HIGHLIGHTS

Between 1 April and 31 March 2022, Cochrane South Africa (SA) staff published 79 articles in peer-reviewed ISI journals.


Tamara Kredo presented at the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Health Meeting on the National Health Insurance Bill. Tamara Kredo submitted a grant proposal to the EDCTP on “Global evidence, local adaptation: Enhancing evidence-informed guideline recommendations for newborn and young child health in three countries in sub-Saharan Africa”. She was awarded EUR 3,216,365 for the project. Tamara Kredo was appointed to National Essential Medicines List Committee of COVID-19 Therapeutics to provide patient-focused evidence-based recommendations for managing COVID-19 and inform the national COVID-19 guidelines and the Ministerial Advisory Committee on COVID-19 Vaccines for the enhanced and integrated response to COVID-19. She was appointed Associate Professor Extraordinary in the Department of Medicine and Department of Global Health at Stellenbosch University and Honorary Associate Professor, School of Public Health and Family Medicine, University of Cape Town.

Solange Durao was elected to the Cochrane Geographic Group Executive and appointed as a member of the World Health Organization Guideline Development: Management of adolescents 10-19 years of age with obesity for improved health, functioning and reduced disability: a primary health care approach.

Sara Cooper and Charles Wiysonge were appointed to the Ministerial Advisory Committee on COVID-19 Technical Working Group on Vaccine Hesitancy.

Duduzile Ndwandwe successfully defended her research project with distinction for Master in vaccinology course with University of Lausanne.

Charles Wiysonge was awarded funding of R 1,221,044 by the University of Cape Town to develop and implement Evidence Informed Decision-making training modules.

Tamara Kredo was awarded funding of Euro 3,216,366 by EDCTP for the project “Global evidence, local adaptation: Enhancing evidence-informed guideline recommendations for newborn and young child health in three countries in sub-Saharan Africa”

Staff were interviewed by various local and international print and broadcasting media on vaccines and COVID-19.

Staff presented at international (7 invited, 9 orals, 6 posters, 4 round tables, 3 workshops) and local (6 invited, 7 orals, 1 round table, 4 workshops) conferences.

Cochrane SA held it first virtual national symposium in November 2021. Two hundred and fifty delegates attended the symposium which consisted of three plenaries, four workshops and one networking session.

Cochrane SA facilitated and/or hosted 16 webinars, 10 lectures and 3 virtual workshops as part of its capacity building initiatives. Cochrane SA provided free access to the Cochrane Interactive Learning: Conducting an Intervention Review online modules to 19 South African participants (four were from historically disadvantaged institutions) who attended the online Protocol Development course.
We provided bursaries to 14 researchers/students from the University of the Western Cape (3), University of Venda (5), Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (3) and the SAMRC (3) to attend the Systematic review and meta-analysis course at Stellenbosch University. We also provided bursaries to 21 participants of which six were from historically disadvantaged institutions (HDIs) to attend the Primer in systematic reviews course at Stellenbosch University from 1 November to 20 December 2021. Bursaries were awarded to six recipients (3 SAMRC staff; 1 from the Department of Health and 2 were from HDIs) to attend Evidence Informed Decision Making and Knowledge Translation courses.

**JOURNAL ARTICLES**


59. Uthman OA, Ndwandwe D, Uthman MMB, Yaya S, Wiysonge CS. Multilevel analysis of individual and contextual factors associated with polio non-vaccination in Africa: further analyses to enhance policy and opportunity to save more lives. Vaccines 2021; 9(7):683. doi.org/10.3390/vaccines9070693


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS


PUBLICATIONS (TECHNICAL/OTHER)

GUIDELINES


BOOK CHAPTERS


TECHNICAL REPORTS


RAPID REVIEWS/BRIEF REPORTS


6. Therapeutic Guidelines Sub-Committee for COVID-19 Management Clinical Guidelines Committee (including Kredo T) Should baricitinib be used to treat COVID-19? Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 19 November 2021. First update of original 15 August 2021 rapid review report


9. Therapeutic Guidelines Sub-Committee for COVID-19 Management Clinical Guidelines Committee (including Kredo T) Should fluvoxamine be used to treat COVID-19? Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 5 November 2021

10. Therapeutic Guidelines Sub-Committee for COVID-19 Management Clinical Guidelines Committee (including Kredo T) Should doxycycline be used in the management of ambulant patients with COVID-19? Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 15 October 2021

11. Therapeutic Guidelines Sub-Committee for COVID-19 Management Clinical Guidelines Committee (including Kredo T) Should rivaroxaban be used in the management of ambulant COVID-19 patients? Produced for the National Department of Health. Published 8 October 2021


**OTHER**


2. Wiysonge CS. Interviewed by the Swedish TV on “vaccine hesitancy in South Africa and sub-Saharan Africa” on 17 December 2021. https://www.svtplay.se/video/31742562/aktuellt/aktuellt-17-dec-21-00-37?position=648&id=e3vkdd4


4. Wiysonge CS. Interviewed by Radio 786 (South Africa) on the “Omicron variant and the 4th wave of COVID-19 infections in South Africa” on 9 December 2021

5. Wiysonge CS. Interviewed by BBC World Service (UK) on “COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in South Africa and efforts to encourage vaccine uptake” on 1 December 2021


7. Wiysonge CS. Interviewed by El Confidencial newspaper, one of the main media outlets in Spain, on progress with COVID-19 vaccination on the African continent. 27 November 2021

8. Wiysonge CS. Interviewed by Radio Smile 904 FM (South Africa) on “COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among parents in South Africa” on 23 November 2021

9. Cooper S. Interviewed on eNCA "COVID-19 vaccine - Why are parents reluctant?" on 19 November 2021. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZhYmY-dQx8

10. Wiysonge CS. Interviewed by eNCA on "COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among parents" on 17 November 2021


15. **Wiysonge CS.** Interviewed by eNCA on “Vaccine production in Africa key to pandemic-proofing the Continent”. 23 October 2021

16. **Wiysonge CS.** Interviewed by Radio Veritas (South Africa) on the implications of getting children between 12 and 17 vaccinated against COVID-19. 19 October 2021

17. **Wiysonge CS.** Interviewed by Radio 786 (South Africa) on “antiviral pills for COVID-19” on 4 October 2021

18. **Wiysonge CS.** Interviewed on DW News TV. Why South Africans are so reluctant to get vaccinated. 13 September 2021. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=szd9lznEpBE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=szd9lznEpBE)


22. **Kredo T.** Interviewed on ENCA on Ivermectin on 24 August 2021


CONFERENCES

INTERNATIONAL

Invited Speaker

1. **Cooper S.** *Vaccine hesitancy: what makes COVID-19 vaccines different?* Executive Education: Effective ways to increase vaccination rates, Columbia University, USA. 27 September – 1 October 2021

2. **Cooper S.** *Applying GRADE-CERQual to third-order review findings: A worked example from an EPOC QES on factors influencing parents' views and practices regarding childhood vaccination.* Presentation given to the GRADE-CERQual Coordinating Team. Virtual. 21 September 2021


7. **Durao S.** *Innovative and combined approaches to evidence-based agriculture.* Environmental Evidence Summit: Advances in agricultural evidence, Virtual. 13 April 2021

Oral Presentations

1. **Wiysonge CS.** *Vaccine hesitancy.* Urgent Forum on COVID-19, jointly hosted by Australian National Health and Medical Research Council and the South African Medical Research Council. Virtual. 2 December 2021

2. **Wiysonge CS.** *Strategies to improve HPV Vaccine Confidence.* Africa HPV Vaccine Forum. Virtual. 30 November 2021


5. **Wiysonge CS.** *Vaccine policy, vaccine usage and vaccine hesitancy in South Africa.* Sub-Saharan Africa Webinar on Regional COVID-19 Updates. Virtual. 25-29 October 2021


8. **Wiysonge CS.** *Overcoming hesitancy in early pandemic phase.* OECD Global Science Forum workshop on priority setting and coordination of the scientific response to COVID-19 and looking ahead to the next crisis. Virtual, 4-5 October 2021


Posters


**Round Table**

1. **Wiysonge CS**. *WHO online consultation meeting to develop global principles for identifying credible sources of health information on social media*. Virtual. 15 December 2021


**Workshop Facilitator**


**LOCAL**

**Invited Speaker**


Oral Presentations

1. **Kredo T** on behalf of the Work stream 1 subcommittee. *Pfizer/BioNTec homologous vaccine booster: a rapid systematic review*. Ministerial Advisory Committee on COVID-19 Vaccines Meeting, Virtual. 9 December 2021


4. **Wiysonge CS.** *Reasons for vaccine hesitancy in South Africa - what is the evidence?* UCT COVID-19 ECHO Clinic on Vaccine Hesitancy. Virtual. 4 November 2021

5. **Wiysonge CS.** *How to maximise the uptake of COVID-19 vaccines in South Africa*. Wits Webinar Series on Vaccine Hesitancy: Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics. Virtual. 15 October 2021

6. **Wiysonge CS.** *COVID-19 vaccines and vaccination*. Nahana Communication Group Meeting. Virtual. 8 October 2021


Round Table


Workshop Facilitator


2. **Mathebula L, Ndwandwe D.** *Clinical trial registration: What we know and how to register*. Cochrane SA Virtual National Symposium, Cape Town. 25-26 November 2021


4. **Mavundza E, Durao S.** *Introduction to systematic reviews*. Cochrane SA Virtual National Symposium, Cape Town. 25-26 November 2021

TEACHING AND TRAINING

GRADUATION OF STUDENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name and Surname</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Villyen Motaze</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Non-South African (Permanent resident)</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Stellenbosch University (December 2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anelisa Jaca</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>African</td>
<td>Postdoc</td>
<td>SAMRC (November 2021)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duduzile Ndwandwe</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>African</td>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>Lausanne University (December 2021)</td>
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SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

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<tr>
<td>Achuma Fihla</td>
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<td>Ameer Hohlfeld</td>
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<td>Edison Mavundza</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Oduwole</td>
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<td>Samuel Alobwede</td>
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LECTURES

1. Evidence to the decision process for guideline panels (EtD) Simulation. Clinical Practice Guideline Course. Masters in Clinical Epidemiology. Stellenbosch University. Virtual. 8 March 2022

2. Introduction to Qualitative Evidence Synthesis (QES). Qualitative Research Methods module for the MPH students at the School of Public Health Summer School Programme, University of the Western Cape. Virtual. 16 February 2022

3. Risk of Bias 2.0 Assessing risk of bias in included studies. Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis, MSc in Clinical Epidemiology, Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Stellenbosch University. Virtual. 4 August 2021


5. Risk of bias for randomized controlled trials. Evidence-based Healthcare module 2021 for MPH students at the University of Cape Town. Virtual. 26 August and 2 September 2021


7. Prospero Registration and publishing a protocol. Evidence-based Healthcare Module 2021 for MPH students at the University of Cape Town. Virtual. 28 July 2021

8. Developing search methods for identifying relevant studies and hands-on searching for relevant studies. Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis, MSc in Clinical Epidemiology, Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of Stellenbosch. Virtual. 7 July 2021
9. Accessing the evidence. Evidence-based Healthcare Module 2021 for MPH students at the University of Cape Town. Virtual. 27 July 2021

10. Introduction to evidence-based healthcare. Evidence-based Healthcare Module 2021 for MPH students at the University of Cape Town. Virtual. 26 July 2021

WEBINARS

1. Living guideline recommendations. Virtual. 15 March 2022

2. Data Sharing information requirements in ICTRP registries: what have we learnt. COVID-19 Clinical Research Coalition Data Sharing Working Group. Virtual. 9 March 2022

3. A journey of Career transition: from basic molecular science to public health. SAMRC/NHLS/UCT Molecular Mycobacteriology Research Unit (MMRU) of the Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IDM). University of Cape Town. 11 February 2022


5. Primary care management of COVID-19: Up to date and evidence-based case studies. Virtual. 3 February 2022


7. CAMELOT and the GRADE CERQual methodological limitations. Virtual. 16 November 2021

8. Evidence synthesis and different types of systematic reviews. Virtual. 19 October 2021

9. What influences vaccination uptake? The development of global tools to assess the behavioural and social drivers of immunization. Virtual. 21 September 2021

10. The PRISMA 2020 statement. Virtual. 17 August 2021

11. Conducting systematic reviews of prevalence. Virtual. 20 July 2021

12. Introduction to systematic reviews of effectiveness. Virtual. 21 September 2021

13. Appraising guidelines using the AGREE II tool. 15 June 2021

14. A Cochrane qualitative evidence synthesis on factors influencing parents' view and practices around routine childhood vaccination: Methods, findings and key challenges. Presentation to the Learning Initiative for eXperienced Authors (LIXA). 27 May 2021

15. Appraising clinical trials using the RoB2 tool. 25 May 2021

16. Appraising observational studies using the ROBINS-I tool. 18 May 2021

WORKSHOPS

1. AMSTAR session: Assessing the methodological quality of systematic reviews using AMSTAR 2. Training session for the Primary Health Care Adult Hospital Level Expert Review Committee Meeting. Virtual. 17 June 2021

2. Protocol Development Course. Virtual. 31 May - 4 June 2021

INTELLECTUAL INPUT

INTERNATIONAL

Cooper S
1. Peer reviewer, PLOS One. February 2022
2. Co-editor of the Vaccines section of Current Opinion in Immunology. August 2021 -

Durao S
5. Member, Cochrane Geographic Groups Executive. May 2021 -

Gloeck N

Hohlfeld A

Jaca A
1. Peer reviewer, Systematic Reviews. June 2021

Kredo T
1. Member, External Review Group, PAHO Guideline for preventive chemotherapy for the control of taenia solium taeniasis. November 2020 - September 2021
2. Peer reviewer, Journal International AIDS Society, September 2021
4. Facilitator, WHO consolidated guidelines on management of tuberculosis in children. 31 May - 17 June 2021
5. Facilitator, WHO consolidated guidelines update on the treatment of drug susceptible tuberculosis. 27-30 April 2021

Ndwandwe D
1. Peer reviewer, BMJ Open. March 2022
3. Peer reviewer, SAGE Open. February 2022
4. Member, Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response (GloPID-R) Liaison Committee. Oct 2021
5. Member, Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response (GloPID-R) Clinical Trials Working Group
7. Grant application reviewer, National Institute for Health Research. August 2021

**Oliver J**

1. Member, eCOVID Evidence Prime RecMap Plain Language Recommendations Citizen Advisory Committee. June 2021 –

**Wiysonge CS**

1. Member, Independent Advisory Board of the European Integrated Services for Infectious Disease Outbreak Research (ISIDORE). March 2022 -

2. Guest Editor, Healthcare. March 2022 -

3. PhD examiner, Warwick University, UK. March 2022

4. Peer reviewer, BMJ Open. March 2022

5. Chair, Adjudication Committee of Ubuntu (a Multi-Center, Randomized, Efficacy Study of COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine in Regions with SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern). February 2022 -


7. Peer reviewer, Vaccine. February 2022


9. Member, Organising Committee; First International Conference on Public Health in Africa. Virtual; 14-16 December 2021

10. Chair, Session 5 on “Assessing the Response to COVID-19 in Africa to Prepare for Future Health Threats”. First International Conference on Public Health in Africa. Virtual; 14-16 December 2021

11. Chair, Symposium on “Clinical Trial Coordination During the COVID-19 Pandemic: lessons learned”. Tenth EDCTP Forum. Virtual. 21 October 2021

12. Chair, Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response (GloPID-R) COVID-19 Research in LMICs Working Group Meeting. Virtual. 02 November 2021

**LOCAL**

**Cooper S**

1. Member, Social Science Working Group of the COVID-19 Clinical Research Coalition. February 2022 -

2. Peer Reviewer, South African Review of Sociology. February 2022


5. Peer reviewer, South African Review of Sociology. May 2021

**Hohlfeld A**

1. Course Convener, Evidence-based Healthcare Module, University of Cape Town. July - December 2021

**Kredo T**

1. Member, Ministerial Advisory Committee on COVID-19 Vaccines for the enhanced and integrated response to COVID-19. March 2022 -

2. Honorary Associate Professor, School of Public Health and Family Medicine, University of Cape Town. October 2021 - September 2026
3. Associate Professor Extraordinary, Department of Medicine and Department of Global Health at Stellenbosch University. May 2021 - April 2024
4. Member, National Essential Medicines List Committee (NEMLC) on COVID-19 Therapeutics. August 2021 –
5. Member, Assessment Panel, Stellenbosch University MSc thesis protocol evaluation. June 2021

Ndwandwe D
1. Examiner, University of KwaZulu Natal. May 2021
2. Observer and assistant to secretariat, Vaccine Advisory Committee, Workstream 1. April 2021 -
3. Chair, Eh! WOZA. April 2021 –

Wiysonge CS
1. Member, Working Group on COVID-19 Vaccination of Children 5 -11 Years Old, MAC - Vaccines. February 2022 -
2. Member, Western Cape COVID-19 Vaccine Expert Advisory Group. Meetings every other week from October 2021 to December 2021
3. Member, Expert Group leading the development of the COVID-19 County Report on the implementation of measures to combat COVID-19 in South Africa. National Research Foundation (NRF); Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME); and Government Technical Advisory Centre (GTAC). Monthly meetings from October 2021 to December 2021
4. Member, SAMRC HREC. Monthly meetings from October 2021 to December 2021

GRANTS AWARDED

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Grant Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>University of Cape Town</td>
<td>Develop training EIDM modules including an implementation plan for the modules</td>
<td>R1,221,044</td>
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<td>EDCTP</td>
<td>Global evidence, local adaptation: Enhancing evidence-informed guideline recommendations for newborn and young child health in three countries in sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>EUR 3,216,366</td>
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<td>African Academy of Sciences</td>
<td>Science engagement to support evidence-informed policy responses to COVID-19 in Africa</td>
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TRAINING COURSES
1. Oliver J. Information retrieval for living evidence. 7 December 2021


**CONFERENCES/MEETINGS ATTENDED**

1. **Wiysonge CS** and **Ndwandwe D** attended the General Assembly of the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response (GloPID-R). Virtual, 2 December 2021

2. **Wiysonge CS** attended the COVID Research Coordination & Learning (COVID CIRCLE) Steering Group Meeting. Virtual, 8 November 2021

3. **Wiysonge CS** attended the GloPID-R Executive Board Meeting. Virtual, 4 November 2021

4. Cochrane staff attended and presented at the Cochrane South Africa Virtual National Conference. 25-26 November 2021

5. **Wiysonge CS** and **Ndwandwe D** attended the General Assembly of Clinical Research Initiative for Global Health Consortium (CRIGH). Virtual. 21 October 2021

6. **Wiysonge CS** attended a meeting of the African Advisory Committee on Health Research and Development (AACHRD). Virtual, 8 October 2021

7. **Wiysonge CS** and **Ndwandwe D** attended the General Assembly of the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response (GloPID-R). Virtual, 7 October 2021

8. Cochrane staff attended and presented at the Cochrane Africa Indaba which was held on 14-15 July 2021.


10. **Wiysonge CS.** Guidelines to mandatory workplace COVID-19 vaccinations symposium. 5 August 2021. Cost: R1,200

11. **Wiysonge CS.** GloPID-R meeting for Covid19 research in low- and middle-income countries

12. **Kredo T.** Cochrane Governing Board meetings. April, May & June 2021

13. **Kredo T.** Cochrane Governance Board Strategic Session. 22 June 2021

14. **Kredo T.** NEMLC Committee meeting. 24 June 2021

15. **Ndwandwe D.** Vaccine Ministerial Advisory Committee workstream 1 meetings. April, May & June 2021

16. **Ndwandwe D.** Covid-19 Research Coalitions data sharing working group meetings. April, May & June 2021

17. **Ndwandwe D.** Preparedness Planning for Clinical Research During Public Health Emergencies (PREP) meetings. April, May, June 2021
18. **Kredo T.** NEMLC Subcommittee on COVID-19 meeting. April, May & June 2021

19. **Oliver J.** Cochrane Africa Indaba Local Organizing meeting. April, May & June 2021

20. **Jaca A.** Africa’s vaccine manufacturing virtual conference. 12-13 April 2021