

# Division of Epidemiology & Biostatistics Monthly Newsletter

## February/March 2019

### Congratulations & News



Welcome to new study coordinator **Nyiko Mashele** who is working on the PrEP-PP study.

The Division track students and staff had fun and pizza at an informal social event playing the board game *Pandemic*. This was scheduled during orientation for the MPH programme and was a great opportunity to meet some new faces. Look for another social - epidemiology themed quiz night? - midyear.

**Thoko Malaba** gave a plenary talk at the Preterm Dialogues Conference (27-29 Jan) in Cape Town on "Accurate gestational age assessment - a challenge in LMICs."

Big congratulations to **Tammy Phillips** for being awarded the Vanderbilt-Emory-Cornell-Duke (VECD) Global Health Fellows Consortium Fellowship through the Fogerty centre - this is a major accomplishment and we look forward to the next steps.

The first of three Division led R workshops ran in early March. We had approx 30 excited students get a solid introduction to R. **Elton Mukonda** led the material development and teaching.



**Kirsty Brittain** gave the March Division Seminar - if you missed it you can catch the video on the SPH&FM youtube site (also linked from twitter).

### Papers out this month

**Le Roux SM, ..., Brittain K, Phillips T, Nguyen KK, ... Myer L.** Growth trajectories of breastfed HIV-exposed uninfected and HIV-unexposed children under conditions of universal maternal antiretroviral therapy: a prospective study. *Lancet Child & Global Health* (2019).

**Garman EC, Cois A, ..., Lund C.** Course of perinatal depressive symptoms among South African women: associations with child outcomes at 18 and 36 months. *Soc Psych. Psych. Epi.* (2019).

**Myer L, ..., Mukonda E, ..., Phillips TK, ..., Lesosky M, ... , Reynolds SJ.** Antiretroviral adherence, elevated viral load and drug resistant mutations in HIV-infected women initiating treatment in pregnancy: a nested case-control study. *CID* 2019

**Phillips TK, ..., Brittain K, Gomba Y, ..., Myer L, Maartens G.** A comparison of plasma efavirenz and tenofovir, dried blood spot tenofovir-diphosphate, and self-reported adherence to predict virologic suppression among South African women. *JAIDS* 2019.

### For pondering

A new data protection law set to pass in South Africa & implications on secondary data analysis:  
<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2019/02/new-law-was-s-opposed-protect-south-africans-privacy-it-may-block-important-research>

### Upcoming Meetings & Deadlines

Noon meeting (DivEB host): 4 April, 12:00-13:00  
Division meeting: 5 April, 14:00-15:00  
IAE Africa Regional (Maputo): 14-17 April  
SUSAN/SSACAB abstract deadline: 30 April  
SPH&FM Research Day: 12 Sept  
PHASA annual conference: 16 – 18 September 2019

**Please send accepted abstracts, published papers, or any other good news no later than 3 days before the end of the month for inclusion in the newsletter to:**

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