



**SA HIV CLINICIANS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
August 2012**

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Upcoming CME Meetings:

**RUSTENBURG  
29 August**

**Striving for Clinical Excellence – Early Registration Extended!**

The early registration deadline for the Society's conference has been extended to 7 September. [Register online](#) today to benefit from the reduced registration fee of R2500, and reserve your space at the most important HIV clinical meeting of the year!

The programme will feature the most up-to-date HIV research and clinical best practice from South Africa's leading experts, including:

- A history of Southern African HIV prevention research and the way forward, Prof Salim Abdol Karim
- Contraception and HIV, Prof Helen Rees
- Management of paediatric ART, Dr Leon Levin
- TB prevention, what are the studies telling us? Prof Robin Wood

[Click here](#) to view the full programme online, and [register today!](#)

**International AIDS Conference, 2012**

Did you miss the 2012 International AIDS Conference? Visit the following websites offering summaries and expert commentaries:

[Aidsmap.com](#): Full conference coverage including summaries from sessions

[Clinical Care Options](#) (free one time registration required): Features selected abstract summaries by Prof Ian Sanne and Prof Joel Gallant, downloadable audio by Prof Jean Nachege on papers of importance to Africa and a review of important TB studies by Prof Richard Chaisson (audio)

[HIV i-base](#): The HIV Treatment Bulletin includes short reports from the [AIDS conference](#) and the pre-conference [paediatric workshop](#).

Note that the September issue of the Journal will include a copy of HTB South featuring a full conference report.

[The Body Pro](#): Includes a synopsis of the latest data on antiretroviral

**Presex Gel off the Market**

The Society is pleased to report that "Dr Hugh Dermo Blue Presex Protection Gel", a purported microbicide advertised as an alternative to condoms to prevent pregnancy and infections, has been withdrawn from the market.

Earlier this year the Society sent a [letter](#) to the Health Professions Council of South Africa, the Medicines Control Council and the Advertising Standards Authority of South Africa asking for the withdrawal of this product from the market, the termination of any advertising campaigns relating to this product and an investigation into Dr Brathwaite's conduct, with appropriate sanctions taken.

Thanks to the Department of Health for following up and ensuring that this product is no longer advertised or available to the public.

**Updated Adult Antiretroviral Treatment Guidelines**

The Society will publish its long-awaited update to the [2008 Antiretroviral Treatment Guidelines for Adults](#) in the September issue of the Southern African Journal of HIV Medicine.

For a review of one of the key points of discussion – When to Start? - revisit [Prof Venter and Dr Conradie's 2011 debate](#) on our You Tube channel.

Also see the International Antiretroviral Society's recent guideline on [Antiretroviral Treatment of Adult HIV Infection](#) which recommends offering ART to all patients, regardless of CD4 count, in resource-rich settings.

Dr Francesca Conradie: HIV & TB  
The Aurum Institute:  
Managing TB in a  
New Era of  
Diagnostics

JOHANNESBURG  
30 August  
18h00 – 20h30  
Dr Dave Spencer:  
HIV, Clinical  
Medicine,  
Professionalism and  
the SA Health Care  
System  
Dr Patricia  
Henderson: AIDS,  
Intimacy & Care in  
rural KZN

PRETORIA  
06 September  
Speaker and topic to  
be determined

For more information  
about our CME  
meetings, please  
contact Natalie Martyn  
at [natalie@sahivsoc.org](mailto:natalie@sahivsoc.org)  
or 079 872 1721



## In the News

[SANC and AHP sign agreement to place foreign nurses](#)

[Department of Health facing further scrutiny on use of unapproved HIV test kits](#); read the Society's recent statement on the [recall of SD Bioline test kits](#).

Gauteng health services under fire: [TAC threatens court action](#) against the province, citing continued problems with drug shortages and unfilled posts.

[Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital department heads publicly complain that the hospital is falling apart](#)

## Bursaries available: AWACC 2012

The Society is offering 10 bursaries to its **nurse members** to attend the [6th Annual Workshop on Advanced Clinical Care – AIDS \(AWACC\)](#). The bursary will ONLY cover the registration fee – no travel or accommodation costs are.

Minimum requirements:

- Working in a setting where ARVs are available (as ART or PMTCT)
  - Personally involved in clinical care of patients at least 3 days per week
- Note: only Society nurse members whose annual membership fees have been paid in full will be considered.

Application process:

Please submit the following to fax: 011 341 0161 or e-mail: [nonhlanhla@sahivsoc.org](mailto:nonhlanhla@sahivsoc.org)

1. A brief outline of involvement in the field of HIV, including your current job responsibilities. Please include your current job title.
2. A letter of **support for leave** to attend the conference from your manager/supervisor.
3. A letter detailing a commitment and plan to provide information gained at the conference to colleagues.
4. Contact information, including a telephone number, cell number, e-mail address and fax number. Please include your physical address (residential) and work address.

Closing date: 31 August 2012

## New Paediatric Treatment Policy

On 20 August the National Department of Health issued a [circular on increasing ART access to children](#). The circular directs public health facilities to initiate all HIV positive children aged 5 years and younger on ART, irrespective of CD4 count and clinical staging.

The Department indicates that this change was based on national data which found the early identification of HIV exposed children to be sub-optimal, WHO clinical staging not routinely performed and initiation targets in children unmet.

If you'd like more information about the new policy, email us at [child\\_adolescent@sahivsoc.org](mailto:child_adolescent@sahivsoc.org)

## Upcoming Events

The Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) and the Rural Doctors Association of South Africa (RuDASA) are holding a joint conference, [Bridging the health divide: From Policy to Practice](#), 5-7 September in Bloemfontein.

The South African Society of Psychiatrists (SASOP) is holding a workshop on [HIV/AIDS and Psychiatric Practice on 7 September, 10h00 - 13h00 in Misty Hills \(Johannesburg\)](#)

The [4th Botswana International HIV Conference](#) will take place 19-22 September. The conference theme is "Prevention is the Way Forward".

The 6th Annual Workshop in Advanced Clinical Care - AIDS (AWACC) will be held 4-5 October at the Elangeni Southern Sun in Durban. Visit [McCord Hospital's website](#) to view the programme and register.

## Drug Shortages

The Society is receiving worrying reports of continued ART shortages and drug stock outs across the country. Don't forget to keep us informed of the shortages at your facility via our online [Red Flag Drug Shortages and Stock-Outs List](#) or by emailing us at [stockouts@sahivsoc.org](mailto:stockouts@sahivsoc.org)



## See the latest update on our Conference 2012

**SA HIV Clinicians Society Conference 2012**  
International Convention Centre • Cape Town • South Africa  
**Striving for Clinical Excellence 25 – 28 November 2012**

For more information, please visit our website: [www.sahivsoc2012.co.za](http://www.sahivsoc2012.co.za)

## Contact Details for the Southern African HIV Clinicians Society:

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Have news you'd like to share? Email us at [sahivsoc@sahivsoc.org](mailto:sahivsoc@sahivsoc.org)