October.

KIGOZI NG & HEUNIS JC

2008. *Self-reported facilitators and barriers to uptake of HIV C&T among TB patients in the Free State: pointers for service improvement.* 17th International AIDS Conference "Universal action now", Mexico City, Mexico: 3-8 August.

KIGOZI GN, HEUNIS JC, ENGELBRECHT MC, PIENAAR AN, THOMAS N & TLADI P

2008. Reflections on the use of lay counsellors for HIV counselling in the Free State, South Africa. *Global Forum on Resources for Health*, Global Health Workforce Alliance, Kampala, Uganda: 4-7 March.

WOUTERS E & HEUNIS JC

2008. *Social capital and its role in public HIV disclosure among public sector ART patients in the Free State province of South Africa.* (Poster presentation). 17th International AIDS Conference "Universal action now", Mexico City, Mexico: 3-8 August.

National and local

COETZEE D, SCHNEIDER H, PIENAAR D & ENGELBRECHT M

Models of antiretroviral service delivery in three provinces of South Africa. Fourth Public Health Association of South Africa Conference, Cape Town: 2-4 June.

ENGELBRECHT MC

Occupational stress and burnout among professional nurses working in PHC facilities in the Free State, with special reference to nurses rendering ART services. Lwelaphanda Business Intelligence: Promoting Effective Rural Economic Development 2008, Johannesburg: 22-24 July.

Professional health worker survey: barriers and facilitators to uptake of HIV counselling and testing among TB patients. CHSR&D Fact-finding Research Feedback Workshops, Free State Department of Health – Thabo Mofutsanyana, Xhariep, Fezile Dabi, Motheo and Lejweleputswa: 5 September-15 October.

HEUNIS JC

TB-HIV/AIDS statistics and policies. CHSR&D Fact-finding Research Feedback Workshops, Free State Department of Health – Thabo Mofutsanyana, Xhariep, Fezile Dabi, Motheo and Lejweleputswa: 5 September-15 October.

The TB VCT Project: problem, design and methods. CHSR&D Fact-finding Research Feedback Workshops, Free State Department of Health – Thabo Mofutsanyana, Xhariep, Fezile Dabi, Motheo and Lejweleputswa: 5 September-15 October.

Community health worker survey: barriers and facilitators to uptake of HIV counselling and testing among TB patients. CHSR&D Fact-finding Research Feedback Workshops, Free State Department of Health – Thabo Mofutsanyana, Xhariep, Fezile Dabi, Motheo and Lejweleputswa: 5 September-15 October.

Rapid assessment of TB-HIV/AIDS informatics in the Free State. CHSR&D Fact-finding Research Feedback Workshops, Free State Department of Health – Thabo Mofutsanyana, Xhariep, Fezile Dabi, Motheo and Lejweleputswa: 5 September-15 October.

HEUNIS JC & KIGOZI GN

Fact-finding to inform intervention: Increasing uptake of HCT among TB patients. Free State Department of Health Inter-cluster Meeting, Bloemfontein: 6 November 2008.

VCT uptake among TB patients: breaking down the barriers and exploring new approaches. Dissemination Workshop: Experiences and Lessons Learned from the MSP, Boksburg: 29-31 October.

KIGOZI NG

Patient survey: barriers and facilitators to uptake of HIV counselling and testing among TB patients. CHSR&D Fact-finding Research Feedback Workshops, Free State Department of Health – Thabo Mofutsanyana, Xhariep, Fezile Dabi, Motheo and Lejweleputswa: 5 September-15 October.

KIGOZI NG & ENGELBRECHT MC

Counselling and testing for HIV among TB patients: perceptions of nurses in two districts of the Free State Province. First South African TB Conference. Durban: 1-4 July.

PIENAAR A

Line manager survey: barriers and facilitators to uptake of HIV counselling and testing among TB patients. CHSR&D Fact-finding Research Feedback Workshops, Free State Department of Health – Thabo Mofutsanyana, Xhariep, Fezile Dabi, Motheo and Lejweleputswa: 5 September-15 October.

PIENAAR A & HEUNIS JC

Managers' perceptions of barriers to and facilitators of uptake of HIV counselling and testing by TB patients: content analysis of exploratory interviews. (Poster presentation). First South African TB Conference. Durban: 1-4 July.

VAN RENSBURG D & HEUNIS C

Health information and health systems research in PHC context. Conference on Revising of Primary Health Care Strategy for South Africa, 30th Alma-Ata Celebration on Primary Health Care, Birchwood Conference Centre, Boksburg: 10-11 April.

Staff development initiatives

Gladys Kigozi attended a workshop on grant proposal writing presented by a consortium of South African and USA universities – South African Tuberculosis and AIDS Training (SATBAT) – at the Perinatal HIV Research Unit, University of Witwatersrand (21-22 February 2008).

Francois Steyn attended a workshop on Governance & Research Ethics of Research in Higher Education presented by the Southern African Research & Innovation Management Association at the University of Stellenbosch (3 June 2008).

Belinda Jacobs attended a course on PeopleSoft internet-based software (8 August).

Dr Katinka de Wet, Nandi Jacobs, Anja Pienaar and **Hannes van Biljon** attended a workshop on Qualitative Research in Practice presented by Student Development and Success, UFS (7, 14, 21, 28 August).

Several **CHSR&D researchers** attended a three-day workshop in basic epidemiology and biostatistics presented by SUNY-DMC in collaboration with the Department of Community Health, hosted by the CHSR&D and facilitated and supported by the American International Health Alliance (AIHA) (4-6 November).

Staff visits to institutions abroad

Prof Christo Heunis, Nandi Jacobs (16 June to 3 July) and **Hannes van Biljon** (16-27 June) attended the Twenty-sixth Annual Graduate Summer Institute of Epidemiology and Biostatistics presented by the Departments of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA. Hannes van Biljon also visited State University of New York Downstate Medical Center, New York, USA to undergo practical training in data management (28 June–3 July). All three these staff members also met with SUNY-DMC collaborators for purposes of discussing the Twinning initiative's planning.



Prof Jack DeHovitz and Christo Heunis, Nandi Jacobs, Dr Anjali Sharma, John Capati



Peter Vavagiakis, David Odegaard, Prof Jack DeHovitz

Hlengiwe Hlophe was afforded a Ford Foundation International Scholarship to visit the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) for purposes of academic and professional development and scholarly enrichment. She attended various seminars and lectures, participated in various research projects at LSHTM, and had the opportunity to engage with her host/mentor, Dr Alison Grant (Clinical Research Unit), in respect of her PhD studies on treatment buddies and adherence to antiretroviral treatment. She was also invited by the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium to present a paper in an international workshop and to participate in the 50th Annual Colloquium (September 2008-March 2009).

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CHSR&D



Hlengiwe Hlophe, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London

Visitors to the CHSR&D

John Capati (AIHA Twinning Center, South Africa) visited to facilitate the first Twinning Partnership Programme exchange visit (28-31 January).

Prof Jack DeHovitz and **David Odegaard** (both SUNY-DMC, Brooklyn, New York, USA) conducted the first exchange visit to draw up a work plan for the Twinning Partnership Programme (28-31 January).

Dr David Coetzee (Infectious Disease Epidemiology Unit, UCT) (5 March), **Wendy Mazimba** and **Humphrey Mulenga** (both Centre for Infectious Disease Research, Zambia) visited regarding the PEARL Project (3-5 March).

Prof Helen Schneider (CHSR&D and Infectious Disease Epidemiology Unit, UCT) visited to advise project development and activities and to mentor CHSR&D researchers in article writing (19 May 2008, 25 August 2008).

Prof Wim van Damme and **Peter Vermeieren** (both Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium) visited to exchange research experience and discuss possibilities of collaboration (21 May).



Prof Wim van Damme, Dr Katinka de Wet, Peter Vermeieren, Hlengiwe Hlophe

Prof Alok Bhargava (Department of Economics, Houston University) visited to work with Prof Frikkie Booysen (CHSR&D and Department of Economics, UFS) on the analysis of the survey and clinical data from the CP6 cohort study of ART patients (9-13 June 2008).

Dr Damien De Walque (The World Bank, Washington DC) visited for ongoing discussions on The World Bank-funded FEATS study (25-29 August 2008).

Dr Annalee Yassi, Dr Jerry Spiegel, Lyndsay Dybka and **Justin LoChang** (all University of British Columbia, Canada) visited to discuss collaboration in research on occupational health, safety and well-being of health care workers in the Free State (8, 13 October).

John Capati and **Rebecca Sutton** (both AIHA Twinning Center) visited the Centre to facilitate the third Twinning Partnership Programme exchange visit (4-6 November).

Drs Anjali Sharma and **Michael Joseph** (both SUNY-DMC) conducted the second Twinning Partnership Programme exchange visit to present a training workshop on epidemiology and biostatistics for health and research professionals (4-6 November).

Prof Yvonne Botma (School of Nursing, UFS); **Dr David Coetzee** (Infectious Disease Epidemiology Unit, UCT); **Seipati Motlhanke** (Co-ordinator TB-HIV Collaboration, TB Management Directorate, FSDoH); **Tshegang Mpotsoana** and **Putseletso Ntsutle** (both Thabo Mofutsanyana District, FSDoH); **Sonja van der Merwe** (TB Management Directorate, FSDoH); **Prof Helen Schneider** (Infectious Disease Epidemiology Unit, UCT and CHSR&D) and **Dr Henriëtte van den Berg** (Department of Psychology, UFS) visited to deliberate on the findings of the TBVCT Project fact-finding research and to plan for the development, implementation and implementation of an intervention (13 November).

Dr David Coetzee, Kathryn Stinson (both Infectious Disease Epidemiology Unit, UCT) and **Gaph Phatedi** (Progressus Research & Development Consultancy) visited to plan the PEARL community survey in the Free State (17-18 November).

Prof Josephine Allen (University of Cornell, USA) visited on several occasions during her six-month Fulbright scholarship at the UFS. She participated, among others, in the development of instruments and analyses of baseline data for the Xhariep Youth and Community Development Project.

Post-graduate training by staff

Courses

HIV/AIDS and development: Profs Frikkie Booyesen (CHSR&D and Department of Economics, UFS) and André Pelser (Department of Sociology, UFS). This module (MDS713) of the MDS contextualises the epidemic and its ramifications in the development sphere, with an emphasis on the critical evaluation of policy responses to the developmental challenge posed by the HIV and AIDS pandemic.

Health and development: Prof Frikkie Booyesen (CHSR&D and Department of Economics, UFS). This module (MDS 712) of the MDS programme equips students with an understanding of the health challenge, health policy, the reciprocal link between health and development, health systems issues, and the evaluation of developmental and health interventions used to enhance population health and development.

Applied development research: Prof Frikkie Booyesen (CHSR&D and Department of Economics, UFS). This module (MDS 704) of the MDS programme introduces students to the essentials of applied research methods, including aspects of research design, data collection and sampling strategies, the use of mixed methods, action research and experimental study designs. The module aims to guide students towards completing a preliminary literature review and draft research proposal for the MDS dissertation.

Study guidance

Current post-doctoral studies – with supervisors

DE WET K

Post-doctoral student, funded by the NRF. Profs Dingie van Rensburg (CHSR&D) and Helen Schneider (CHSR&D and Infectious Disease Epidemiology Unit, UCT)

Completed doctoral studies – with supervisors

DE REUCK C

PhD (Sociology): *HIV/AIDS in the Free State: assessing gender needs and interests for improved policy implementation*. Profs Engela Pretorius (Faculty of the Humanities, UFS) and Dingie van Rensburg (CHSR&D).

Current doctoral studies – with supervisors

HLOPHE H

PhD (Development Studies): *The role of treatment buddies in the public-sector antiretroviral treatment programme in the Free State*. Profs Frikkie Booysen (CHSR&D and Department of Economics, UFS) and Helen Schneider (CHSR&D and Infectious Disease Epidemiology Unit, UCT).

LOPEZ MI

PhD (Health Economics): *HIV/AIDS policies and absorptive capacity in South Africa: identifying the bottlenecks, unleashing the capacity*. Profs Edina Sinanovic (Health Economics Unit, University of Cape Town) and Frikkie Booysen (CHSR&D and Department of Economics, UFS).

KIGOZI GN

PhD (Interdisciplinary): *Facilitating factors and barriers to the uptake of HIV counselling and testing among tuberculosis patients in the Free State Province (South Africa)*. Profs Christo Heunis, Dingie van Rensburg (both CHSR&D) and Dr Henriëtte van den Berg (Department of Psychology, UFS).

STEYN F

PhD (Criminology): *Approaches to diversion of child offenders in South Africa: a comparative analysis of programme theories*. Profs Dap Louw (Department of Psychology, UFS) and Dingie van Rensburg (CHSR&D).

UEBEL, K

PhD (Internal Medicine): *Developing, implementing and evaluating a practical approach to integrating HIV care into primary health care services in the Free State*. Profs Dingie van Rensburg (CHSR&D) and Willie Mollentze (Department of Internal Medicine, UFS).

WOUTERS E

PhD (Sociology): *Building HIV/AIDS care capacity in society: a sociological study of achievements and challenges in antiretroviral rollout in a resource-constrained country.* Profs Dingie van Rensburg (CHSR&D) and Herman Meulemans (Department of Sociology, University of Antwerp).

JANSE VAN RENSBURG-BONTHUYZEN E

PhD (Sociology): *Past and present public health strategies to deal with tuberculosis in South Africa: a critical study.* Profs Dingie van Rensburg (CHSR&D) and Engela Pretorius (Faculty of the Humanities, UFS).

Completed master's studies – with supervisors

DZINGWA V

MPhil (Economic Policy): *Access to health care by vulnerable groups in South Africa.* Prof Frikkie Booysen (CHSR&D and Department of Economics, UFS).

MAYANGA N

MDS: *An investigation into the approaches of targeting orphaned and vulnerable children in Harare and Makoni districts, Zimbabwe.* Francois Steyn and Anja Pienaar (both CHSR&D).

MOLISE KC

MBA: *An audit of Lonmin Platinum Mine's HIV/AIDS policy as a response to the impact of HIV and AIDS: A case study.* Prof Frikkie Booysen (CHSR&D and Department of Economics, UFS).

MUKUWANE E

MDS: *Effectiveness of volunteer home-based care of people living with HIV/AIDS: a case study of Seke peri-urban community, Zimbabwe.* Prof Christo Heunis (CHSR&D).

NEKUNDI LM

MDS: *A comparative study of support to orphan and vulnerable children in the Oshakati district, Namibia.* Francois Steyn (CHSR&D).

NYAKABAU TD

MDS: *Impact of psychosocial support on the dynamics of internalized stigma and disclosure among women living with HIV and AIDS (WLHAs) participating in support groups in Mutoko, Zimbabwe.* Prof Frikkie Booysen (CHSR&D and Department of Economics, UFS).

PAPPIN M

MDS: *Anxiety and depression in patients enrolled in the Free State province's public sector ART programme.* Prof Frikkie Booysen (CHSR&D and Department of Economics, UFS).

Current master's studies – with supervisor

CHIMEDU M

MDS: *Needs, resources and coping among caregivers of orphans: evidence from Epworth, Harare.* Anja Pienaar and Francois Steyn (both CHSR&D).

GWARISA N

MDS: *Factors influencing uptake of VCT services among pregnant women accessing antenatal care: the case of Mutoko District Hospital, Zimbabwe.* Prof Christo Heunis (CHSR&D).

HUGHES C

MA (Africa Studies): *The old age pension and its impact on HIV and AIDS mitigation at the household level.* Francois Steyn (CHSR&D) and Prof Anwar Osman (Centre for Africa Studies, UFS).

JAMES E

MDS: *Reproductive health needs of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in Epworth peri-urban residential area in Harare, Zimbabwe.* Dr Michelle Engelbrecht (CHSR&D).

KASONKA C

MDS: *Exploring community perceptions of volunteer HIV counsellors and testers.* Prof Christo Heunis and Gladys Kigozi (both CHSR&D).

MACHERE M

MDS: *Effectiveness of PMTCT: knowledge and experiences of mothers in Free State communities.* Dr Michelle Engelbrecht and Francois Steyn (both CHSR&D).

MOTLOLOMETSU W

MDS: *Determining the knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of midwives towards completion of the partogram.* Dr Michelle Engelbrecht (CHSR&D).

SEREKOANE J

MA (Anthropology): *The socio-cultural context of patients undergoing antiretroviral treatment in Petrusburg: an anthropological perspective.* Profs Prof Piet Erasmus (Department of Anthropology, UFS) and Dingie van Rensburg (CHSR&D).

TLALI L

MDS: *Nature and management of patient complaints at PHC facilities in Botshabelo, Free State: a descriptive exploration.* Francois Steyn (CHSR&D).

TLHAPULETSA BJ

MSocSc (Criminology): *The health needs of female prisoners in the Free State.* Francois Steyn (CHSR&D) and Herma Foster (Department of Criminology, UFS).

Gratitude

With this *Newsreport*, we express our sincere gratitude to all those funders who in recent years, and especially during 2008, so generously supported the efforts of the CHSR&D in its endeavours to contribute to a better society and health system in the Free State and South Africa:

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Department for International Development (DfID, UK)
Development Cooperation Ireland (DCI)
Development Economics Research Group (DERG), World Bank
Doris Duke Charitable Fund
Flanders International Cooperation Agency (FICA)
Ford Foundation
Foreign Assistance Agencies of Australia (AusAID)
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International Development Research Centre (IDRC, Canada)
International Projects Advisory Service (Ipas)
Joint Economics, Aids and Poverty Programme (JEAPP)
Medical Research Council of South Africa (MRC)
National Research Foundation (NRF)
Netherlands Support Programme, World Bank
Open Society Foundation for South Africa (OSF-SA)
Research Matters (IDRC)
Save the Children (UK)
South African-Flemish Bilateral Scientific and Technological Cooperation Programme
South African Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU)
State University of New York Downstate Medical Center
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
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