



CAPRISA

CENTRE FOR THE AIDS PROGRAMME OF RESEARCH IN SOUTH AFRICA

Newsletter

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Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Institute for Human Virology

In this Issue

In our feature story this month CAPRISA congratulates the Abdool Karims on receiving the IHV Lifetime Achievement award in recognition of their contributions to the global AIDS response.

On page 2 we report on the workshops by Prof Thomas Fleming on statistical methods in clinical trials held in Durban and Johannesburg.

The CAPRISA-affiliated recipients of the SAMRC Merit awards, Profs Zena Stein, Carolyn Williamson, Frank Tanser, Gita Ramjee and Marian Loveday are congratulated on page 3. We also congratulate newly elected ASSAf members, Profs Ayesha Kharsany and Penny Moore on their ASSAf membership

On page 4 we report on CAPRISA's visit to engage with collaborators in France and the NIH-funded Grant Administration workshop hosted by CAPRISA in partnership with CIDRZ.

CONTACT DETAILS


CAPRISA
Doris Duke Medical
Research Institute (DDMRI)
2nd Floor
University of KwaZulu-Natal
Private Bag X7, Congella 4013
South Africa


T: +27-31-260 4555

F: +27-31-260 4566

E-mail: caprisa@caprisa.org

www.caprisa.org.za

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Professors Salim and Quarraisha Abdool Karim, CAPRISA's Director and Associate Scientific Director who are both Professors in Epidemiology at Columbia University and are honorary academics at the UKZN, received Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Institute for Human Virology (IHV) on 25th October, in Baltimore, USA.

The awards recognise their significant contributions to the global AIDS response over the past three decades. The awards were presented by Dr Robert Gallo, Director of IHV of the University of Maryland School of Medicine at the IHV's 19th International meeting attended by leading scientists, researchers and government representatives across the globe.

"To me, both renowned individuals have made some of the greatest contributions in the history of HIV/AIDS in public health and epidemiology relevant to prevention and care of infected people," said Dr Robert Gallo Director of the IHV.

"The University of KwaZulu-Natal is proud to congratulate its honorary academics, Professors Salim and Quarraisha Abdool Karim", said UKZN Vice-Chancellor Dr Albert van Jaarsveld. "UKZN is honoured to be associated with these eminent researchers who have contributed immensely to the world's understanding of the pathogenesis, epidemiology, and prevention of HIV," he said.

The awards evening comprised three functions; a symposium followed by a cocktail reception and culminated in a Gala Dinner. The symposium was chaired by



Photo: L-R: At the Awards Gala event held in Baltimore on 25th October, Prof Salim Abdool Karim, Prof Quarraisha Abdool Karim and Dr Robert Gallo, Director of IHV at the University of Maryland, USA.



L-R: John Martin (Gilead Sciences), Robert Gallo (IHV), Thomas Quinn (Johns Hopkins), Anthony Fauci (NIAID, NIH), Salim Abdool Karim (CAPRISA), Quarraisha Abdool Karim (CAPRISA), Isaac Adewole (Minister of Health – Nigeria), Robert Redfield (IHV)

Dr Redfield and Dr Adewole and had three presentations. The first speaker was Dr Quinn, who did a presentation in honour of Quarraisha. He was followed by Dr Martin, who did a presentation in honour of Salim and Dr Fauci did the final presentation in honour of both Abdool Karims. The awards were formally made at the Gala Dinner by Dr Gallo.



Leading expert delivers workshops on clinical trials in South Africa



The Clinical Trials workshop held in Durban at the CAPRISA headquarters was attended by some 100 research clinicians and scientists. Prof Fleming (seated, 6th from the right)

Professor Thomas Fleming, PhD, Professor of Statistics and Biostatistics, School of Public Health, University of Washington, was an invited presenter of two workshops on Clinical Trials, held in Durban at the CAPRISA headquarters and at the Wits School of Public Health in Johannesburg. The workshops held on the 16th and 17th October, were jointly hosted by CAPRISA, the South African Medical Research Council, the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) RHI and Wits Faculty of Health Sciences.

Attended by 200 scientists and researchers in South Africa, the workshops covered four key topics: Hype – Substance, Biomarkers and Surrogate Endpoints, Addressing Missing Data and Essential Consideration in Non-inferiority trials, aimed to strengthen the knowledge and understanding of clinical trials concepts and processes. In addition, he presented a half day workshop on data safety and monitoring committees, analysis and adaptive clinical trial design at the HPTN Africa Regional meeting in Johannesburg.

“Workshop participants at each of these workshops were truly inspired and felt deeply honoured to have had the opportunity to learn from such a world renowned expert in the conduct of clinical trials in such an accessible way. “Many of us did not think that statistics was so much fun” said Quarraisha Abdool Karim.

Professor Fleming is the former Director of the Statistical Center for HIV/AIDS Prevention Trial Network, NIAID. He has authored and co-authored

several books and more than 250 research articles in peer-reviewed journals, many regarding the development of state of the art methods for the design, conduct and analysis of clinical trials, and many others reporting the results of landmark trials, including the HIVNET 012 trial that was a game-changer in reducing mother-to-child transmission of HIV and the HPTN 052 study on the use of ART to prevent transmission of HIV in discordant couples. This research, on which he was senior author, was recognised in 2011 by *Science Magazine* to be the scientific “Breakthrough of the Year.”



On Tuesday 3rd October, Salim Abdool Karim met with the DG of WHO, Tedros, to brief him on HIV and Hepatitis, as Chair of the WHO Strategic and Technical Advisory Committee for HIV and Hepatitis. Also present at the briefing were Bernhard Swartlander (Chief of Staff in the DG’s office), Gottfried Hirschall (Director of the WHO HIV and Hepatitis Department) and Ren Minghui (Assistant Director-General for Communicable Diseases at WHO)



SAMRC Merit awards for CAPRISA associates

CAPRISA congratulates five outstanding research associates who received the 2017 SAMRC Scientific Merit awards for their significant contributions to health and medical research. In particular we pay tribute to Professor Zena Stein for her tireless and unprecedented contributions to public health in South Africa and indeed globally.

Professor Stein received a Platinum Medal, the SAMRC Lifetime Achievement award. Zena Stein is an epidemiologist, activist and doctor. She is currently Emeritus Professor of Epidemiology and Psychiatry at Columbia University and has worked tirelessly in the field of maternal health and in pre-natal and perinatal HIV infection and HIV infection in women. Dr Stein is widely recognized as a pioneer in the movement to provide women with

methods of contraception. She carried out several WHO consultancies and served on the editorial boards of professional journals in the fields of epidemiology, public health, genetic epidemiology and teratology. She has published 270 papers and five books and has received numerous awards for her significant contributions.

We applaud, Research associates, Professors Carolyn Williamson (SAMRC Gold Medal), Frank Tanser (SAMRC Gold Medal), Gita Ramjee (Gold Medal) and Marian Loveday (SAMRC Silver Medal) on their outstanding awards. We also congratulate Professors Thumbi Ndung'u of HPP/AHRI on his medal and Valerie Mizrahi, a past CAPRISA Scientific Advisory Board Member, on her Platinum Medal.



Professor Zena Stein



Professor Carolyn Williamson



Dr Frank Tanser



Dr Marian Loveday

CAPRISA colleagues elected as new ASSAf members

Two CAPRISA colleagues were recently elected as new members of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) at a special awards ceremony held on 11 October. CAPRISA Senior scientist, **Professor Ayesha Kharsany**, and CAPRISA Research Associate, **Professor Penny Moore**, were among the new members elected to ASSAf in the category Health and Medical Sciences.

New Members are elected each year by the full existing Membership. Membership of the Academy is a great honour and is in recognition of scholarly achievement.

Professor Kharsany is a senior scientist and epidemiologist. She is the Principal investigator on two major studies - the HIV Incidence Provincial Surveillance System (HIPSS) study and the HIV Trans-

mission Networks study, which looks at why young women are at high risk for HIV, transmission dynamics and to identify the source of their HIV infection. Her research focus includes sexually transmitted and lower genital tract infections as well as bacterial vaginosis, and the role of these infections play in facilitating and enhancing HIV transmission.

Professor Moore, an NRF B-rated scientist, is a Reader and DST/NRF South African Research Chair of Virus-Host Dynamics at the University of the Witwatersrand and the National Institute for Communicable Diseases, and Research Associate at CAPRISA. Her research focuses on HIV broadly neutralizing antibodies, and their interplay with the evolving virus.



Collaborating with colleagues in France

Prof Salim and Quarraisha Abdool Karim, Dr Tanuja Gengiah Head of Pharmacy and Ms Natasha Samsunder Head of Laboratory were hosted by Prof Bruno Pozzetto at the University of Jean Monnet, St. Etienne, in France in October. The University of Jean Monnet is a collaborative European partner of the CAPRISA 018 trial.



L-R: Dr Marie-Claude Gagnieu , Dr Tanuja Gengiah and Mrs Natasha Samsunder in the laboratory in Lyon, France

Prof Salim Abdool Karim was invited to deliver a talk titled "The Global HIV Epidemic. Successes, challenges and prospects" at the University-Hospital of St. Etienne, Faculty of Medicine after a tour of Groupe d'Immunité des Muqueuses et Agents Pathogènes (GIMAP) laboratories. The team joined Dr Marie-Claude Gagnieu at the

Pharmacology and Toxicology laboratory at Hospices Civils de Lyon in Pierre-Benite for an introductory meeting. Over the next two days, Dr Gengiah and Ms Samsunder held technical discussions with Dr Marie-Claude Gagnieu on antiretroviral drug assays.

NIH funded Grant Administration workshop



Participants at the Grant Administration workshop. This NIH-funded workshop was hosted by CAPRISA in partnership with the Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ). Research administration staff from CIDRZ, UKZN and Walter Sisulu University participated in the two day workshop held at the CAPRISA headquarters on 16 and 17 October. Selected candidates from CIDRZ also participated in an internship programme at CAPRISA and will receive ongoing mentorship in grants administration.



Scientific papers published in 2017

65* **Naidoo K, Hassan-Moosa R, Yende-Zuma N, Govender N, Padayatchi N, Dawood H, Adams RN, Govender A, Chinappa T, Abdool Karim SS, Abdool Karim Q.** High mortality rates in men initiated on anti-retroviral treatment in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. *PLoS One* 2017; 12(9):e0184124. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0184124.

66 Reddy S, Ntoyanto S, Sakadavan Y, Reddy T, Mahomed S, Dlamini M, Spooner B, Ramjee G, Coutsooudis A, Ngomane N, **Naidoo K**, Mlisana K, Kiepiela P. Detecting Mycobacterium tuberculosis using the loop-mediated isothermal amplification test in South Africa. *International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease* 2017; 21(10):1154-1160.

67 Tlou B, Sartorius B, **Tanser F.** Space-time variations in child mortality in a rural South African population with high HIV prevalence (2000-2014). *PLoS One* 2017; 12(8):e0182478.

68 Anthony C, York T, Bekker V, Matten D, Selhorst P, Ferreria RC, **Garrett NJ, Abdool Karim SS, Morris L, Wood NT, Moore PL, Williamson C.** Cooperation between strain-specific and broadly neutralizing responses limited viral escape and prolonged exposure of the broadly neutralizing epitope. *Journal of Virology* 2017; 91(18): e00828-17. doi: 10.1128/JVI.00828-17.

69 **Naidoo A, Naidoo K, Ramsuran V, Reddy M, Padayatchi N.** Hyperbilirubinemia in atazanavir-treated human immunodeficiency virus-infected patients: the impact of the UGT1A1*28 allele. *Pharmacogenomics and Personalized Medicine* 2017; 10: 233-234.

70 **Mahomed S, Naidoo K, Dookie N, Padayatchi N.** Whole Genome Sequencing for the management of drug-resistant TB in low income high TB burden settings: Challenges and implications. *Tuberculosis* 2017; 107: 137-143.

71 **Dorward J, Garrett N, Quame-Amaglo J, Samsunder N, Ngobese H, Ngomane N, Moodley P, Mlisana K, Schaafsma T, Donnell D, Barnabas R, Naidoo K, Abdool Karim SS, Celum C, Drain PK.** Protocol for a randomised controlled implementation trial of point-of-care viral load testing and task shifting: the Simplifying HIV TREATment and Monitoring (STREAM) study. *BMJ Open* 2017; 7(9): e017507. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2017-017507.

72 **Hassan-Moosa R, Chinappa T, Jeena L, Visser L, Naidoo K.** Cytomegalovirus retinitis and HIV: Case reviews from KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa. *South African Medical Journal* 2017; 107(10):843-846.

73 **Naidoo A, Naidoo K, McIlleron H, Essack S, Padayatchi N.** A review of moxifloxacin for the treatment of drug-susceptible tuberculosis. *Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* 2017; 57(11):1369-1386.

74 Bisson GP, Ramchandani R, Miyahara S, Mngqibisa R, Matoga M, Ngongondo M, Samaneka W, Koech L, **Naidoo K, Rassool M, Kirui F, Banda P, Mave V, Kadam D, Leger P, Henostroza G, Manabe YC, Bao J, Kumwenda J, Gupta A, Hosseinipour MC; Adult AIDS Clinical Trials Group A5274 (REMEMBER) Study Team.** Risk factors for early mortality on antiretroviral therapy in advanced HIV-infected adults. *AIDS* 2017; 31(16):2217-2225.

75 Scheepers C, Chowdhury S, Wright WS, Campbell CT, **Garrett NJ, Abdool Karim Q, Abdool Karim SS, Moore PL, Gildersleeve JC, Morris L.** Serum glycan-binding IgG antibodies in HIV-1 infection and during the development of broadly neutralizing responses. *AIDS* 2017; 31(16):2199-2209.

*continuation from previous newsletter

Scientific Reviews

Abstracts submitted for review		Manuscripts submitted for review		Ancillary studies submitted for review	
Total#	Cumulative^	Total#	Cumulative^	Total#	Cumulative^
0	390	2	226	1	83

for month, ^ since committee initiation

