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Infectious News

ISS INFEKSIESIEKTES SENTRUM CID CENTRE FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES



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 CID, Faculty of Health Sciences, Tygerberg, Stellenbosch University

Staff News



Prof Nachega selected for John Mc Goldrick Senior Fellowship

Congratulations to Jean, Director of CID who has been selected for the Senior Fellowship at Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, MA, USA, from September to December 2009. He will be working on advanced methodology for analysing complex AIDS data as part of a collaborative research programme with Harvard's Center for Biostatistics in AIDS Research.

Announcements:

- SACORE Grant
- Collaboration with Jhpiego
- TB Workshop
- ID session at AYD 2009

Congratulations! Wellcome Trust - SACORE grant awarded to CID

An African Institutions Initiative Grant application entitled "Southern Africa Consortium for Research Excellence" (SACORE) has been recommended for an award by the UK-based Wellcome Trust Board to the Center for Infectious Diseases and partners at a level of £5, 000,000 over 5 years. The strength of this application was the proposed partnership between low income African countries (Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe), with middle income countries (South Africa with Stellenbosch University & University of Cape Town and Botswana with Botswana Harvard Partnership) and UK partners (London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, University College of London and Barts University), for provision of PhD and Masters training within Southern Africa; an outstanding mentoring/supervision and professional development plans for post-graduate students and junior faculty. In addition research support centers will be build or enhanced in the above middle and low-income countries".

Director of CID - Prof Jean Nachega: "It is our hope that this so much needed capacity building provided by Wellcome Trust, will help counter the brain drain and attract and maintain young bright African scientists and researchers to undertake high quality research that will make a difference in the health of Southern Africans." said Prof Jean Nachega, MD, PhD, Director of the Centre for Infectious Diseases and Principal Investigator for Stellenbosch University on SACORE "

CID and Nursing join efforts with Jhpiego

Jhpiego, an affiliate of Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing has approached the CID to collaborate with them on HIV nursing education in South Africa. This will prepare professional nurses to initiate treatment and manage patients on ART. The "blended approach" model established by the Nursing Department and Interactive Telematic Services of Stellenbosch University, will be used for the training. Students will be able to "read, see and touch" as explained by Prof Nikodem: the course will integrate face-to-face interactions, clinical interactions and simulations, pictures, videos and workbooks. It will combine web based technology, satellite and mobile technology to make the University accessible to groups that need to overcome significant obstacles e.g. working adults in rural areas. The course will be a competency accredited short course integrated into a program, which means the credits could be used to complete a postgraduate program.

TB Workshop: A tool for improving the diagnosis of TB

Prof Jill Murray, Head of Pathology Division, National Institute for Occupational Health and Prof Michelle Wong (Wits) will present this workshop on 20 April 2009, from 11h00-13h30. Limited seats are available. Contact cdevries@sun.ac.za to book.

Autopsy studies show a high rate of missed diagnosis of TB, however TB diagnosis is complicated in HIV infected Patients who are frequently smear negative. Process-based performance review is an effective way of developing successful practise habits and in this presentation participants will learn to use a single page structured flow sheet to review medical records and constructively evaluate clinical actions. The flow sheet has been designed for the diagnosis of TB and the review assists with the identification of missed opportunities for the diagnosis of TB, leading to reflection and discussion as to how these can be avoided in the future. The flow sheet links lead the reviewer to summaries of critical topics detailing why, when, and how to perform essential investigations. **Target audience:** Doctors, nurses and laboratory technologists. **Objectives:** this material will provide health workers with a tool to review their clinical performance, Identify clinical actions that are key determinations of outcome, determine if these actions have been performed, indicate whether programmatic changes are required, select appropriate diagnostic investigations, manage smear negative patients with possible TB, diagnose TB using simple techniques e.g. lymph node aspiration, appropriately investigate for drug resistance.

Infectious Diseases Session at the Academic Year Day 2009

At the Academic Year Day (AYD) the CID launched an Infectious Diseases Symposium. It was very well attended and attendees were able to listen to state-of-the-art research results. The AYD committee decided to allow for better "cross pollination" of disciplines and decided to host *inter alia* an Infectious Diseases session at the Academic Year Day of 2009. Other Categories include Non-communicable Diseases, Mental Health, Health Systems Research, Health Sciences Education, Reproductive Health and Injury and Trauma. The CID is looking forward to this new arrangement.