



News Report 2014

**Centre for Health Systems
Research & Development**

**Sentrum vir
Gesondheidsisteemnavorsing &
Ontwikkeling**

UNIVERSITY OF THE
FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE
VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA
FREISTATA



UFS·UV
HUMANITIES
GEESTESWETENSAPPE



**News Report 2014
Centre for Health Systems
Research & Development**

CONTENTS

2014 – YEAR IN RETROSPECT	4
2014 – TERUGBLIK OP DIE JAAR	5
BACKGROUND, MISSION, FOCUS AREAS AND AIMS	6
CHSR&D STAFF	7
Senior Research Associates	7
Research Associates.....	7
STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS	8
STAFF DEVELOPMENTS	8
COMPLETED PROJECTS	9
Non-uptake of HIV counselling and testing among TB patients Part II: Evaluation of professional and community health worker training and mentoring interventions in the Free State	9
Mosamaria AIDS Ministry: Evaluation of the Orphans and Vulnerable Children’s (OVC) Programme in Bloemfontein and Botshabelo.....	10
Implementing and evaluating a workplace TB and HIV screening and treatment programme for healthcare workers: A randomised control trial in the Free State, South Africa	11
ONGOING PROJECTS	12
Tool, weapon or white elephant? Assessing the application of a state-of-the-art information system created for use in occupational health in South Africa	12
Assessing the implementation of the Integrated School Health Programme (ISHP) in Maluti-a-Phofung	12
NEW PROJECTS	13
Tuberculosis prevention through systematic household contact investigation in the Free State, South Africa	13

NEW PROPOSALS	14
Towards a health-enabling working environment: developing and testing interventions to decrease HIV- and TB-stigma among healthcare workers in the Free State, South Africa	14
Developing, implementing and testing a multifaceted intervention to improve TB prevention and infection control in PHC facilities in the Free State	15
PUBLICATIONS	16
Peer-reviewed journal articles – published.....	16
Peer-reviewed journal articles – accepted	16
Invited contributions	16
Research reports	16
PRESENTATIONS	17
International Conference Presentations	17
National and Local Conference and other Presentations.....	17
POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION AND COURSES PRESENTED	18
Completed Master’s degree studies	18
Postgraduate courses presented	18
VISITORS TO THE CHSR&D	19
VISITS OF CHSR&D STAFF TO INSTITUTIONS ABROAD	20
GRATITUDE	21

2014 – Year in retrospect

Donor funding for TB and HIV/AIDS research has diminished over the past few years, largely due to budget cuts in the USA and Europe. Many donor agencies, including the Global Fund, have reduced funding support to middle income countries and new research priorities have been identified in anticipation of even tighter budgets over the next few years. The Centre was faced with this reality in 2014 as two flagship projects ended and the bid to obtain funding for new TB and HIV/AIDS projects proved to be a challenge.

Despite challenges, 2014 was a productive year for the Centre in terms of research outputs: ten research publications in peer-reviewed journals and five international conference presentations. Staff continued to provide postgraduate supervision for Masters and Doctoral students, while the Centre is in the process of registering a Master's Degree in Health Systems Studies at the Department of Higher Education and Training.

Furthermore, Prof Christo Heunis stepped down as director of the CHSR&D. He remains an associate professor at the Centre. Dr Asta Rau was appointed as acting director and Dr Michelle Engelbrecht as acting deputy director pending appointment processes in early 2015.

The year ended well when a project "*Tuberculosis prevention through systematic household contact investigation in the Free State, South Africa*" received funding from the African Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Program of the African Population and Health Research Center in partnership with the International Development Research Centre. This was followed by news that a proposal submitted to European donors for R4.3 million had reached the semi-final selection phase. The proposal—which is for research focusing on HIV and TB stigma among healthcare workers—was submitted by the CHSR&D in partnership with research associate Prof Edwin Wouters of the University of Antwerp.

2014 – Terugblik op die Jaar

Donateursfinansiering vir TB en MIV/VIGS het oor die afgelope paar jaar afgeneem, grootliks as gevolg van begrotingverminderinge in die VSA en Europa. Vele donateur-agentskappe, insluitende die Global Fund, het befondsingshulp aan middel-inkomste lande verminder en nuwe navorsingsprioriteite geïdentifiseer in afwagting van selfs strengere begrotings oor die volgende paar jaar. Die Sentrum is in 2014 met hierdie werklikheid gekonfronteer toe twee vlagskip-projekte tot h'ende gekom het, en pogings om befonding vir nuwe projekte te bekom moeilik geword het.

Ondanks uitdagings, was 2014 'n produktiewe jaar vir die Sentrum in terme van navorsinguitsette: tien navorsingspublikasies in eweknie-gekeurde joernale en vyf internasionale konferensievoordragte. Personeel het voorts met nagraadse begeleiding aan meesters- en doktorsale studente voortgegaan, terwyl die Sentrum in die proses is om h'ie Meestersgraad in Gesondheidsstelselstudies by die Departement van Hoër Onderwys en Opleiding te registreer.

Verder, Prof Christo Heunis het as direkteur van die SGSN&O uitgetree. Hy bly egter h' medeprofessor by die Sentrum. Dr Asta Rau is as waarnemende direkteur en Dr Michelle Engelbrecht as waarnemende adjunk-direkteur aangestel, hangende aanstellingprosesse vroeg in 2015.

Die jaar het goed geëindig toe die projek “*Tuberkulose voorkoming deur sistematiese ondersoek van huishoudingskontakte in die Vrystaat, Suid-Afrika*” befonding van die African Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Program van die African Population and Health Research Center in vennootskap met die International Development Research Centre ontvang het. Dit is gevolg deur nuus dat h' projekvoorstel ten bedrae van R4.3 miljoen wat aan Europese donateurs voorgelê is, die semi-finale keuringsfase bereik het. Die voorstel—wat op navorsing oor MIV- en TB-stigma onder gesondheidswerkers fokus—is deur die SGSN&O, in vennootskap met navorsingsgenoot Prof Edwin Wouters van die Universiteit Antwerpen, ingedien.

BACKGROUND, MISSION, FOCUS AREAS AND AIMS

Established at the University of the Free State (UFS) in 1993, the CHSR&D stems from a rich tradition of research and training in medical sociology and sociology of health and healthcare. The Centre was founded specifically to address the need for bio-social scientific enquiry, operational research, and the development of research skills in the field of health systems. It has accumulated commendable experience and expertise in key methodological approaches: quantitative, qualitative and mixed-method methodologies, as well as monitoring and evaluation.

The Centre's mission is to generate and disseminate scientific knowledge on health systems at the local, provincial and national levels, and to use this knowledge to improve and inform new and existing policies, strategies and practices. The Centre also commits to developing capacity for health systems via implementation science, and postgraduate research training.

The main focus areas:

1. Health and health systems research
 - Public health in South Africa (this includes public health policies and strategies, and studies on operational functioning).

2. Priority programmes:

- Tuberculosis (TB) prevention and control.
- Human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS).
- TB-HIV co-epidemic.
- Occupational health and related information systems.
- Sexual and reproductive health.

The Centre has set the following aims to realise its mission:

1. Meet the need for multidisciplinary research and development in the domain of health, health system and healthcare.
2. Generate and disseminate research findings and information in respect of health and health systems, and promote the translation of research findings into policy and practice.
3. Inform the strengthening of health systems with a view to greater equity, effectiveness and efficiency.
4. Provide postgraduate training and expand expertise in health, health systems and healthcare-related research and development.

CHSR&D STAFF



*Back row: Dr Gladys Kigozi (Senior Researcher); Belinda Jacobs (Financial Officer); André Janse van Rensburg (Researcher)
Middle row: Dr Michelle Engelbrecht (Senior Researcher); Dr Asta Rau (Senior Researcher)
Seated: Prof Christo Heunis (Director); Bridget Smit (Administrative Officer)
Nandi Jacobs left the Centre to join the Health Systems Trust*

Senior research associates

Prof Dingie van Rensburg
(CHSR&D), Professor Extraordinary

Prof Herman Meulemans
(Department of Sociology, University of Antwerp), Senior Research Associate

Research associates

Prof Edwin Wouters
(Research Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies, Department of Sociology, University of Antwerp)

Prof Noddy Jinabhai
(School of Family & Public Health Medicine, University of KwaZulu-Natal)

Dr Francois Steyn
(Department of Social Work and Criminology, University of Pretoria)

Dr Kerry Uebel
(Free State Department of Health; Department of Internal Medicine, UFS)

Ms Letshego Nophale
(Free State Department of Health; Department of Community Health, UFS)

Staff Achievements

Dr Asta Rau was appointed as Programme Director: BSocSc (Human and Social Dynamics) in the Faculty of Humanities.

Dr Gladys Kigozi was in her second year of the Vice-Chancellor's Prestige Scholars Programme (PSP) which is geared towards mentoring young scholars as well as helping them to establish and sustain networks with leading scholars at institutions of higher learning across the globe.

Staff Development

André Janse van Rensburg spent seven months in an academic exchange with the University of Ghent, under an Erasmus Mundus EU-SATURN Grant.

Dr Michelle Engelbrecht is part of the UFS Mid-Career Programme and attended a workshop on article writing (UFS).

Prof Christo Heunis attended workshops on "*Wellness for Effective Leadership*" (Health Systems Trust) and a MRC-NIH grant application workshop (Medical Research Council).

Dr Gladys Kigozi attended a short course on "*Strengthening doctoral supervision*" (Postgraduate school); as well as a presentation on "*Improving the quality of qualitative research*" (Postgraduate School, UFS).

Prof Christo Heunis and Dr Gladys Kigozi attended the Decentralised MDR-TB Treatment Workshop, Free State Department of Health, Thaba Nchu.

Belinda Jacobs and Bridget Smit are completing a FET Certificate in Generic Management of Business Administration (UFS and Batho Pele) and also attended Blackboard training (UFS).

Completed Projects

Non-uptake of HIV counselling and testing among TB patients Part II: Evaluation of professional and community health worker training and mentoring interventions in the Free State

Project leader: Prof Christo Heunis (CHSR&D)
CHSR&D staff: Dr Gladys Kigozi, Dr Michelle Engelbrecht, Nandipha Jacobs, Belinda Jacobs, Bridget Smit

This public health evaluation (PHE) of professional and community health worker (CHW) training and mentoring interventions to improve TB patients' uptake of HIV counselling and testing (HCT) in the Free State, following a pre-post intervention comparative design, took place in four sub-districts in the province, randomly assigned to intervention and control groups. Training and mentoring interventions were implemented in 2013 and ran until 2014, upon which a six-month mentoring period followed. Preliminary discussions held after the mentoring period revealed that the post-intervention data gathering should be discontinued for three main reasons:

1. The unexpected impact of the roll-out of the national and provincial HCT Campaign during the project intervention term resulted in the rate of HIV testing among TB patients in the Free State increasing dramatically to currently near universal.
2. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the introduction of HIV testing as a reporting item in the Electronic TB Register (ETR.net), had a major impact in increasing the

uptake of provider-initiated counselling and testing (PICT) of TB patients.

3. Since mid-2013, CHWs are much less available at clinics, many have lost their jobs while others have been redeployed as community- or ward-based PHC re-engineering team members. In the absence of clinic-based CHWs, professional nurses started to conduct the entire HCT/PICT procedure themselves in all sub-districts. This in effect nullified the quasi-experiment which compared uptake of HIV testing by TB patients across three Free State sub-districts depending on the HCT/PICT model used:

- a) Only professional nurses conducting PICT
- b) Only CHWs conducting PICT
- c) PICT responsibilities being shared between professional nurses and CHWs.

Funding: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); the American International Health Alliance (AIHA) HIV/AIDS Twinning Center, and the National Research Foundation (NRF).

Mosamaria AIDS Ministry: Evaluation of the Orphans and Vulnerable Children's (OVC) Programme in Bloemfontein and Botshabelo

Project leader: Dr Asta Rau (CHSR&D)

CHSR&D staff: Dr Gladys Kigozi, André Janse van Rensburg, Nandipha Jacobs, Prof Christo Heunis, Belinda Jacobs

Counselling Centre (UFS) staff: Kurhula (Penny) Mathumbu

Mosamaria AIDS Ministry is a registered Non-profit Organisation and Faith Based Organisation working with disadvantaged communities in Bloemfontein and Botshabelo. The evaluation focused on Mosamaria's Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Programme, which serves approximately 650 children. It was undertaken to provide research-based evidence on the OVC programme's implementation, outcomes, programme logic and design. Key foci were the programme's effectiveness, fitness-to-purpose, relevance and sustainability. The evaluation findings can be used by Mosamaria to plan strategically for the development and ongoing improvement of the OVC programme. Findings also provide Mosamaria with strong evidence to support future funding applications and assist donor decisions in a highly competitive funding climate.

Funding: Directorate Research Development (UFS) and Strategic Academic Cluster for New Frontiers in Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development (UFS).



Implementing and evaluating a workplace TB and HIV screening and treatment programme for healthcare workers: A randomised control trial in the Free State, South Africa

Project leader (Canada): Prof Annalee Yassi (UBC)

CHSR&D team: Dr Michelle Engelbrecht, Dr Asta Rau, Dr Gladys Kigozi, Nandipha Jacobs, Bridget Smit, Belinda Jacobs

FSDoH team: Dr Kerry Uebel (Centre of Excellence), Letshego Nophale (Provincial Occupational Health Unit)

UBC team: Prof Jerry Spiegel, Dr Elizabeth Bryce, Lyndsay O'Hara, Dr David Moore, Dr Jane Buxton, Dr Mark FitzGerald, Dr Carlo Marra, Jackie Siegel

NIOH: Dr Muzi Zungu

A pragmatic, cluster randomised controlled trial was introduced at 27 public hospitals in the Free State to determine if a combined workforce and workplace intervention could improve health outcomes of healthcare workers and strengthen occupational health (OH) and infection control services in hospitals in the province. In preparation for the trial, OH nurses were trained in the diagnosis and management of TB and HIV (PALSA PLUS), and as a result all OH nurses were authorised to provide TB treatment to staff and OH nurses from the intervention hospitals were authorised to provide HIV treatment to staff.

The research team assisted the Free State Department of Health (FSDoH) to update policies on TB infection control. However the implementation of the infection control component of the trial was postponed due, amongst others, to a delay in the finalisation of guidelines on health and safety

representatives' responsibilities for workplace health and safety assessments.

Initial mid-term assessments of the trial identified numerous challenges and, in keeping with good research practice, it was collectively decided by the FSDoH and researchers to terminate the trial. Feedback packages based on the mid-term assessments were provided to the chief executive officers and OH nurses at participating hospitals.

Funding: Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) through the University of British Columbia (UBC).



*Back row: Letshego Nophale (FSDoH); Prof Jerry Spiegel (UBC); Lyndsay O'Hara (UBC); Dr Muzi Zungu (NIOH)
Seated: Prof Annalee Yassi (UBC);
Dr Michelle Engelbrecht (CHSR&D)*

ONGOING PROJECTS

Tool, weapon or white elephant? Assessing the application of a state-of-the-art information system created for use in occupational health in South Africa

Project leader: Prof Jerry Spiegel (UBC)

UBC staff: Prof Annalee Yassi, Dr Elizabeth Bryce, Lyndsay O'Hara, Steve Barker

CHSR&D staff: Dr Michelle Engelbrecht, Dr Asta Rau, André Janse van Rensburg, Belinda Jacobs, Bridget Smit

FSDoH staff: Lucky Nophale (Provincial Occupational Health Unit)

This longitudinal study seeks to evaluate the use and the perceived usefulness and impact of introducing an occupational health information system (OHASIS – Occupational Health and Safety Information System) to improve the health, safety and overall well-being of healthcare workers. As the study draws to a close in 2015, interviews and focus group discussions were undertaken at Universitas, Pelonomi and Bongani hospitals to identify 1) the purposes for which the information system is used; 2) the process flow of information; and 3) the perceptions of stakeholders regarding

the ease of use and utility of OHASIS. OH nurses were interviewed and many expressed concerns that were technological in nature. For example, it was reported that the system was slow and not always accessible. In particular, the OH nurses indicated that they would like OHASIS to generate reports that would be useful for them, and would also be informative for management.

Based on the lessons learnt from of this initial implementation phase, improvements have already been undertaken by the National Institute for Occupational Health (NIOH)/National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS), and a new, faster version of OHASIS is in the process of being developed.

Funding: Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) through the University of British Columbia (UBC).

Assessing the implementation of the Integrated School Health Programme (ISHP) in Maluti-a-Phofung

Project leader: André Janse van Rensburg (CHSR&D)

CHSR&D staff: Dr Asta Rau, Prof Christo Heunis, Bridget Smit

In 2012, the Integrated School Health Policy (ISHP) and accompanying Implementation Guidelines were released in South Africa. This policy forms part of government's Primary Health Care (PHC) Re-engineering Programme and is designed to offer a comprehensive and integrated package of health services to all learners across all educational phases (i.e. Foundation, Intermediate and Senior Phases). Different sections of the ISHP are currently being rolled out in different areas throughout the Free State Province.

The research will be conducted in Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality. The aim of the study

is to explore and describe the implementation of the ISHP in Maluti-a-Phofung. More specifically the objectives are to: 1) assess the capacity and resources available for implementation; 2) identify barriers that hamper implementation; 3) detect enabling factors and successful aspects of implementation; and 4) disseminate best practices in and barriers to ISPH implementation with relevant recommendations to policymakers, managers and practitioners. The study is rooted in a qualitative approach, relying on in-depth interviews and focus group sessions with relevant stakeholders.

Funding: Strategic Academic Cluster on Sustainable Development and Poverty Alleviation (UFS).

NEW PROJECTS

Tuberculosis prevention through systematic household contact investigation in the Free State, South Africa

Project leader: Dr Gladys Kigozi (CHSR&D)

CHSR&D staff: Prof Christo Heunis, Dr Michelle Engelbrecht, Bridget Smit, Belinda Jacobs

FSDoH staff: Dr Perpetual Chikobvu (Health Information, Research and Training Directorate)

University of Western Cape staff: Dr Jeannine Uwimana

The rationale for this project is five-fold: 1) diagnostic delay is increasingly recognised as an impediment to effective TB control; 2) the national and provincial TB programmes are performing sub-optimally; 3) contact investigation minimises the impact of TB in people living with HIV; 4) because of the high risk of children <5 years for TB, contact investigation may lead to early detection of disease; and 5) systematic investigation of contacts of known or suspected multi-drug-resistant cases may be effective in reducing ongoing transmission of drug-resistant disease/strains of the disease. The study seeks to assess systematic household contact investigation in order to inform a larger multifaceted intervention to improve TB prevention and infection control in the Free State. The objectives are to measure and analyse the status and yield of systematic household contact investigation, and to make recommendations on how to improve systematic contact investigation as part of a multifaceted intervention.

Data will be gathered through record reviews, interviews with TB index cases, community health workers, professional nurses, programme managers and consultation with domain experts.

Funding: African Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship of the African Population and Health Research Center in partnership with the International Development Research Centre.

NEW PROPOSALS

Towards a health-enabling working environment: developing and testing interventions to decrease HIV- and TB-stigma among healthcare workers in the Free State, South Africa

Project leaders: Prof Edwin Wouters (University of Antwerp), Dr Asta Rau & Dr Michelle Engelbrecht (CHSR&D)

CHSR&D staff: Prof Christo Heunis, Dr Gladys Kigozi, André Janse van Rensburg, Belinda Jacobs, Bridget Smit

In the context of a devastating HIV/AIDS-TB co-epidemic and severe human resource shortages in the health sector, HIV- and TB-related stigmatization among the healthcare workforce does not only threaten the workforce's own health but also the health of the broader population visiting the health facilities. As a response, the proposed project aims to 1) scientifically assess the extent and sources of HIV & TB stigma among the healthcare workforce and 2) refine and test innovative stigma-reduction interventions in randomly selected public health sites in the Free State Province.

A randomised control trial was designed to measure and address HIV- and TB-stigma among healthcare workers in public health facilities in the Free State. A self-administered questionnaire with validated stigma scales will be used to measure stigma and other key variables among randomly selected healthcare workers. The intervention will comprise of stigma reduction activities at three social-ecology levels (individual, community, and structural). To evaluate implementation, qualitative data will be collected from purposively selected healthcare workers midway through the trial. Post-intervention, all respondents from baseline will be followed up using the same scales with added questions on interventions. Quantitative and qualitative data will be collected to not only assess the size of the impact but also to uncover the processes through which the interventions impact on stigmatisation. The study results will be presented in workshops, conferences, reports and journal articles. Specific attention will be given to a continuous dialogue with the relevant stakeholders to ensure the optimal dissemination of our evidence-based recommendations to combat HIV/AIDS and TB stigma to these agents of change.

The proposal was submitted to potential funders and by late-2014 had reached the semi-final selection.

Developing, implementing and testing a multifaceted intervention to improve TB prevention and infection control in PHC facilities in the Free State

Project leader: Dr Michelle Engelbrecht

CHSR&D staff: Prof Christo Heunis, Dr Asta Rau, Dr Gladys Kigozi, André Janse van Rensburg, Belinda Jacobs, Bridget Smit

CSIR staff: Katekani Ngobeni.

The proposed study seeks to develop, implement and test a multifaceted intervention strategy to enhance TB prevention and infection control in PHC facilities. More specifically, the study will measure whether the multifaceted intervention improves and normalises the following at PHC clinics: 1) TB and HIV/AIDS integration in terms of intensified case finding, isoniazid preventive treatment (IPT) and antiretroviral treatment (ART) coverage; 2) TB infection control; 3) healthcare worker uptake of TB and HIV testing; and 4) patients' TB prevention and infection control-related knowledge, attitudes and practices.

A pre-post intervention study will be conducted at the 43 PHC facilities in Mangaung Metro. A situational analysis will be undertaken at the facilities prior to the development of the intervention and this data will be used to match PHC facilities in terms of TB prevention and infection control implementation. The facilities will then be randomly assigned to intervention and control groups. A participatory approach will be followed and teams from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), FSDoH and CHSR&D will collectively develop a multifaceted intervention based on the information gathered during the situational analysis. Post-intervention assessments will be undertaken to determine if the multifaceted intervention improved and normalised TB prevention and infection control at the facilities.

This study is novel as unlike previous research on TB prevention and infection control in South Africa, which mainly focused on hospital settings, our research targets PHC facilities – the primary point of entry for state-supported TB patient care – and will focus on both the demand/need and supply sides in the normalisation of an effective TB prevention and infection control chain. We have received limited funding from the National Research Foundation for this project, and are actively seeking more funding.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed journal articles – published

Heunis JC, Kigozi NG, Van der Merwe S, Chikobvu P & Beyers N
Sex-related trends in non-conversion of new smear-positive tuberculosis patients in the Free State, South Africa. *Public Health Action* 4(1): 66-71.

Kigozi NG, Chikobvu P, Heunis JC & Van der Merwe S
A retrospective analysis of two-month sputum smear non-conversion in new sputum smear positive tuberculosis patients in the Free State Province, South Africa. *Journal of Public Health in Africa* 5(324): 68-72.

Mainil T & Meulemans H

Magic Mountains and multi-disciplines in international medical mobilities. Comment on “Patient mobility in the global marketplace: a multidisciplinary perspective”. *International Journal of Health Policy and Management* 3(1): 51-52.

Masquillier C, Wouters E, Mortelmans D & Booyesen FLR

Families as catalysts for peer adherence support in enhancing hope for people living with HIV/AIDS in South Africa. *Journal of the International AIDS Society* 17:18802.

Nkoko L, Spiegel J, Rau A, Parent S & Yassi A

Reducing the risks to health care workers from blood and body fluid exposure in a small rural hospital in Thabo-Mofutsanyana, South Africa. *Workplace Health & Safety* 62(9): 382-388.

Rau A, Radloff S, Coetzee JK, Nardi C, Smit R & Matebesi SZ

Students perceiving risk: a quantitative assessment on three South African university campuses. *African Sociological Review* 18(1): 65-90.

Stern E, Rau AHM & Cooper D

Sexual and reproductive health perceptions and practices as revealed in the sexual history narratives of South African men living in a time of HIV/AIDS. *SAHARA J: Journal of Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS* 11(1): 233-244.

Van Rensburg HCJ

South Africa's protracted struggle for equal distribution and equitable access - still not there. *Human Resources for Health* 12: 26 (1-16).

Wouters E, Masquillier C, Ponnet K & Booyesen FLR

A peer adherence support intervention to improve the antiretroviral treatment outcomes of HIV patients in South Africa: The moderating role of family dynamics. *Social Science & Medicine* 113: 145-153.

Yassi A, O'Hara LM, Engelbrecht MC, Uebel K, Nophale LE, Bryce EA, Buxton JA, Siegel J & Spiegel JM

Considerations and dilemmas in preparing a randomized population health intervention trial: Lessons from a South African-Canadian partnership to improve HIV and tuberculosis prevention and care for health workers. *Global Health Action* 7: 235924.

Peer-reviewed journal articles – accepted

Engelbrecht MC, Yassi A, Spiegel JM, Van Rensburg AJ, O'Hara LM, Bryce EA, Nophale LE & Rau A

Tuberculosis and blood-borne infectious diseases: Workplace conditions and practices of healthcare workers at three public hospitals in the Free State. *Southern African Journal of Infectious Diseases*.

Khan R, Yassi A, Engelbrecht MC, Nophale L, Janse van Rensburg AP & Spiegel J

Barriers to HIV counselling and testing uptake by health workers in three public hospitals in Free State Province, South Africa. *AIDS Care*.

Peters JA, Heunis C, Kigozi G, Osoba T & Van der Walt M

Assessing integration of TB/HIV services at an antenatal care facility in Northern Cape, South Africa. *Public Health Action*.

Invited contributions

Van Rensburg HCJ & Engelbrecht M

Africans, Health of. In: Cockerham WC, Dingwall R, Quah S (Eds). *The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of health, illness, behavior, and society*. Vol.1. Oxford, UK: John Wiley & Sons: 26-29.

Research reports

Rau A, Kigozi G, Janse van Rensburg A, Jacobs N, Mathumbu K & Heunis JC 2014. *Mosamaria AIDS Ministry: Evaluation of the Orphans and Vulnerable Children's (OVC) programme in Bloemfontein and Botshabelo (2012-2013)*. Bloemfontein: University of the Free State, Centre for Health Systems Research & Development (CHSR&D).

PRESENTATIONS

International Conference Presentations

Engelbrecht MC, Kigozi G, Chikobvu P, Van Der Merwe S & Van Rensburg HCJ

Factors associated with successful treatment outcomes for new TB-HIV co-infected cases in the Free State Province (South Africa). 45th Union World Conference on Lung Health, Barcelona, Spain, 28 October – 1 November.

Heunis C, Poole R, Wouters E, Kigozi G, Jacobs N & Janse van Rensburg-Bonthuyzen E

TB/HIV-related training, knowledge and attitudes of community health workers in the Free State Province, South Africa. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Research and Innovation Symposium, Washington DC, USA, 20 May.

Janse van Rensburg AP

Towards a unifying theoretical account of mental health care reform. The Fourth International Conference on Health, Wellness and Society, Vancouver, Canada, 14-15 March.

Kigozi NG, Heunis JC, Van der Merwe S & Chikobvu P

Tuberculosis retreatment: profile and factors associated with successful treatment outcomes in the Free State Province, South Africa (2003-2012). 45th Union World Conference on Lung Health, Barcelona, Spain, 28 October – 1 November.

Van der Merwe S, Kigozi NG, Chikobvu P & Heunis JC

Patient characteristics and determinants of tuberculosis mortality in the Free State Province, South Africa: 2003-2012. 45th Union World Conference on Lung Health, Barcelona, Spain, 28 October – 1 November.

National, Local Conference and other Presentations

Engelbrecht MC, Kigozi NG, Chikobvu P, Van der Merwe S, Janse van Rensburg AP

Factors associated with successful treatment outcomes for new TB-HIV co-infected cases in the Free State. 3rd Annual Free State Provincial Health Research Day on “Research towards Universal Health Coverage – from Theory to Practice”, UFS, Bloemfontein, 30-31 October.

Heunis JC, Kigozi NG & Chikobvu P

Patient characteristics and determinants of tuberculosis mortality in the Free State: district differences, 2003-2012. 3rd Annual Free State Provincial Health Research Day on “Research towards Universal Health Coverage – from Theory to Practice”, UFS, Bloemfontein, 30-31 October.

Kigozi NG, Heunis JC, Van der Merwe S & Chikobvu P

Retreatment tuberculosis patient characteristics and factors associated with successful treatment outcomes in the Free State Province. 3rd Annual Free State Provincial Health Research Day on “Research towards Universal Health Coverage – from Theory to Practice”, UFS, Bloemfontein, 30-31 October.

POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION AND COURSES PRESENTED

Completed Master's degree studies

Nyamukapa D.

Women's perspectives on Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC) for HIV prevention in Harare, Zimbabwe. Masters of Developmental Studies, Bloemfontein: UFS. Supervisor: Prof JC Heunis.

Peresu E.

Kids having kids: determinants of teenage pregnancy among women attending antenatal services at Ubombo hospital, Swaziland. Masters of Developmental Studies, Bloemfontein: UFS. Supervisors: Dr NG Kigozi and Prof JC Heunis.

Sibhensana B.

The influence of social protection programmes on the livelihoods of Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Daveyton Area: Gauteng East. Masters of Development Studies, Bloemfontein: UFS. Supervisor: André Janse van Rensburg.

Postgraduate courses presented

Masters of Development Studies (Centre for Development Support) MDS 712/713
Health, HIV/AIDS and Development

Dr Asta Rau presented two workshops for the Postgraduate School

Improving the quality of qualitative research; and Thematic analysis for qualitative data.

VISITORS TO THE CHSR&D



Prof Christo Heunis (CHSR&D); Prof Herman Meulemans (University of Antwerp); Prof Lucius Botes (UFS); Prof Dingie van Rensburg (CHSR&D)



*Back row: Prof Christo Heunis (CHSR&D); Chris De Vries (Quintiles); Michael Klein (Quintiles); Dr Gladys Kigozi (CHSR&D)
Front row: Dr Embry Howell (The Urban Institute); Dr Perpetual Chikobvu (FSDoH); Bill Kimball (Quintiles); Mary Setlogelo (FSDoH); Dr Michelle Engelbrecht (CHSR&D)*

Prof Annalee Yassi, Prof Jerry Spiegel, Lyndsay O'Hara

(School of Population and Public Health, University of British Columbia) and **Dr Muzi Zungu** (National Institute for Occupational Health) – To collaborate on ongoing research projects:

- *Implementing and evaluating a workplace TB and HIV screening and treatment programme for healthcare workers: A randomised control trial in the Free State. South Africa.*
- *Tool, weapon or white elephant? Assessing the application of a state-of-the-art information system created for use in occupational health in South Africa.*

Prof Herman Meulemans

(Department of Sociology, University of Antwerp) – to collaborate with Prof Dingie van Rensburg.

Zachary Isdahl

(South Africa Program Director, University of California – San Francisco Global Health Sciences) – to discuss the *South Africa Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) Health Monitoring Survey*.

Dr Embry Howell

(The Urban Institute, Washington DC) – to advise the PHE (*Non-uptake of HIV counselling and testing among TB patients – Part II: Evaluation of professional and community health worker training and mentoring interventions in the Free State* and other projects and projects-in-development of the CHSR&D.

VISITS OF CHSR&D STAFF TO INSTITUTIONS ABROAD

André Janse van Rensburg

Spent six months at the Health and Demographic Research group (HeDeRa), Department of Sociology, Ghent University, Belgium, under the supervision of Prof Piet Bracke. During the visit he collaborated with Flemish academics to design a project on “*Governance and Power in Mental Health Integration Processes in South Africa*”. The project is currently under way and feeds into his PhD studies. He also enrolled in courses and seminars, including a seminar series on Laclau and Mouffe's Hegemony and Socialist Strategy: Towards a Radical Democratic Politics, at the Centre for Ethics and Humanism, *Vrije Universiteit Brussel*; Measuring Equality & Human Rights, and Impact, Impact, Impact: How to Influence your Research, presented by the Central PhD Office & Doctoral Schools, *Vrije Universiteit Brussel*; a critical discussion group on Foucault's *Introduction à l'Anthropologie de Kant*, at the Centre for Critical Philosophy at Ghent University; as well as taking part in the *4de Symposium Kwalitatief Sterk*, a postgraduate workshop on advanced qualitative methodology presented at the *Universiteit Antwerpen*. The visit was funded by a European Union Erasmus Mundus EU-SATURN Grant.

Prof Christo Heunis

Undertook a visit to Washington DC, USA (18-24 May) on invitation of the American International Health Alliance (AIHA) HIV/AIDS Twinning Center where he presented findings of CHSR&D research on the TB/HIV-related training, knowledge and attitudes of community health workers in

the Free State. He worked with Richard Poole (Health Resources and Services Administration [HRSA]) and Sara Adelman and Carl Henn (both AIHA), to refine this presentation for the HRSA Research Symposium panel discussion “*Research on New Models and Approaches to Health Service Delivery: Home Visiting, PCMH and Community Health Workers*”. He also attended training on scientific article writing at the HRSA Research Symposium and met with Dr Embry Howell (The Urban Institute) to discuss her scope of work for Volunteer Healthcare Corps (VHC) placement in the Free State in September. Further meetings were held with Dr Margo Edmunds (Evidence Generation and Knowledge Translation, Academy Health) and Dr Myat Htoo Razak (Clinical Research Training for Scholars and Fellows Program, Fogarty International Center) to discuss areas of mutual interest and possibilities for collaborative research/fundraising.

Prof Dingie van Rensburg

Visited Belgium in November on invitation of the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences (University of Antwerp) to pay tribute to Prof Francis baron Van Loon (first Rector of the amalgamated University of Antwerp) on occasion of his retirement -Topic: “*Prof Francis baron Van Loon - 'n Huldeblyk ... A tribute*”. He also presented a guest lecture for postgraduate students and staff of the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences on “*Human resources for health (HRH): South Africa's challenges and strategies*”.

GRATITUDE

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- Free State Department of Health (FSDoH)
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- HIVCare (an operating division of Medicross Healthcare Group)
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- Research Matters (IDRC)
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- South African Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU)
- State University of New York Downstate Medical Center (SUNY-DMC)
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- University of the Free State (UFS)
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