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*Artemisia annua, Artemisinin, ACTs & Malaria Control in Africa*
Tradition, Science and Public Policy

by Dana G. Dalrymple
Politics & Prose Bookstore, 3rd printing, October 2012

273 pp. 3.0 MB:

The key ingredient in the most effective treatments for malaria in Africa - artemisinin - comes not from high-tech research, but is an extract of an ancient Chinese medicinal plant, Artemisia annua, commonly known as Artemisia. Chloroquine and replacement drugs have lost effectiveness with the development of resistance and have increasingly been replaced by derivatives of artemisinin combined with other drugs. Known as artemisinin–based combination therapies (ACTs), they provide the most effective treatment at present. This has led to efforts to increase cultivated production of Artemisia in the short run and to develop, through biological and chemical research, synthetic substitutes in the longer run.

* * *

*Financing Health in Latin America*
Volume 1: Household Spending and Impoverishment

Editors: Felicia Marie Knaul, Rebeca Wong, Héctor Arreola-Ornelas
Published by Harvard Global Equity Initiative, Mexican Health Foundation, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), 2012

306 pp. 3.2 MB:

In Latin America, financial protection for health continues to be segmented and fragmented; health is mainly financed through out-of-pocket payments. The first part of a two-volume set, Financing Health in Latin America presents new and important insight into the crucial issue of financial protection in health systems. The book analyzes the level and determinants of catastrophic health expenditures among households in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and Peru, applying both descriptive and econometric analyses.

* * *

*South-South Collaboration in Health Biotechnology: Growing Partnerships amongst Developing Countries*

Editor: Halla Thorsteinsdóttir
International Development Research Centre (IDRC), 2012

296 pp. 5.8 MB:

This book presents a detailed portrait of the contours of South-South collaboration in the health biotechnology sector. In particular, it casts revealing light on the factors that
guide effective scientific partnerships and exchanges. The authors explore these issues by combining a wide range of quantitative and qualitative methodologies, including co-publications analyses, in-depth surveys of biotechnology firms and interviews with around 350 researchers, entrepreneurs and policy-makers in developing countries.

ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

Global Health

**The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the World Bank’s engagement with the Global Fund**

Volume 1: Main Report

by Chris Gerrard, Mark Sundberg, Anna Aghumian et al.


180 pp. 1.2 MB:

http://ieg.worldbankgroup.org/content/dam/ieg/grpp/GF/GF_evaluation.pdf

The Global Fund has fostered new approaches to development assistance. This Review found that its Country Coordinating Mechanisms have successfully brought country-level stakeholders together to submit grant proposals to the Global Fund, but have lacked the authority and the resources to exercise effective oversight of grant implementation. The situation has improved in recent years in terms of the World Bank and other partners’ providing technical assistance in support of Global Fund activities, but these technical support functions need to be defined with greater clarity and formality within the context of improved donor harmonization.

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**Innovative financing for health: what is truly innovative?**

by Rifat Atun, Felicia Marie Knaul, Yoko Akachi, Julio Frenk


6 pp. 394 kB:

http://download.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140673612614603.pdf

The continued global economic crisis means that increased external financing from traditional donors is unlikely in the near term. Hence, new funding has to be sought from innovative financing sources to sustain the gains made in global health, to achieve the health Millennium Development Goals, and to address the emerging burden from non-communicable diseases. The authors use the value chain approach to conceptualise innovative financing. With this framework, they identify three integrated innovative financing mechanisms - GAVI, Global Fund, and UNITAID - that have reached a global scale.

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**Global Governance of Health and the Requirements of Human Rights**

by Gorik Ooms and Rachel Hammonds


4 pp. 226 kB (open access until January 2013):


HESP-News & Notes - 26/2012 - page 5
The authors explore two areas in which new mechanisms of global governance of health have emerged in the first decade of the 21st century: firstly, international assistance to finance healthcare and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria; and secondly, the Social Protection Floor which aims to ensure basic social guarantees for all. They argue that human rights can help to combine and strengthen these mechanisms, serving as a guide for a true partnership between people across borders, rather than merely a set of norms imposed upon states.

For free access to the Journal’s Special Section – “International Law, Human Rights and the Global Economy: Innovations and Expectations for the 21st Century”, edited by Margot E Salomon, go to:
http://www.globalpolicyjournal.com/journal-issue/vol-3-issue-4-november-2012

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**HIV - AIDS - STI**

*The Beginning of the End? Tracking Global Commitments on AIDS*

by Sara Harcourt, Caitlyn Hendrickson, Ben Leo et al.

ONE Data Report, November 2012

108 pp, 2.5 MB:  

Following nearly three decades of emergency responses in the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic, a new sense of optimism is beginning to take hold across the international development community, rooted in new science suggesting that bold, strategic investments can turn the tide against the disease. Over the past two years, a number of landmark scientific and field-based studies have signalled that focused interventions, if implemented in combination, have the potential to more effectively prevent the spread of the disease than has ever previously been thought feasible.

* * *

**PEPFAR Blueprint: Creating an AIDS-free Generation**

The Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator, November 2012

64 pp, 2.6 MB:  

Scientific advances and their successful implementation have brought the world to a tipping point in the fight against AIDS. The United States believes that by making smart investments based on sound science, and a shared global responsibility, we can save millions of lives and achieve an AIDS-free generation.

“The goal of an AIDS-free generation may be ambitious, but it is possible with the knowledge and interventions we have right now. And that is something we have never been able to say without qualification before. Imagine what the world will look like when we succeed.” [U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, November 8, 2011]

* * *
Don’t Stop Now! Calling for a UK Blueprint to Achieve an HIV-Free Generation

by Mike Podmore and David J Olson
The International HIV/AIDS Alliance (the Alliance), December 2012

20 pp. 1.7 MB:
http://www.aidsalliance.org/includes/Publication/World_AIDS_Day_dont_stop_now.pdf

This report, issued on World AIDS Day 2012, makes the case for the UK government, a world leader in fighting HIV, to develop a UK blueprint for achieving an HIV-free generation. The UK has already committed to increasing its overseas development assistance to 0.7% of its Gross National Income of which 7.1% already goes to fighting HIV. The International HIV/AIDS Alliance is calling on the UK to simply maintain that proportion as its contribution to that goal.

* * *

ART Adherence Club Report and Toolkit

Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF), 2012

40 pp. 3.0 MB:

Piloted by Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) in Khayelitsha, South Africa, the award-winning ART Adherence Club model focuses on patient participation and peer support, for improved treatment adherence. This simple model allows patient groups to collect pre-packed, two-month supplies of treatment from lay health workers either at the clinic or outside of the clinic - whether at a local library or at a fellow patients home. Due to growing interest in replicating the model, MSF has produced a report and practical toolkit which includes a step-by-step, ‘How-to’ guide, two short films and additional information on tailoring the model to various contexts: http://www.msf.org.za/publication/art-club-toolkit

* * *

HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections in the Western Pacific Region 2000-2010

by Virginia Loo, Bandana Malhotra, Jhoney Barcarolo et al.
World Health Organization, Western Pacific Region, 2012

147 pp. 2.8 MB:

This report documents the achievements and challenges of the Region’s health sector response to the epidemic over the past decade. It identifies best practices and important opportunities to further reduce the number of new infections, and prolong and improve the quality of people living with HIV in the Western Pacific Region.

* * *
The Global HIV Epidemics among Sex Workers

by Deanna Kerrigan, Andrea Wirtz, Stefan Baral et al.
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank, 2013

According to the study, globally, HIV disproportionately affected sex workers in low- and middle-income countries. It found that a community empowerment approach to HIV prevention, treatment, and care is cost-effective, with significant projected impact on HIV incidence among sex workers and transmission beyond the sex worker community. The study emphasizes the central importance of adopting a rights-affirming, empowerment-based approach to scale up comprehensive HIV services, and addressing stigma, discrimination, and violence against sex workers.

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Antiretrovirals and HIV prevention: new insights, challenges, and new directions

by Kenneth H. Mayer
Current Opinion in HIV & AIDS, 7(6):495-497, November 2012

The past 2 years have seen remarkable progress in the development of understanding of how antiretroviral drugs might be used to enhance HIV prevention. But, in the course of the past 2 years, there have also been some surprises. In the current issue of Current Opinions in HIV and AIDS, there are several excellent articles that carefully review these recent data in detail and advance the current understanding of the field of antiretrovirals for HIV prevention.

* * *

Oral antiretroviral chemoprophylaxis: current status

by Jared Baeten and Connie Celum

Preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP), in which HIV uninfected persons with ongoing HIV risk use oral antiretroviral medications as chemoprophylaxis against sexual HIV acquisition, is a promising new HIV prevention strategy. The authors conclude that oral chemoprophylaxis, using tenofovir and combination emtricitabine-tenofovir, is effective for prevention of sexual HIV transmission. Next steps in the field include rigorous evaluation of uptake and adherence to PrEP in implementation settings.

* * *
**HIV Risk and Prevention Among Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) in Peri-Urban Townships in Cape Town, South Africa**

by Geoffrey Jobson, Glenn de Swardt, Kevin Rebe et al.

AIDS and Behavior (7 October 2012), e-publication ahead of print.


The authors of this exploratory study conducted ten interviews and three focus group discussions to examine HIV risk for men who have sex with men (MSM) in Cape Town, South Africa. Using a socio-ecological framework, the authors propose a multidimensional approach to understanding risk to MSM of different racial identities at multiple levels: the distal (structural and cultural), proximal (interpersonal and community), and personal (within the individual). The authors conclude that recognizing the links between risk environments and risk situations is critical for effective MSM programming.

* * *

**Lessons Learned from AIDS 2012**

by J. Stephen Morrison and Suzanne Brundage

Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), November 2012


The Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) released the report reflecting on lessons learned at the XIX International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2012), which took place in Washington, D.C., in July. The report examines what AIDS 2012 achieved, why the CSIS advisory group was formed, what accounts for its impacts, and what that experience may foretell for future International AIDS Conferences.

* * *

**Prevention and Treatment of HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections for Sex Workers in Low- and Middle-Income Countries**

WHO Policy Brief, December 2012


The objective of the guidance document is to provide technical recommendations on effective interventions for the prevention and treatment of HIV and other STIs among sex workers and their clients. The guidelines are designed for use by national public health officials and managers of HIV/AIDS and STI programmes, nongovernmental organizations including community and civil society organizations, and health workers. These guidelines may also be of interest to international funding agencies, the scientific media, health policy-makers and advocates.

* * *
Sexual and geographic organisation of men who have sex with men in a large East African city: opportunities for outreach

by Michael W Ross, Joyce Nyoni, Anne M Bowen et al.
BMJ Open 2012;2:e001813

7 pp. 179 kB:  
http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/2/6/e001813.full.pdf+html

The publication describes geographical and dispersion patterns of men who have sex with men (MSM)-related venues in a large East African city (Dar es Salaam) and their associations with times, participants and venue type. There is a large number of ‘local’ MSM contact, social and sex sites and any work with MSM will have to include these less-formal and less-known sites. The climate of stigma, abuse and potential violence appear to be limiting the development of more formal sites. This pattern is probably typical of other large urban areas in East Africa and perhaps across sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

Maternal & Child Health

SADC Regional Assessment Report of Policies and Programmes on Child and Adolescent HIV, TB and Malaria

by Stephen Sianga, Innocent Modisaotsile, Banyana Madi et al.
Southern African Development Community (SADC), October 2012

104 pp. 2.5 MB:  

The SADC Secretariat is mandated to develop “The SADC Minimum Standards for Child and Adolescent HIV, TB and Malaria Continuum of Care”. This document will establish the minimum package of services that Member States should have in place, to achieve a common response in the region. The first step in the articulation of this initiative was to (1) identify the existing policies and programming frameworks in the area of child and adolescent HIV, TB and malaria and appraise the extent to which these are (2) integrated and (3) and harmonised in the SADC region. To this end, a regional assessment was conducted in the 14 active SADC Member States between October 2011 and July 2012.

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Knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding exclusive breastfeeding in Southern Africa - Part 1 and 2

by Rita Magawa
Consultancy Africa Intelligence (Pty) Ltd, December 2012

Read online Part 1:  

Read online Part 2:  
This paper attempts to highlight the knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding exclusive breastfeeding (EBF) that continue to affect its successful uptake in Southern Africa. It is of utmost public health importance that EBF is encouraged and practised in order to promote the growth, survival and health of children. The World Health Organisation/United Nations Children’s Fund Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), designed and implemented to support and encourage optimal child feeding practices, is discussed. Finally, recommendations for the successful implementation of the strategy are presented.

* * *

Immunisation for All: No child left behind

by Kirsten Mathieson, Lara Brearley, Alison Root et al.
The Save the Children Fund, December 2012

51 pp. 976 kB: http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/images/Immunisation_for_All.pdf

One child in five misses out on basic vaccinations. Immunisation for All identifies country-level strategies to reach the unreached. And it identifies factors at the global level that will help to create a more conducive environment for countries to achieve and sustain universal immunisation coverage. Finally, the report makes a series of recommendations to governments, development partners, the private sector and civil society. It urges all actors to seize the opportunity we have this decade to achieve universal access to immunisation.

Malaria

Effect of the Affordable Medicines Facility-malaria (AMFm) on the availability, price, and market share of quality-assured artemisinin-based combination therapies in seven countries

A before-and-after analysis of outlet survey data

by Sarah Tougher, Yazoume Ye, John H Amuasi et al.

11 pp. 339 kB: http://download.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140673612617322.pdf

In 2010, the Global Fund launched the Affordable Medicines Facility-malaria (AMFm), a series of national-scale pilot programmes designed to increase the access and use of quality-assured artemisinin based combination therapies (QAACTs) and reduce that of artemisinin monotherapies for treatment of malaria. The authors present findings on the effect of AMFm on QAACT price, availability, and market share, 6–15 months after the delivery of subsidised ACTs in Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, and Tanzania (including Zanzibar). They conclude that subsidies combined with supporting interventions can be effective in rapidly improving availability, price, and market share of QAACTs, particularly in the private for-profit sector.

* * *
Positive manipulation? Creating the market for ACTs

by William Brieger
Africa Health, November 2012

2 pp. 2.3 MB:

The Affordable Medicines Facility for malaria (AMFm) has tried through subsidies to move consumption to artemisinin combination therapies (ACTs) and drive other products from the market. The author observes the positives and negatives of this pioneering initiative.

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Identifying and moving levers of acceptance and uptake of recommended quality-assured paediatric ACTs for non-complicated malaria

by Florence Camus-Bablon
Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), November 2012

38 pp. 1.5 MB:

The study focused on assessing critical barriers to the acceptance and uptake of quality antimalarial medicines for children. It examines six francophone countries in Central and West Africa, and draws on a WHO-endorsed framework for evaluating barriers to access to essential medicines. It suggests interventions that could enhance acceptance and uptake of WHO-recommended medicines for children.

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Primaquine toxicity forestalls effective therapeutic management of the endemic malaria

by J. Kevin Baird
International Journal for Parasitology 42 (2012) 1049–1054

6 pp. 298 kB:

Primaquine is the only treatment licensed for therapy against relapse caused by dormant liver stages occurring in some species, and against the sexual blood stages responsible for transmission to mosquitoes in all species. Despite being licensed over 50 years ago, no alternative drugs have been developed, and safer dosing regimens of primaquine have not been explored. These failures forestalled the emergence of therapies practical for use in endemic zones, especially in the context of eliminating transmission.

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A scoping review of malaria forecasting: past work and future directions

by Kate Zinszer, Aman D Verma, Katia Charland et al.
BMJ Open 2012;2:e001992
There is a growing body of literature on malaria forecasting methods and the objective of the review is to identify and assess methods, including predictors, used to forecast malaria. Applying different forecasting methods to the same data and exploring the predictive ability of non-environmental variables, including transmission reducing interventions, will allow malaria researchers to compare and improve models and methods, which should improve the quality of malaria forecasting.

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**Malaria mortality estimates: need for agreeable approach**

by Yazoume Ye, Catherine Kyobutungi, Bernhards Ogutu et al.
Tropical Medicine & International Health - Article first published online: 29 November 2012

There is agreement among malaria scientists on the lack of sufficient information on malaria-related deaths, especially in endemic countries where most of the deaths take place at home and many of the dead are buried without being seen by a qualified healthcare provider. Verbal autopsy (VA) appears to work well for classifying deaths due to certain diseases but it is not as sensitive for conditions with less specific symptoms/signs such as HIV/AIDS in children and malaria in adults. However, VA has an important role in providing information on malaria-specific mortality.

***

**Cost-effectiveness of diagnostic for malaria in Extra-Amazon Region, Brazil**

by Maria Regina F de Oliveira, Silvana P Giozza, Henry M Peixoto et al.
Malaria Journal 2012, 11:390 (23 November 2012)

The analysis of cost-effectiveness of malaria diagnosis technologies in the Brazilian Extra-Amazon Region depends on the exclusive or shared use of the microscopy. Following the assumptions of this study, shared-use microscopy would be the most cost-effective strategy of the six technologies evaluated. However, if used exclusively for diagnosing malaria, microscopy would be the worst use of resources. Microscopy would not be the most cost effective strategy, even when structure is shared with other programmes, when the probability of a patient having access to it was reduced. Under these circumstances, the RDT CareStart™ would be the most cost-effective strategy.

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**Antiretroviral Agents and Prevention of Malaria in HIV-Infected Ugandan Children**

by Jane Achan, Abel Kakuru, Gloria Ikilezi et al.
Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) protease inhibitors show activity against Plasmodium falciparum in vitro. The authors hypothesized that the incidence of malaria in HIV-infected children would be lower among children receiving lopinavir-ritonavir-based antiretroviral therapy (ART) than among those receiving non-nucleoside reverse-transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI)-based ART. They found that Lopinavir-ritonavir-based ART as compared with NNRTI-based ART reduced the incidence of malaria by 41%, with the lower incidence attributable largely to a significant reduction in the recurrence of malaria after treatment with artemether-lumefantrine. Lopinavir-ritonavir-based ART was accompanied by an increase in serious adverse events.

Crowdsourcing Malaria Parasite Quantification: An Online Game for Analyzing Images of Infected Thick Blood Smears

by Miguel Angel Luengo-Oroz, Asier Arranz, John Frean et al.
J Med Internet Res 2012;14(6):e167

Read online at: http://www.jmir.org/2012/6/e167/

The gold standard for estimating the malaria parasite burden and the corresponding severity of the disease consists in manually counting the number of parasites in blood smears through a microscope, a process that can take more than 20 minutes of an expert microscopist’s time. This research tests the feasibility of a crowdsourced approach to malaria image analysis. In particular, the authors investigated whether anonymous volunteers with no prior experience would be able to count malaria parasites in digitized images of thick blood smears by playing a Web-based game.

Anopheles plumbeus (Diptera: Culicidae) in Europe: a mere nuisance mosquito or potential malaria vector?

by Francis Schaffner, Isabelle Thiéry, Christian Kaufmann et al.
Malaria Journal 2012, 11:393 (26 November 2012)

Anopheles plumbeus has been recognized as a minor vector for human malaria in Europe since the beginning of the 20th century. The authors investigated whether current populations of An. plumbeus would be able to efficiently transmit Plasmodium falciparum, the parasite responsible for the most deadly form of malaria. They found that a sample of field-caught An. plumbeus has a moderate to high receptivity towards P. falciparum. Considering the increased mobility of humans between Europe and malaria endemic countries and changes in environment and climate, these data strongly suggest that An. plumbeus could act as a vector for malaria and thus significantly contribute to increasing the malaria transmission risk in Central-Western Europe.
**Recommendations for Investigating Contacts of Persons with Infectious Tuberculosis in Low- and Middle-Income Countries**

by Philip Hopewell, Elizabeth Fair and Cecil Miller
World Health Organization, 2012

70 pp. 1.0 MB: [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/77741/1/9789241504492_eng.pdf](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/77741/1/9789241504492_eng.pdf)

Systematic evaluation of people who have been exposed to potentially infectious cases of tuberculosis (TB) can be an efficient, targeted approach to intensified TB case finding that is within the purview of TB control programmes. There are, however, no comprehensive global recommendations for programmes. The main purpose of these recommendations is to assist national and local public health TB control programmes in low- and middle-income countries to develop and implement case finding among people exposed to infectious cases of TB.

* * *

**‘Stop TB Partnership’ Operational Strategy 2013-2015**

Stop TB Partnership Secretariat, December 2012


The Operational Strategy outlines the Partnership Secretariat’s four strategic priorities over the next three years. Given the significant resource constraints facing the Secretariat, this strategy represents a significant prioritization and streamlining of the current activities and initiatives being undertaken today. These priorities have been developed based on the Secretariat’s comparative advantages and available financial resources.

* * *

**HIV and TB in Practice for nurses: Starting ART for treatment and prevention in people with active TB and HIV**

by Theo Smart
HIV & AIDS treatment in practice (HATIP) - Issue 199, 29 November 2012


This edition of HATIP is part of a series targeted to nurses and other healthcare workers involved in providing care to people living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa. It focuses on antiretroviral treatment for people with HIV who have just been diagnosed with HIV, and:

- The extreme importance of HIV testing for all people diagnosed with TB;
- The importance of treating HIV infection at the same time as TB;
- The urgency of starting HIV treatment as soon as possible after starting TB treatment for people with advanced HIV disease (CD4 counts below 50);
- How to manage any complications that arise after the TB patient starts antiretroviral treatment.

* * *
Other Infectious Diseases

Polio’s Last Stand


50 pp. 3.8 MB:  
http://www.polioeradication.org/Portals/0/Document/Aboutus/Governance/IMB/7IMBMeeting/7IMB_Report_EN.pdf

To all appearances the polio virus is making its last stand, in 0.2% of the world’s land surface. The uninformed observer might conclude that it had no chance of survival. But those who have targeted the polio viruses for three decades to make it extinct know what a formidable foe it is. It survives for reasons that are well known. The polio virus finds friends amongst missed children, badly managed campaigns, weak data, ill-informed parents, poor political and public health leadership and resistance in adopting best practice.

* * *

Infection Control for Viral Haemorrhagic Fevers in the African Health Care Setting

by Ethleen Lloyd, Helen Perry, Lilien Yang et al.  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO), December 1998

70 pp. 846 kB:  

In Africa, viral haemorrhagic fevers (VHF) include Lassa fever, Rift Valley fever, Marburg and Ebola haemorrhagic fevers, Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever and yellow fever. The VHF Isolation Precautions described in the manual make use of common low-cost supplies, such as household bleach, water, cotton cloth, and plastic sheeting. Although the information and recommendations are intended for health facilities in rural areas in the developing world, they are appropriate for any health facility with limited resources.

* * *

Research Priorities for Helminth Infections

The TDR Disease Reference Group on Helminth Infections  

196 pp. 3.2 MB:  
http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/75922/1/WHO_TRS_972_eng.pdf

This report presents an evaluation of current research and challenges in controlling the helminthiases of public health importance, including onchocerciasis, lymphatic filariasis, soil-transmitted helminthiases, schistosomiasis, food-borne trematodiases and taeniasis/cysticercosis. The evaluation covers five major themes - intervention, epidemiology and surveillance, environmental and social ecology, data and modelling, and fundamental biology.

* * *
Research Priorities for Chagas Disease, Human African Trypanosomiasis and Leishmaniasis


This report provides a review and analysis of the research landscape for three diseases - Chagas disease, human African trypanosomiasis and leishmaniasis - that disproportionately afflict poor and remote populations with limited access to health services. Priority areas for research are identified based on criteria such as public health relevance, benefit and impact on poor populations and equity, and feasibility.

* * *

Lessons from malaria control to help meet the rising challenge of dengue

by Katherine L Anders and Simon I Hay
The Lancet Infectious Diseases, Vol. 12, Issue 12, pp. 977-984, December 2012

8 pp. 1.5 MB: http://download.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/laninf/PIIS1473309912702463.pdf

Based on lessons learned from malaria control, the authors propose that development of better methods to quantify dengue endemicity and disease burden, permitting comparisons across countries and regions, is an essential step towards halting the current rise in disease range and intensity. We must be able to quantify these increases accurately so we can establish baselines against which future trends can be compared.

* * *

Essential Medicines

The Access to Medicine Index 2012

by Sara Brewer, Danny Edwards, Ashley Harris et al.
The Access to Medicine Foundation, November 2012


The Access to Medicine Index is an independent initiative that ranks the world’s 20 largest companies according to their efforts to improve access to medicine in developing countries, highlighting policy and practice that either facilitate or hinder access. It is published every two years by the Access to Medicine Foundation, which aims to encourage pharmaceutical companies to make their products more available, affordable and accessible for the millions of people worldwide who do not have reliable access to medicine.

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The list of Critically Important Antimicrobials can be used as a reference to help formulate and prioritize risk assessment and risk management strategies for containing antimicrobial resistance due to non-human antimicrobial use. It is of prime importance that the utility of such antibacterial agents should be preserved, as loss of efficacy in these drugs due to emergence of resistance would have an important impact on human health.

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WHO Drug Information Vol. 26, No. 3, September 2012

WHO Drug Information communicates pharmaceutical information that is either developed and issued by WHO or transmitted to WHO by research and regulatory agencies throughout the World. The journal also includes regular presentations of newly proposed and recommended International Nonproprietary Names (INN) for Pharmaceuticals Substances.

This volume contains the recommended INN List No.68:

* * *

The role of pre-shipment batch testing in ensuring good medicine quality

by Roger Bate and Kimberly Hess

Most donor agencies only procure drugs approved by a Stringent Regulatory Authority or the World Health Organization (WHO) Prequalification Programme in an effort to ensure high quality. This study compares the quality of artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs) produced by WHO-approved manufacturers with non-approved manufacturers and suggests policy changes to improve quality of donor-procured drugs. The results of this study suggest that ACTs produced by WHO-approved manufacturers perform nearly five times better than those of non-approved manufacturers, but some approved ACTs have too little active pharmaceutical ingredient.

Social Protection

Underwriting the Poor: A Global Fund for Social Protection

by Olivier de Schutter
United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food
Seventy-five to eighty per cent of the world’s poor do not have comprehensive social protection, yet the total costs of introducing social protection would amount to only 2-6 per cent of global GDP. To help ensure the provision of human rights based social protection systems in all countries, the Special Rapporteurs call for the creation of a Global Fund for Social Protection (GFSP) with two key functions: a) its facility branch would close the funding shortfall for putting in place a social protection floor in least developed countries (LDCs); b) its reinsurance branch would help underwrite these schemes against the risks of excess demand triggered by major shocks.

* * *

**Asian Development Bank: Social Protection Strategy**

by Joanne Asquith, Benjamin Graham, Agnes Anabo et al.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) - Special Evaluation Study, October 2012

116 pp. 1.5 MB:


The objective of this study is to assess ADB’s experience with social protection in Asia and the Pacific, more specifically how ADB responded to the Social Protection Strategy approved by the Board of Directors in 2001 and what more needs to be done to take this agenda forward. The study’s key findings and conclusions show that well-designed social protection interventions can reduce poverty and contribute to a wider range of development outcomes related to human capital and inclusive growth.

* * *

**The Impact of Taxes and Social Spending on Inequality and Poverty in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico, and Peru: A Synthesis of Results**

by Nora Lustig, George Gray-Molina, Sean Higgins et al.

Center for Global Development, Working Paper 311, November 2012

28 pp. 955 kB:


What prevents Argentina, Bolivia, and Brazil from achieving similar reductions in inequality as in Western Europe is not the lack of revenues but the fact that they spend less on cash transfers - especially transfers that are progressive in absolute terms - as a share of GDP. The impact of transfers on inequality and poverty reduction could be higher if spending on direct cash transfers that are progressive in absolute terms were increased, leakages to the non-poor reduced, and coverage of the extreme poor by direct transfer programs expanded.
An analysis of GAVI, the Global Fund and World Bank support for human resources for health in developing countries

by Marko Vujicic, Stephanie E Weber, Irina A Nikolic et al.

The analysis found that by far the most common activity supported across all agencies is short-term, in-service training. There is relatively little investment in expanding pre-service training capacity, despite large health worker shortages in developing countries. The authors also found that the majority of GAVI and the Global Fund grants finance health worker remuneration, largely through supplemental allowances, with little information available on how payment rates are determined, how the potential negative consequences are mitigated, and how payments are to be sustained at the end of the grant period.

Cameroon mid-level providers offer a promising public health dentistry model

by Leo Ndiangang Achembong, Agbor Michael Ashu, Amy Hagopian et al.
Human Resources for Health 2012, 10:46 (26 November 2012)

The authors reviewed Cameroon’s experience with deploying a mid-level cadre of oral health professionals and the feasibility of establishing a more formal and predictable role for these health workers. They found that mid-level providers in Baptist Convention Health Board (BCHB) clinics are offering a full scope of dental work across the 10 clinics, with the exception of treatment for major facial injuries. This study shows the benefits of using a simple, workable, low-cost way to provide needed dental services across Cameroon, particularly in rural areas.

International Profiles of Health Care Systems, 2012

by Sarah Thomson, Robin Osborn, David Squires, Miraya Jun
The Commonwealth Fund, November 2012

This publication presents overviews of the health care systems of Australia, Canada, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Japan, Iceland, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States. Each overview covers health insurance, public and private financing, health system organization, quality of care, health disparities, efficiency and integration, care coordination, use of health in-
formation technology, use of evidence-based practice, cost containment, and recent reforms and innovations. Summary tables provide data on a number of key health system characteristics and performance indicators.

* * *

**Health in South Africa: changes and challenges since 2009**

by Bongani M Mayosi, Joy E Lawn, Ashley van Niekerk et al. for The Lancet South Africa team
The Lancet - Published Online November 30, 2012


Since the 2009 Lancet Health in South Africa Series, important changes have occurred in the country, resulting in an increase in life expectancy to 60 years. Historical injustices together with the disastrous health policies of the previous administration are being transformed. Transformation of the health system into a national institution that is based on equity and merit and is built on an effective human-resources system could still place South Africa on track to achieve Millennium Development Goals 4, 5, and 6 and would enhance the lives of its citizens.

* * *

**Access to medicines from a health system perspective**

by Maryam Bigdeli, Bart Jacobs, Goran Tomson et al.
Health Policy Plan. (2012) - First published online: November 22, 2012


Barriers to access to medicines (ATM) are complex and occur at multiple levels of the health system. Existing frameworks for ATM do not address complexity of barriers and their interconnectedness. A wider health system perspective may offer an opportunity to embed ATM in the emerging debate around complex adaptive systems and their application to health.

* * *

**Medicine sellers’ perspectives on their role in providing health care in North-West Cameroon: a qualitative study**

by R Hughes, CR Chandler, LJ Mangham-Jefferies et al.


Increasing recognition of the importance of medicine sellers in low-resource settings has emerged alongside assumptions that their motives and capacities primarily relate to profit maximization. This article suggests a need to reframe thinking about the role of medicine sellers in developing country health systems.

* * *
In Urban and Rural India, a Standardized Patient Study Showed Low Levels of Provider Training and Huge Quality Gaps

by Jishnu Das, Alaka Holla, Veena Das et al.
Health Affairs, 31, No.12 (2012):2774-2784

11 pp. 427 kB:
http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/31/12/2774.full.pdf+html

This article reports on the quality of care delivered by private and public providers of primary health care services in rural and urban India. Correct diagnoses were rare, incorrect treatments were widely prescribed, and adherence to clinical checklists was higher in private than in public clinics. The results suggest an urgent need to measure the quality of health care services systematically and to improve the quality of medical education and continuing education programs, among other policy changes.

Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI10)

Read online at:
http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/openaccess/boai-10-recommendations

Ten years ago the Budapest Open Access Initiative launched a worldwide campaign for open access (OA) to all new peer-reviewed research. It did not invent the idea of OA. On the contrary, it deliberately drew together existing projects to explore how they might “work together to achieve broader, deeper, and faster success.” Today we are no longer at the beginning of this worldwide campaign, and not yet at the end. We are solidly in the middle, and draw upon a decade of experience in order to make new recommendations for the next ten years.

Computerizing Logistics Management Information Systems: A Program Manager’s Guide

by Emily Bancroft, Jessica Crawford, Marasi Mwencha et al.
USAID - Deliver Project, Task Order 4, November 2012

72 pp. 788 kB:
http://deliver.jsi.com/dlvr_content/resources/allpubs/guidelines/CompLMIS_PMG.pdf

As in-country public health logistics systems become more integrated and sophisticated, many countries are looking to automate their logistics management information systems (LMIS) in order to improve the quantity, quality, and timeliness of logistics data throughout the country. These guidelines were written for managers in the Ministry of Health, program managers, donors, and management information system (MIS) program officers as a reference when considering starting an LMIS automation project, planning for one, and executing that plan.

* * *

HESP-News & Notes - 26/2012 - page 22
**Anatomy of a Publication**

Inís Communication, 2012

1 pp. 417 kB:

The Inís team has developed a simple infographic entitled “Anatomy of a Publication” that lays out all the main features of a typical document or report. Using the interactive PDF version on your computer, you can also review brief summaries and reminders for each element. Handy checklist buttons help you keep track of your own preparations for a given project.

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**Education**

**The 2012 EFA Global Monitoring Report - Youth and skills: Putting education to work**

by Pauline Rose, Kwame Akyeampong, Manos Antoninis et al.
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), 2012

480 pp. 9.0 MB:

The Report is divided into two parts. Part I provides a snapshot of progress towards the six EFA goals, and towards spending on education to finance the goals. Part II turns to the third EFA goal, paying particular attention to the skills needs of young people. This Global Monitoring Report reminds us that education is not only about making sure all children can attend school. It is about setting young people up for life, by giving them opportunities to find decent work, earn a living, contribute to their communities and societies, and fulfill their potential.

* * *

**Education to Employment: Designing a System that Works**

by Mona Mourshed, Diana Farrell, Dominic Barton
McKinsey Center for Government

104 pp. 8.2 MB:

Around the world, governments and businesses face a conundrum: high levels of youth unemployment and a shortage of job seekers with critical skills. How can a country successfully move its young people from education to employment? What are the challenges? Which interventions work? How can these be scaled up? These are the crucial questions this report attempts to answer.

* * *
Because I am a Girl: Learning for life

The sixth report in Plan’s annual State of the World’s Girls series, ‘Learning for life’, takes a critical look at the state of girls’ education. The report argues that behind the success of global parity in primary education enrolment figures lies a crisis in the quality of learning. Enrolment figures measure attendance on one day of the school year, and they are currently the only measure of success. They tell us nothing about real access to education or the quality of what is being taught, or learnt.

* * *

The Indonesia Early Childhood Education and Development (ECED) Project: findings and policy recommendations

The Government of Indonesia is pursuing a number of initiatives related to Early Childhood Education and Development (ECED). These include increasing access to early childhood education centers and developing and formalizing Holistic Integrated ECED. This policy brief provides an overview of the ECED sector and uses findings from an ongoing World Bank-supported ECED project to make preliminary policy recommendations to guide these initiatives.

Harm Reduction & Drug Use

Plain cigarette packaging begins in Australia

Dec 1, 2012, is a landmark day for the Australian Government. It marks the first day that all cigarettes in Australia must be sold in plain packaging - a substantial blow to tobacco companies and a shining example of a health policy that could spread to countries around the world.

* * *
The study found that although HIV prevalence was significantly higher among people who inject drugs than in the general adult population, the availability of antiretroviral treatment and other key prevention interventions was generally inadequate. The researchers predict that continuing to specifically target these groups with needle and syringe programs, medically assisted therapy and HIV counselling and testing, as well as increased access to antiretroviral treatment, could avert thousands of infections from 2012-2015.

Millennium Development Goals

HIV post-2015: How the HIV community can shape the future HIV and health development agenda

by Marielle Hart and Felicia Wong
Stop AIDS Alliance (SAA), October 2012

8 pp. 814 kB: http://www.aidsalliance.org/includes/Publication/Discussion_paper_HIVPostMDG.pdf

As the 2015 target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approaches the United Nations, governments, civil society and other global and national stakeholders are involved in a series of processes that will determine the new development goals. This paper aims to support discussion and engagement with the post-2015 development agenda among the HIV community. It explores the barriers and opportunities for including HIV in the process and suggests how HIV and related global health needs should be addressed in the new development framework.

Development Assistance

Technology and Innovation Report 2012: Innovation, Technology and South-South Collaboration

by Padmashree Gehl Sampat, Abiy Solomon, Bertha Vallejo et al.
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), 2012


UNCTAD’s Technology and Innovation Report 2012 focuses on how South-South collaboration can help address key capacity questions faced by developing countries. The information and analysis contained in this report mark a welcome contribution to the efforts now getting under way to establish a set of Sustainable Development Goals and to outline a post-2015 development agenda.
**Least Developed Countries Report 2012**
Harnessing Remittances and Diaspora Knowledge to Build Productive Capacities

by Željka Kožul-Wright, Maria Bovey, Agnès Collardeau-Angleys et al.
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), November 2012


The Least Developed Countries Report 2012 focuses on how the world’s poorest countries can benefit further from the billions of dollars their ex-patriots send home from jobs overseas – and on how to counteract “brain drain.” The Report argues that more systematic policy action is needed in order to enhance the contributions of diasporas to development.

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**Making Sense of EU Development Cooperation Effectiveness**

by Bodo Ellmers, Wiske Jult, Zuzana Sládková et al.
CONCORD AidWatch Special Report on the post-Busan Development Effectiveness Agenda, November 2012

48 pp. 580 kB: [http://www.concordeurope.org/component/k2/item/download/137_03b4326a6187a7e7bb2bec27856404ac](http://www.concordeurope.org/component/k2/item/download/137_03b4326a6187a7e7bb2bec27856404ac)

Since 2005, development NGOs from all 27 EU countries have come together every year through the AidWatch initiative, under the umbrella of CONCORD, to produce the annual AidWatch reports. CONCORD is the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development. The report identifies three key flaws of EU development cooperation: the EU aid architecture remains fragmented and poorly coordinated, the share of aid that is an actual and sustainable North-South financial transfer is limited due to formal and informal aid tying, too little aid focuses on poverty eradication because aid allocation remains distorted by non-developmental objectives.

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**Europe Beyond Aid: Assessing Europe’s Commitment to Development**

by Owen Barder, Julia Clark, Alice Lépissier et al.


The authors argue that while Europeans may be justly proud of their generous and effective aid programmes they should not be complacent about the overall effect of their policies on development given that overall Europe can be described as “energetically tackling the symptoms of poor economic opportunities for developing countries by providing effective aid, while doing relatively little to tackle the underlying structural causes of poverty”.

***
Budget support: Conditional Results - Review of an instrument (2000-2011)

by Geske Dijkstra, Antonie de Kemp, Denise Bergkamp et al.
Policy and Operations Evaluation Department (IOB), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands, 2012

246 pp. 2.4 MB:

In the late 1990s, donors increasingly started to support the budgets of governments in developing countries directly. The main thought behind this was that this general budget support would contribute to more harmonised aid and to more alignment with the priorities of partner countries and therefore also promote ownership. The aim of the policy review is to assess the functioning of the budget support instrument in practice and the results that donors have achieved worldwide, and to evaluate how the Netherlands has used this instrument in the past decade.

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Situation of Aid Transparency in Nepal
A Pilot Study

by Taranath Dahal, Basanta Lamsal, Sugam Bajracharya et al.
Freedom Forum Kathmandu, Nepal, November 2012

106 pp. 13.5 MB(!):

This newly published report has busted the myth that leading aid agencies working in the country are transparent about their activities and financial resource allocations. The report, based on a survey of seven donor agencies - the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Department for International Development, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Norwegian Embassy, USAID and the UNDP - found that none of the agencies provided complete budgetary information; many kept beneficiaries in the dark about budget and were reluctant to provide information on their activities.

Others

More than just good business: Employee Wellbeing Programmes in Ghana

by Andrew Wilson
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), in cooperation with Employee Wellbeing Programme, Ghana, October 2012

36 pp. 1.4 MB:

The Employee Wellbeing Programme (EWP) initiative in Ghana is an innovative example of applying holistic approaches to workplace health in developing countries. It challenges employers and governments to foster healthy lifestyle changes among employees, their families and the nearby community, in addition to
more traditional occupational health and safety concerns.

An accompanying video (6:26 Min.) can be viewed at: http://german-practice-collection.org/en/health/more-than-just-good-business

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**Corruption Perceptions Index 2012**

Transparency International, December 2012

8 pp. 3.9 MB: http://files.transparency.org/content/download/537/2229/file/2012_CPI_brochure_EN.pdf

The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) ranks countries and territories based on how corrupt their public sector is perceived to be. It is a composite index – a combination of polls – drawing on corruption-related data collected by a variety of reputable institutions. The CPI reflects the views of observers from around the world, including experts living and working in the countries and territories evaluated.

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**The war @ home**

Findings of the Gender Based Violence Prevalence Study in Gauteng, Western Cape, KwaZulu Natal and Limpopo Provinces of South Africa

Gender Links (GL), November 2012


This document explains a study of gender based violence prevalence in four provinces in South Africa. The study shows that despite the country’s progressive Constitution on gender equality, patriarchal societal norms, and the conspiracy of silence that discourages women from speaking out fuels gender based violence.

* * *

**Landmine Monitor 2012**

by Stephen Goose, Kate Castenson, Katherine Harrison et al.

Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor, November 2012


Landmine Monitor 2012 provides a global overview of efforts in 2011 and the first part of 2012 to universalize and fully implement the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty, and more generally assess the international community’s response to the global landmine and explosive remnants of war problem. It covers developments in the areas of antipersonnel landmine use, production, stockpiling, mine action, casualties, victim assistance, and mine action-funding.

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Appropedia

http://www.appropedia.org/Welcome_to_Appropedia

Appropedia is the site for collaborative solutions in sustainability, poverty reduction and international development through the use of sound principles and appropriate technology and the sharing of wisdom and project information. It is a wiki, a type of website which allows anyone to add, remove, or edit content. Registration is encouraged but not required for contributors. Appropedia has been described as an "appropriate technology wiki," but it is intended to be broader than that - it is a green living wiki and a wiki for all matters of international development and aid.

What has the World Bank done for your neighborhood lately?


The new World Bank Finances app tells the story of the Bank’s work in countries around the world - where does the money come from, who does it go to, and how the money is used and by whom. Click the above URL to download the new version for Android; an updated iOS version will be out soon.

The UK Database of Uncertainties about the Effects of Treatments (UK DUETs)

http://www.library.nhs.uk/duets/

Patients and the public have a right to expect that research funders, researchers and health professionals are aware of uncertainties about the effects of treatments. Knowing about uncertainties tells us where further research is needed. Ignoring treatment uncertainties puts patients at risk. The UK Database of Uncertainties about the Effects of Treatments (UK DUETs) publishes treatment uncertainties from patients, carers, clinicians, and from research recommendations, covering a wide variety of health problems.

South African Medical Journal (Vol. 102 No. 12, 2012)


The December issue of the SAMJ has been published online (open access) at the above URL. You are invited to review the Table of Contents and to read / download items of interest.

Highlights in this issue:
- Roadblocks ahead on gilt-edged RWOPS highway?
- 'Cognitive enhancement' – the debate begins
- 'Reflex' screening for Cryptococcal disease to be phased in
- Women and girls welcome NHI
Hyponatraemia and cerebral oedema in female athletes
High prevalence of antenatal depression in HIV+ women


http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/90/12/en/index.html

Highlights from the December 2012 issue:

- Mapping “hot spots” to prevent debilitating lead poisoning in children
- Millions of people with epilepsy not getting the medicines they need
- Interview with Mike Daube, veteran tobacco campaigner
- Challenges of HPV vaccine roll-out in developing countries
- Identifying malnourished children in the Gambia
- Low-cost tools needed for HIV testing and monitoring
- Improving prescription patterns and demand for antibiotics in Thailand

The Journal of Infection in Developing Countries – Vol. 6, No. 11: November 2012

http://www.jidc.org/index.php/journal

The Journal of Infection in Developing Countries has just published its latest issue at the above URL. You are invited to read the Table of Contents and to read/download articles and items of interest for free.

World Federation of Public Health Associations Newsletter 11, 2012

The November 2012 newsletter of the World Federation of Public Health Associations is now available online at:

The newsletter includes the following topics:

- 1st Arab World Public Health Conference
- News from our Members e.g. Cuban Society of Public Health
- WFPHA Member’s communication e.g. Oral Health Working Group
- Members’ Newsletter
- WFPHA Working Groups e.g. Tobacco Control Working Group
- What’s on e.g. Population Health Congress Communiqué
- Conference & Committee Reports e.g. FDI World Dental Congress
- Upcoming Events e.g. 4th Global Health Summit Ghana
- Publications e.g. Universal Health Coverage

eGranary Digital Library

http://www.widernet.org/egranary/
The eGranary Digital Library - also known as “The Internet in a Box” - provides millions of digital educational resources to institutions lacking adequate Internet access. Through a process of garnering permissions, copying Web sites, and delivering them to intranet Web servers INSIDE their partner institutions in developing countries and other places around the globe, they deliver millions of multimedia documents that can be instantly accessed by patrons over their local area networks at no cost.

**INTERESTING WEB SITES**

*Cochrane Developing Countries Field*

http://dcf.cochrane.org/

The goal of Cochrane Developing Countries Field (CDCF) is to increase the production, access, and use of systematic reviews by those in Developing Countries, in an effort to ensure that equitable, relevant knowledge is produced by disadvantaged populations, and available to them.

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*UNDP portal sets standard for projects transparency*

http://open.undp.org

The United Nations Development Program has made details on thousands of its projects - and their outcomes - available to the public, through its new portal. They launched the Web portal with the details of more than 6,000 on-going projects in 177 countries and territories as part of its commitment by next year to transparency "above and beyond international standards". UNICEF plans to make all audit reports available online by year's end.

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*Open Access Scholarly Information Sourcebook (OASIS)*

http://openoasis.org/

OASIS aims to provide an authoritative 'sourcebook' on Open Access, covering the concept, principles, advantages, approaches and means to achieving it. The site highlights developments and initiatives from around the world, with links to diverse additional resources and case studies.

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*Take That TB*

http://www.takethattb.com/

Tuberculosis (TB) can be a very isolating disease. Both because of the need for isolation of patients until their active disease is brought under control, and from the social stigma associated with it.
This new patient-centered website supports persons affected by TB, to provide a vehicle to advocate for resources, and patient needs. The website provides a platform where patients on treatment and former patients interact to break the circle of silence, shame and isolation. Patients and their families can use the website to exchange of information and share their own, unique experiences and strategies for dealing with TB.

**TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

**E-learning course in English: Basics of Health Economics**

Duration and Course Load: 5 Weeks - 8 to 10 hours per week  
Dates: January 16 - February 19, 2013  
Participants: (Health) Professionals  
Course Fee: US$ 400  
Organizers: The World Bank Institute  
Language: English only  
General course contact:  
Jo Hindriks at mailto:jhindriks@worldbank.org

Health economics should play an important role in critical policy and operational decisions and can contribute to better decision-making. Unfortunately, a clear gap exists for training and empowering policy and operational decision makers on how health economics can contribute to strengthening the effectiveness of health systems by efficiently and equitably addressing the needs of the population.

Application deadline: January 9, 2013:  

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**Postgraduate Tropical Medicine**

Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium

The course - either in English or French - will start on 19/03/2013 and last till the end of June 2013.

The postgraduate training in tropical medicine is a three and a half months course that prepares nurses and midwives for a challenging professional experience in a low-resource setting. For those wishing to pursue a career in international health this course is a first step on a life-long learning path.

For more information see:  

**CONFERENCES**

**Conference webcasts: The International Union against TB and Lung Disease**

http://uwclh.conference2web.com/content/all#/?events=all

The International Union against TB and Lung Disease have made the presentations of their annual conferences available on the internet. This site includes
the webcasts from the 41st Union World Conference on Lung Health in Berlin, Germany (2010), the 42nd Union World Conference on Lung Health in Lille, France (2011) and the 43rd Union World Conference on Lung Health in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2012).

CARTOON

TIPS & TRICKS

What are drivers?

Drivers are basically instructions that tell your computer how to use its hardware. Each hardware device in your computer has a driver.

Some, like drivers for a keyboard or mouse, are built into the computer itself. Others, like video card drivers or network drivers, need to be installed when you get a new hardware device. Without the proper driver, your stuff won’t work, that is, unless you have a newer operating system like Windows Vista or Windows 7 / 8 that can search for certain kinds of drivers.

If you are having trouble with a particular hardware device, chances are that an updated driver may solve your problem. These can be found at the website for the company that made your equipment. Two good sources to help you locate updated drivers are Windrivers: http://www.windrivers.com/ and DriverGuide: http://www.driverguide.com/.

* * *

Undo Tricks

If you use computers a lot, you probably find yourself out in the real world wishing you had an Undo command. Well, the “universal” undo shortcut is: Ctrl+Z.

Ctrl+Z is normally used in word processing documents, but it also works just about anywhere in MS Windows. Let’s say you accidentally drag an icon to your desktop and real-
ly wish you had it to do over. Hit Ctrl+Z and the icon vacates your desktop and jumps back to wherever it was before.

It works with Windows Explorer too. Let's say you accidentally delete a file. Instead of going to the recycle bin to recover it, hit Ctrl+Z. Note that this only works if you are sending the file to the recycle bin. If you hold down the Shift key while you delete thus by-passing the recycle bin, the file is gone for good. All the Ctrl+Z ing in the world won't help.

In most programmes, Ctrl+Z will undo whatever it was that you just did. Bad thing is that many programmes only give you one or two of these "undos." Then you are stuck.

One clever way to make sure you can always go back is to save your file frequently (a simple Ctrl+S will do it) - especially if you are about to make some big changes. Then if you really mess up good, just close the file and DON'T SAVE IT. When you open it back up, you will be back to the way it was when you last saved. This is really handy if you are playing around with image manipulation and are "testing" different effects.

If you want to take this to the next level, you may want to save your file under a different name each time. After all, when it comes to computers, you just can’t be too paranoid.

Best regards,

Dieter Neuviens MD

To subscribe for free to the newsletter send an e-mail to: Majordomo@mailserv.gtz.de leave the 'Subject' line empty with the following commands in the body of the message:
subscribe hpn-news-notes end

(If you have problems subscribing, send me a note (dneuvians@gmx.de) that you would like to receive the newsletter).

We encourage you to share the newsletter with your friends & colleagues.