

HIV PATHOGENESIS PROGRAMME



REPORT



UNIVERSITY OF
KWAZULU-NATAL
INYUVESI
YAKWAZULU-NATALI



HPP SCIENCE. SUPPORT. SOLUTIONS.

The HIV Pathogenesis Programme (HPP) is a multinational research initiative established in 2002 at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in collaboration with Harvard Medical School, USA.

HPP is based at the Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine.

Our vision: "Ongoing research excellence to produce humanitarian leaders to help the global community in the fight against HIV/AIDS"

The major goal of HPP is research in the field of immunology and HIV, with the aim to contribute to a vaccine and cure for HIV. Our values and goals also direct us towards HIV prevention by promoting HIV awareness, education and advances in HIV research.

To this end, our Health Promotion Team planned and implemented a World AIDS Day event on the 2nd December 2013.

HPP
HIV Pathogenesis Programme
Doris Duke Medical Research Institute
Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine
SCIENCE • SUPPORT • SOLUTIONS

The HIV Pathogenesis Programme Presents
A Health Promotion Event For

WORLD AIDS DAY 2013

DATE:
Mon 2 December 2013

TIME :
9:00 - 13:00

VENUE:
Umlazi, D-Section Hall,
D1457 Ntonto Zulu Drive
(Opposite Car Wash)

JOIN US FOR AN ENTERTAINING & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

HIV COUNSELLING & TESTING WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE VENUE

Supported By:

HPP, Department of Health, PAVI, The Victor Daitz Foundation, Nkomo Healthcare, and others.

CONTACT Phumulani Kunene: 074 317 3566 • 031 906 6527

HPP WORLD AIDS DAY 2013 advert, used to promote the event

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF EVENT

- Promote awareness of HIV through an informative and entertaining World AIDS Day programme.
- Provide up to date information on HIV prevention to the local community
- Mass free and confidential HIV counselling and testing (HCT) offered at the event
- Disseminate information about HPP and research in the community
- Use the event as a platform to re-launch the HPP support group for persons affected by HIV.

LOCATION

HPP research clinics are situated in Umlazi and this is where the event was staged, in order to serve the local population.

Umlazi is the second largest township in South Africa and is situated south of Durban on the east coast of KwaZulu-Natal (the province with the highest prevalence of HIV in South Africa).



Umlazi is an area disadvantaged due to historic prejudices and suffers high rates of poverty, violence poor education, and disease. These social factors further fuel the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the area and highlight the need for HIV health promotion initiatives.



Umlazi D-Section Hall, venue for the HPP WORLD AIDS DAY event.

ORGANISATION AND PLANNING

The event was planned and hosted by enthusiastic HPP clinic staff, who make up the newly formed HPP Health Promotion Team.

At the epicentre of the event was an educational and entertaining HIV prevention programme.

By drawing a large audience to the event as well as collaborating with relevant local stakeholders we aspired to achieve the dual objective of promoting HIV prevention as well as forming ties with other organisations with similar community empowerment goals.

Another major attraction at the event was free mass HIV counselling and testing. By using the programme to draw a large audience we aimed to allow the public convenient and confidential access HIV testing.



COLLABORATORS

The Health Promotion Team collaborated with local organisations to achieve the aims and objectives of the event.



Humana People to People conducted the HIV counselling and testing in their mobile testing stations set up on the grounds of the venue.



Representatives from FRESH (Females Rising through Education, Support and Health) were present to give out information about their work and initiatives.



Healthcare staff from the local Primary Health Clinic were present to offer free blood pressure and blood glucose testing to the visiting public.

Above: HPP Clinic staff at work setting up for the event.

The event began with staff from HPP, Humana People to People and the local Primary Health Care Clinic, engaging in song and dance. HIV motivational songs and chants filled the air with a positive spirit and energy. This served to announce the event to the community, attracting onlookers and passersby and set the tone for the days activities.



THE PROGRAMME

The programme was designed to address local problems surrounding HIV/AIDS and was delivered in isiZulu, the local language.

Speakers from various organizations were invited to speak, with talks focused on spreading awareness on HIV, the importance of testing as well as hope for the role of science in developing a vaccine and a cure.

Our first guest arrives at the hall.



HPP Director Professor Thumbi Ndung'u, welcomed the public and went on to outline the main objectives and goals for HPP as a research unit. He spoke about the importance of engaging the community and the establishment of collaborations in fighting against the HIV epidemic.



The HPP Clinic staff then rendered a musical item.



HPP Community Liason Officer, Phumulani Kunene designed and hosted the programme.



Phumulani introducing the panel of speakers.



Sister Maphalala (senior HPP clinic staff member) shared an update on current HPP research studies and activities, as well as the eligibility criteria for these studies.



Bongiwe Ndhlovu, a scientist and PhD student at HPP spoke about the laboratory research at HPP and the importance and role thereof.



She highlighted the hope of vaccines through science, but emphasized the need for prevention and treatment until a breakthrough is achieved.

Phumulani Kunene then delivered his talk on HIV prevention. The main aim of his talk was to give out an appropriate message so that the community will understand the actual role of researchers, raise awareness and promote health education about HIV/AIDS.



He emphasized the basics of HIV prevention and the importance for ongoing health promotion and research in this field. He would go on to address and dispel local myths regarding HIV research and science.

Phumulani ended by rendering a song entitled "I don't believe he has brought me this far to leave me". A song about laying hope in the face of HIV.



Sbo Ngcobo from Bobbi Bear (an organization committed to fighting for the rights of sexually abused children) provided information about their work to bring awareness about both women and child abuse and explained the 16 days of activism campaign against women and child abuse. She also addressed important local myths regarding HIV eg. HIV can be cured by having sex with a virgin.

Sister Mngadi, a senior nurse from Umlazi D section Primary Health Clinic, spoke about the importance of a healthy lifestyle and elaborated on the importance of contraception.



Mr Vukani Lu-thuli represented the eThekweni Municipality. He addressed the public at the beginning of the event with a prayer and later

came back to speak about male medical circumcision as one of the prevention tools. He provided information about the local government circumcision programme and how to gain access to it.



Zevile Gumede, a past member of HPP Community Advisory Board (CAB), spoke on the importance of a CAB and its role of liaising between community stakeholders and researchers to achieve their common goals.

Miss L. Luthuli , a Community Liason Officer, from the Centre for AIDS Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) was invited as a motivational speaker to deliver an inspirational talk on HIV prevention.

Prevention tools were the focus of her talk and she stressed the importance of these as a weapon against the HIV epidemic.



The audience was kept engaged by regular questions throughout the programme. Successful answers were rewarded with HIV prevention related prizes.



The event was used as a platform to relaunch the Siyakhula Support Group, an HPP supported initiative run voluntarily by HPP Clinic staff.

Monica Myeza (HPP Counsellor) explained the importance of joining a support group and the role it would play in assisting anyone in need of help.



The support group is open to anyone affected by HIV and will meet once in a month at the HPP clinic based at Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital in Umlazi.



A local youth drama group delivered a comical sketch related to HIV prevention.



Whilst highly entertaining the sketch used performing art as a medium to deliver powerful messages regarding HIV issues relevant to the local community and culture.

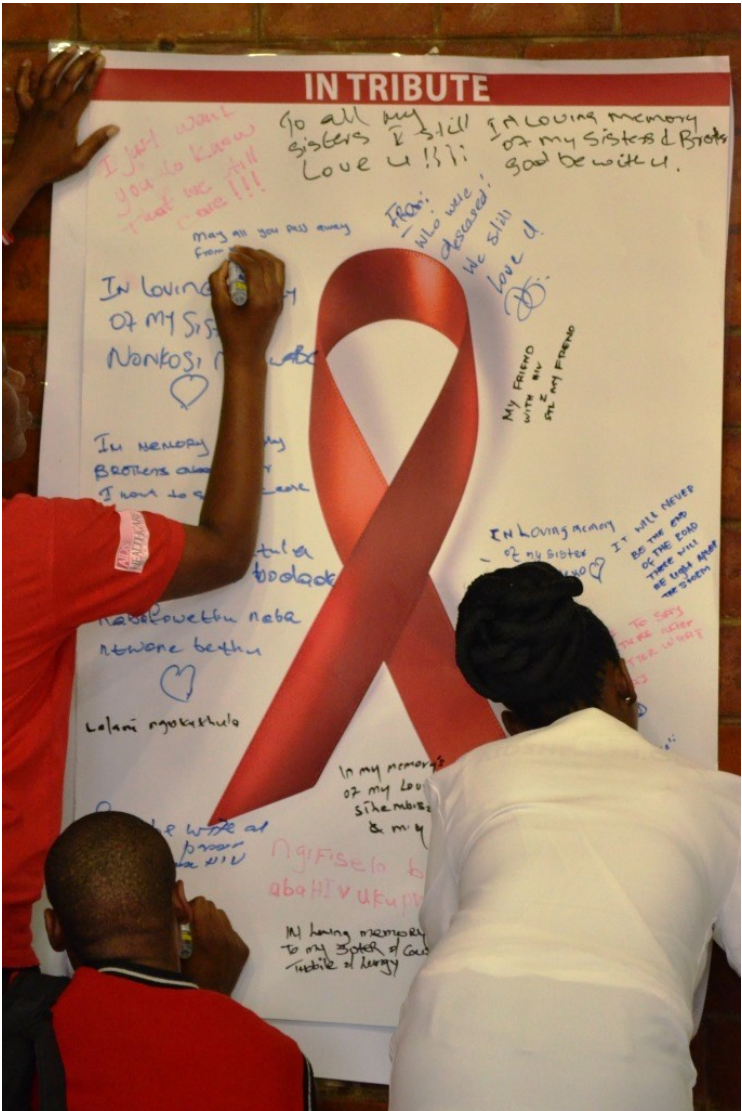


The programme was concluded by a candlelight session and tribute to those affected or lost to HIV/AIDS.



During the tribute a moment of silence was followed by a holy song.

The audience was invited to pay tribute by writing a message on a red ribbon poster. The candlelight session and tribute proved to be a powerful and emotional part of the programme and was a fitting way to draw a close to the event.



Phumulani formally ended the programme by delivering the vote of thanks. He acknowledged the community, sponsors, speakers, collaborators and the audience.



REVIEW

The HPP World AIDS Day 2013 event has achieved the aims and objectives set by the HPP Health Promotion Team.

By hosting and collaborating with the local community, local leaders and organisations we have strengthened our bond with the community. We hope that this will be the start of improving communication and clarity regarding the roles of research organisations in Umlazi, and that it will enable us to further our community commitment.

The turnout and reception of the event was reassuring and allowed us to disseminate up to date information on HIV in an informative, clear and entertaining manner. These are imperative tools in spreading and maintaining HIV awareness.

Our mandate for mass HIV counselling and testing was also achieved with 70 people testing. 7 of these patients were positive.

THE WAY FORWARD

This was the first event held by our Health Promotion Team. Whilst the aims and objectives for the event have been achieved, we have much to improve on. This event has given us vital experience and has set a good standard on which to build on in the year ahead.



In 2014 we plan to host 4 dedicated HPP Health Promotion events in Umlazi at various points in the year, culminating again in a World AIDS Day event.

Our aims and objectives for these events will be similar to those of the 2013 World AIDS Day event but will be themed appropriately.

We will also be active on Mandela Day (18 July) by volunteering and contributing to a local charity or community organization.

In addition our community liaison officer will be working with local organisations and institutions to volunteer time and information related to HIV awareness.

During recruitment drives for HPP study participants, he will be using the opportunity to educate and promote HIV prevention.

The Siyakhula Support Group was relaunched at this event. This is an initiative founded and coordinated by HPP clinic staff who volunteer their free time to manage and contribute to the group. The group is currently geared to support and assist people affected by HIV. In 2014 we aim to expand on this mandate by empowering participants with life management and skills training.

APPRECIATION

We wish to gratefully acknowledge and thank our sponsors for the event:

Primary Sponsor:

IAVI (International AIDS Vaccine Initiative)

Secondary Sponsors:

Victor Daitz Foundation

Global Laboratories

Our grateful appreciation to the following organisations for their collaboration and support at the event:

- Humana People to People
- Ithembalabantu Clinic
- CAPRISA
- Bobbi Bear
- Ethekwini Municipality
- FRESH (Females Rising Through Education Support and Health)
- Umlazi D Section Clinic, Department of Health

Presented by the HIV Pathogenesis Programme, Health Promotion Team.

**HPP Umlazi
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