



# EVIDENCE TO ACTION

19 JULY  
2016

This session will highlight the essential role that collaborative research plays in improving public sector policies and services for HIV treatment and prevention. Across southern Africa HIV programmes are evolving rapidly with new scientific insights leading to major policy developments.

There is growing interest in understanding the optimal implementation of new interventions and services, and ultimately how research evidence can be translated into action.

The session is hosted by the Centre for Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Research (CIDER) in the School of Public Health & Family Medicine at the University of Cape Town; Anova Health Institute; the International Epidemiologic Databases to Evaluate AIDS network - Southern Africa (leDEA-SA); ICAP at Columbia University; and the Southern African HIV Clinicians Society.

Together these organisations will present critical case studies and lessons learned in conducting high-impact research and translating research findings to strengthen HIV prevention and treatment across the region.



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## Programme

### Co-Chairs

Prof James McIntyre, Anova Health Institute

Prof Landon Myer, CIDER

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKER
18:30 - 18:40	Introduction	Landon Myer (CIDER)
18:40 - 18:55	Using Health Information Systems Beyond Programme Monitoring and Evaluation	Theunis Hurter (Anova)
18:55 - 19:10	Impact of Option B+ on ART Uptake and Retention in Swaziland: a Stepped Wedge Trial	Nontokoza Langwenya (CIDER)
19:10 - 19:25	Using HIV-Cohort Data to Inform and Evaluate Policy and Practice	Mary-Ann Davies (CIDER)
19:25 - 19:40	Outcomes from the Scale-up of ART Adherence Clubs in Cape Town, South Africa	Priscilla Tsondai (CIDER)
19:40 - 19:55	Pharmacovigilance to Inform Policy	Karen Cohen (UCT)
19:55 - 20:15	Implementation Science: Evidence To Action	Wafaa El-Sadr (ICAP)
20:15	Discussion	



### **Dr Karen Cohen**

Karen Cohen is a clinical pharmacologist and family physician in the Division of Clinical Pharmacology, Department of Medicine, University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa. Her research interests include safety of antiretroviral and antitubercular medicines, programmatic pharmacovigilance strategies to inform policy, metabolic complications of antiretroviral drugs, antiretroviral therapeutic drug monitoring and antiretroviral drug interactions. She is the principal investigator of a Centres for Disease Control and Prevention-funded project to strengthen pharmacovigilance activities in South Africa.

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### **Assoc Professor Mary-Ann Davies**

Mary-Ann Davies is a public health specialist with an interest in infectious diseases in children especially HIV and TB. She has been involved in paediatric HIV and TB research for a number of years. She is currently the paediatric researcher for the International Epidemiological Databases to Evaluate Aids (IeEDA) Southern Africa collaboration and collates and analyses data from paediatric ARV treatment sites across Southern Africa.



### **Professor Wafaa El-Sadr**

Wafaa El-Sadr, MD, MPH, founded and currently directs ICAP which works in sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia, and in the US in partnership with governmental and non-governmental organizations building in-country capacity for HIV prevention, care, and treatment and related issues. More than one million individuals living with HIV have gained access to HIV services and more than 500 000 have received access to life-saving antiretroviral therapy through these programs. ICAP champions a family-focused approach consistent with the one pioneered at Harlem Hospital through a multidisciplinary team of providers and based on building meaningful partnerships with governmental and non-governmental organizations within countries.

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### **Theunis Hurter**

Theunis Hurter holds a BSc Biological Human Life Sciences degree with Honors in Physiological Sciences and a Master degree in Public Health. He is currently employed as Programme Manager: Data and Information systems at the Anova Health Institute where he guides a passionate team of monitoring and evaluation experts. He believes that you must let your data work for you and that the numbers hold the key for innovative public health change. In his free time he enjoys watching sport and taking his two boys for a cycle in the park.



### **Nontokoza Langwenya**

Nontokoza Langwenya holds a BSc (Hons) in Pharmaceutical Chemistry from York University (Canada) and a Master's in Public Health from UCT. Langwenya's research interests are in sexual health and reproductive justice, with her master's thesis focusing on the timing of ART initiation during pregnancy and maternal adherence. She comes from a background of direct service in the NGO sector and joined the Centre for Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Research in 2013 as an epidemiologist in training. Currently she serves as the convenor of the Introduction to Epidemiology course of the Masters in Public Health Program at the University and a data analyst in the unit.

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### **Professor Landon Myer**

Landon Myer is Professor and Head of the Division of Epidemiology & Biostatistics in the School of Public Health & Family Medicine at UCT. At UCT he teaches epidemiologic methods, directs the Masters in Public Health programme, serves as Director of CIDER, and is affiliated to the Desmond Tutu HIV Centre. He holds an adjunct appointment in the Department of Epidemiology at Columbia University. His work centres around women's, maternal and child health in the context of HIV/AIDS, and includes clinical, population-based and health systems research, with a particular interest in the health of HIV-infected women during pregnancy and postpartum, as well as the health and development of their children.

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### **Professor James McIntyre**

James McIntyre is the CEO of Anova Health Institute, Honorary Professor in the School of Public Health & Family Medicine at UCT and International Vice-Chair of the US NIH-funded International Maternal Paediatric and Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials (IMPAACT) Network. He previously worked for 25 years at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto, South Africa, where he was the co-founder and Executive Director of the Perinatal HIV Research Unit (PHRU) of the University of the Witwatersrand. He has been involved in research and programming on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV for more than 20 years.



### **Dr Priscilla Tsondai**

Dr Priscilla Tsondai is a clinician who graduated from the University of Zimbabwe in 2010. She worked as a medical doctor in Zimbabwe before moving to South Africa to pursue a Master's in Public Health degree at UCT. She is currently working at CIDER as a Research Officer on two projects. She intends to pursue a PhD focusing on the transition of perinatally HIV-infected adolescents from pediatric to adult care with UCT.

