



## RUSTENBURG RESEARCH CENTRE OF THE AURUM INSTITUTE RUSTENBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

### THE AURUM INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH RESEARCH

**Mission:** To improve the health of disadvantaged people by providing care and conducting research

**Background:** A nonprofit organization formed in 1998 and headquartered in Johannesburg, South Africa

**Research Activities:** Directed by Gavin Churchyard, MBBCh, MMed, FCP, PhD

- International reputation for work on tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS
- Excellent clinical research management capabilities
- State-of-the-art information technology
- Manages more than 30 grants totalling US\$25 million annually from South African and international funders
- Manages an established HIV-vaccine trials unit in Klerksdorp, South Africa, and several other large (n>50,000) clinical trials in the country
- Good relations with the community
- Large community advisory group that represents all sectors
- Strong relationship with a number of primary health care clinics and tertiary hospitals
- Provides medical nursing and pharmaceutical assistance to one of the largest antiretroviral therapy programs in South Africa



### RUSTENBURG RESEARCH CENTRE

**Background:** A large research clinic in the central business district of Rustenburg

**Support:** Family Health International (FHI) and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), both based in the United States

**Research Capacity:** Full suite of clinical and behavioural science facilities

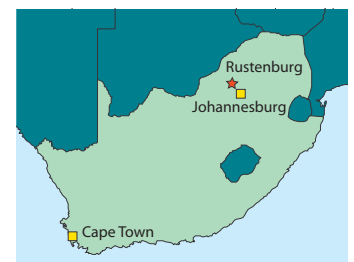
- Two waiting rooms
- Reception desk
- Education room
- Eight private counselling rooms
- Six clinical examination rooms
- One procedure room (phlebotomy, crash cart)
- Data management and quality control centre (alarmed and access-controlled)
- Private offices for study coordinators, quality assurance manager, community-liaison officer, and staff
- One file room (alarmed and access-controlled)
- Meeting room with capacity for 40 people
- Specimen-processing lab
- Lab for processing peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC), to be completed by the end of 2009

**Services:** Partnership with local department of health

- HIV test kits
- Treatment for other sexually transmitted infections
- Referrals for male circumcision
- Family planning services, such as counselling, injectable contraception, and oral contraceptives

**Staff:** Approximately 40 people

- Physician
- Research nurses
- Research assistants
- Outreach specialists
- Quality assurance staff
- Data management staff
- Laboratory technicians



**Current Research Activities:** Two studies, both initiated in November 2008 • Large (n=2,400) cross-sectional study to evaluate methods for estimating the incidence of HIV (will estimate HIV incidence using a serologic test—the BED-CEIA assay—in cross-sectional visits; will also improve the accuracy of cross-sectional incidence data) • Prospective observational study (n=600) to estimate HIV incidence

**Staff Training:** Research ethics • Good Clinical Practice • Interviewing techniques • Human sexuality • HIV voluntary counselling and testing • Principles of research • Study-specific training for the research protocols that will be implemented in 2009–2010

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## KEY PERSONNEL

### Mary Latka, PhD, MPH

**Positions:** Principal investigator • Epidemiologist • Programme director for HIV prevention • A non-executive director at the Aurum Institute • Assistant clinical professor of epidemiology, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York, NY

**Responsibilities:** Scientific integrity of the HIV incidence study • Scientific oversight of the study • Publication of study results

**Background:** Fifteen years of experience conducting qualitative and quantitative research on the socio-behavioural aspects of heterosexual HIV transmission • More than 50 scientific publications • Formerly a principal investigator on five large, federally funded grants • Currently a principal investigator or co-investigator on several other research studies funded by U.S. government agencies, the European Union, or international donors • Conducted cross-sectional, longitudinal, epidemiologic, and socio-behavioural research on the heterosexual transmission of HIV • Conducted clinical and socio-behavioural randomized trials and other studies to evaluate prevention modalities—new female condoms, female-initiated methods, microbicides, HIV vaccines, behavioural interventions • Working with HIV-positive people on the secondary transmission of HIV

### Candice Chetty, MA (Research Psychology), PhD Candidate

**Position:** Study Coordinator

**Responsibilities:** Daily oversight of studies and implementation of research protocols

**Background:** • Research psychologist and psychometrist with extensive experience in research design and analysis • Statistical analysis system (SAS) programmer • Completing a doctoral degree in research psychology, assessing the relation between a mother's mental health and the neuropsychological development of her infant with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder

### Petra Kruger, MBBCh, Diploma in Occupational Health

**Position:** Site Manager

**Responsibilities:** Project management • Oversight of the logistics of the Rustenburg site including clinical aspects, maintaining referral networks, and stakeholder management

**Background:** University of the Witwatersrand • Mine Medical Officer at Gold Fields International Mining Company • Occupational health consultant • Developed a coordinated approach to manage HIV/AIDS at AngloGold Ashanti, a global gold-mining company • Developed antiretroviral program at AngloGold Ashanti in collaboration with Aurum • Established a consulting firm for HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis that managed the expansion of Aurum's programme for antiretroviral therapy, which was funded by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)

#### Contact Information

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