

Richard J Lessells

List of Publications by Year in descending order

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Version: 2024-02-01

97
papers

10,273
citations

101543
36
h-index

58581
82
g-index

127
all docs

127
docs citations

127
times ranked

13512
citing authors

#	ARTICLE	IF	CITATIONS
1	Detection of a SARS-CoV-2 variant of concern in South Africa. Nature, 2021, 592, 438-443.	27.8	1,381
2	Rapid epidemic expansion of the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant in southern Africa. Nature, 2022, 603, 679-686.	27.8	1,210
3	Omicron extensively but incompletely escapes Pfizer BNT162b2 neutralization. Nature, 2022, 602, 654-656.	27.8	928
4	Escape of SARS-CoV-2 501Y.V2 from neutralization by convalescent plasma. Nature, 2021, 593, 142-146.	27.8	574
5	Emergence of SARS-CoV-2 Omicron lineages BA.4 and BA.5 in South Africa. Nature Medicine, 2022, 28, 1785-1790.	30.7	456
6	Sixteen novel lineages of SARS-CoV-2 in South Africa. Nature Medicine, 2021, 27, 440-446.	30.7	326
7	Gender Differences in Survival among Adult Patients Starting Antiretroviral Therapy in South Africa: A Multicentre Cohort Study. PLoS Medicine, 2012, 9, e1001304.	8.4	199
8	Universal test and treat and the HIV epidemic in rural South Africa: a phase 4, open-label, community cluster randomised trial. Lancet HIV, 2018, 5, e116-e125.	4.7	187
9	The emergence and ongoing convergent evolution of the SARS-CoV-2 N501Y lineages. Cell, 2021, 184, 5189-5200.e7.	28.9	186
10	SARS-CoV-2 prolonged infection during advanced HIV disease evolves extensive immune escape. Cell Host and Microbe, 2022, 30, 154-162.e5.	11.0	153
11	A year of genomic surveillance reveals how the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic unfolded in Africa. Science, 2021, 374, 423-431.	12.6	144
12	Cohort Profile: Hlabisa HIV Treatment and Care Programme. International Journal of Epidemiology, 2011, 40, 318-326.	1.9	132
13	Tracking the international spread of SARS-CoV-2 lineages B.1.1.7 and B.1.351/501Y-V2 with grinch. Wellcome Open Research, 2021, 6, 121.	1.8	129
14	Retention in HIV Care for Individuals Not Yet Eligible for Antiretroviral Therapy: Rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes (1999), 2011, 56, e79-e86.	2.1	122
15	Tracking the international spread of SARS-CoV-2 lineages B.1.1.7 and B.1.351/501Y-V2. Wellcome Open Research, 2021, 6, 121.	1.8	115
16	Evaluation of the impact of immediate versus WHO recommendations-guided antiretroviral therapy initiation on HIV incidence: the ANRS 12249 TasP (Treatment as Prevention) trial in Hlabisa sub-district, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa: study protocol for a cluster randomised controlled trial. Trials, 2013, 14, 230.	1.6	105
17	Scale-up of a decentralized HIV treatment programme in rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa: does rapid expansion affect patient outcomes?. Bulletin of the World Health Organization, 2010, 88, 593-600.	3.3	104
18	Omicron extensively but incompletely escapes Pfizer BNT162b2 neutralization. Nature, 0, , .	27.8	104

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19	Outcomes of laboratory-confirmed <scp>SARS-CoV-2 infection in the Omicron-driven fourth wave compared with previous waves in the Western Cape Province, South Africa. <i>Tropical Medicine and International Health</i> , 2022, 27, 564-573.	2.3	94
20	Association of Age with Mortality and Virological and Immunological Response to Antiretroviral Therapy in Rural South African Adults. <i>PLoS ONE</i> , 2011, 6, e21795.	2.5	93
21	Selection Analysis Identifies Clusters of Unusual Mutational Changes in Omicron Lineage BA.1 That Likely Impact Spike Function. <i>Molecular Biology and Evolution</i> , 2022, 39, .	8.9	84
22	Dolutegravir for first-line antiretroviral therapy in low-income and middle-income countries: uncertainties and opportunities for implementation and research. <i>Lancet HIV</i> , 2018, 5, e400-e404.	4.7	75
23	Cost-effectiveness of public health strategies for COVID-19 epidemic control in South Africa: a microsimulation modelling study. <i>The Lancet Global Health</i> , 2021, 9, e120-e129.	6.3	71
24	Short Course for Focused Assessment with Sonography for Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Tuberculosis: Preliminary Results in a Rural Setting in South Africa with High Prevalence of Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Tuberculosis. <i>American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene</i> , 2010, 82, 512-515.	1.4	67
25	Omicron infection enhances Delta antibody immunity in vaccinated persons. <i>Nature</i> , 2022, 607, 356-359.	27.8	66
26	Whole Genome Sequencing of SARS-CoV-2: Adapting Illumina Protocols for Quick and Accurate Outbreak Investigation during a Pandemic. <i>Genes</i> , 2020, 11, 949.	2.4	65
27	Early transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in South Africa: An epidemiological and phylogenetic report. <i>International Journal of Infectious Diseases</i> , 2021, 103, 234-241.	3.3	63
28	Rapid epidemic expansion of the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant in southern Africa. <i>Nature</i> , 0, , .	27.8	61
29	Reduced efficacy of HIV-1 integrase inhibitors in patients with drug resistance mutations in reverse transcriptase. <i>Nature Communications</i> , 2020, 11, 5922.	12.8	55
30	Are subtype differences important in HIV drug resistance?. <i>Current Opinion in Virology</i> , 2012, 2, 636-643.	5.4	54
31	Current Affairs of Microbial Genome-Wide Association Studies: Approaches, Bottlenecks and Analytical Pitfalls. <i>Frontiers in Microbiology</i> , 2019, 10, 3119.	3.5	54
32	Trends in Pretreatment HIV-1 Drug Resistance in Antiretroviral Therapy-naïve Adults in South Africa, 2000-2016: A Pooled Sequence Analysis. <i>EClinicalMedicine</i> , 2019, 9, 26-34.	7.1	51
33	High-Levels of Acquired Drug Resistance in Adult Patients Failing First-Line Antiretroviral Therapy in a Rural HIV Treatment Programme in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. <i>PLoS ONE</i> , 2013, 8, e72152.	2.5	51
34	Abdominal tuberculosis: sonographic diagnosis and treatment response in HIV-positive adults in rural South Africa. <i>International Journal of Infectious Diseases</i> , 2010, 14, e108-e112.	3.3	50
35	Mortality Among Adults Transferred and Lost to Follow-up From Antiretroviral Therapy Programmes in South Africa. <i>Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes (1999)</i> , 2014, 67, e67-e75.	2.1	47
36	The tuberculosis challenge in a rural South African HIV programme. <i>BMC Infectious Diseases</i> , 2010, 10, 23.	2.9	44

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37	Poor long-term outcomes for cryptococcal meningitis in rural South Africa. South African Medical Journal, 2011, 101, 251.	0.6	40
38	Disengagement from care in a decentralised primary health care antiretroviral treatment programme: cohort study in rural South Africa. Tropical Medicine and International Health, 2013, 18, 934-941.	2.3	38
39	Impact of Point-of-Care Xpert MTB/RIF on Tuberculosis Treatment Initiation. A Cluster-randomized Trial. American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, 2017, 196, 901-910.	5.6	37
40	Reduction in Early Mortality on Antiretroviral Therapy for Adults in Rural South Africa Since Change in CD4+ Cell Count Eligibility Criteria. Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes (1999), 2014, 65, e17-e24.	2.1	35
41	Africa: tackle HIV and COVID-19 together. Nature, 2021, 600, 33-36.	27.8	35
42	Increasing HIV-1 Drug Resistance Between 2010 and 2012 in Adults Participating in Population-Based HIV Surveillance in Rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. AIDS Research and Human Retroviruses, 2016, 32, 763-769.	1.1	32
43	Clinical outcomes and cost-effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination in South Africa. Nature Communications, 2021, 12, 6238.	12.8	31
44	Transmission dynamics of SARS-CoV-2 within-host diversity in two major hospital outbreaks in South Africa. Virus Evolution, 2021, 7, veab041.	4.9	30
45	Immunogenicity of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) Infection and Ad26.CoV2.S Vaccination in People Living With Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Clinical Infectious Diseases, 2022, 75, e857-e864.	5.8	30
46	Tuberculosis Pericarditis with Cardiac Tamponade: Management in the Resource-Limited Setting. American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, 2010, 83, 1311-1314.	1.4	28
47	HIV status alters disease severity and immune cell responses in Beta variant SARS-CoV-2 infection wave. ELife, 2021, 10, .	6.0	28
48	Implementing HIV-1 genotypic resistance testing in antiretroviral therapy programs in Africa: needs, opportunities, and challenges. AIDS Reviews, 2013, 15, 221-9.	1.0	28
49	Emergence and phenotypic characterization of the global SARS-CoV-2 C.1.2 lineage. Nature Communications, 2022, 13, 1976.	12.8	27
50	Treatment of Cryptococcal Meningitis in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. PLoS ONE, 2010, 5, e8630.	2.5	24
51	Renal impairment in a rural African antiretroviral programme. BMC Infectious Diseases, 2009, 9, 143.	2.9	23
52	Human resources needs for universal access to antiretroviral therapy in South Africa: a time and motion study. Human Resources for Health, 2012, 10, 39.	3.1	23
53	International Spread of MDR TB from Tugela Ferry, South Africa. Emerging Infectious Diseases, 2011, 17, 2035-7.	4.3	22
54	Assessing the clinical severity of the Omicron variant in the Western Cape Province, South Africa, using the diagnostic PCR proxy marker of RdRp target delay to distinguish between Omicron and Delta infections – a survival analysis. International Journal of Infectious Diseases, 2022, 118, 150-154.	3.3	22

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55	Evaluation of Tuberculosis Diagnostics: Establishing an Evidence Base Around the Public Health Impact. <i>Journal of Infectious Diseases</i> , 2011, 204, S1187-S1195.	4.0	21
56	Moderate-to-High Levels of Pretreatment HIV Drug Resistance in KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa. <i>AIDS Research and Human Retroviruses</i> , 2019, 35, 129-138.	1.1	21
57	Drug resistance in children at virological failure in a rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, cohort. <i>AIDS Research and Therapy</i> , 2014, 11, 3.	1.7	20
58	Comparison of SARS-CoV-2 sequencing using the ONT GridION and the Illumina MiSeq. <i>BMC Genomics</i> , 2022, 23, 319.	2.8	19
59	High uptake of HIV testing for tuberculosis patients in an integrated primary health care HIV/TB programme in rural KwaZulu-Natal. <i>South African Medical Journal</i> , 2010, 100, 146.	0.6	17
60	Understanding Specific Contexts of Antiretroviral Therapy Adherence in Rural South Africa: A Thematic Analysis of Digital Stories from a Community with High HIV Prevalence. <i>PLoS ONE</i> , 2016, 11, e0148801.	2.5	17
61	Implementing antiretroviral resistance testing in a primary health care HIV treatment programme in rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa: early experiences, achievements and challenges. <i>BMC Health Services Research</i> , 2014, 14, 116.	2.2	15
62	HIV treatment cascade in tuberculosis patients. <i>Current Opinion in HIV and AIDS</i> , 2015, 10, 439-446.	3.8	14
63	Whole genome sequencing for drug-resistant tuberculosis management in South Africa: What gaps would this address and what are the challenges to implementation?. <i>Journal of Clinical Tuberculosis and Other Mycobacterial Diseases</i> , 2019, 16, 100115.	1.3	13
64	Spatial clustering of drug-resistant tuberculosis in Hlabisa subdistrict, KwaZulu-Natal, 2011â€“2015. <i>International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease</i> , 2018, 22, 287-293.	1.2	12
65	HIV drug resistance in sub-Saharan Africa: public health questions and the potential role of real-world data and mathematical modelling. <i>Journal of Virus Eradication</i> , 2018, 4, 55-58.	0.5	12
66	High dose oral rifampicin to improve survival from adult tuberculous meningitis: A randomised placebo-controlled double-blinded phase III trial (the HARVEST study). <i>Wellcome Open Research</i> , 2019, 4, 190.	1.8	11
67	Time to eligibility for antiretroviral therapy in adults with <sc>CD</sc>4 cell countâ€%>â€%500 cells/1/4L in rural <sc>K</sc>wa<sc>Z</sc>uluâ€<sc>N</sc>atal, <sc>S</sc>outh <sc>A</sc>frica. <i>HIV Medicine</i> , 2015, 16, 512-518.	2.2	10
68	HIV and hepatitis B co-infection in Africa. <i>Lancet Infectious Diseases</i> , The, 2008, 8, 210-211.	9.1	9
69	Space-time clustering of recently-diagnosed tuberculosis and impact of ART scale-up: Evidence from an HIV hyper-endemic rural South African population. <i>Scientific Reports</i> , 2019, 9, 10724.	3.3	9
70	The effect of interventions on the transmission and spread of HIV in South Africa: a phylodynamic analysis. <i>Scientific Reports</i> , 2019, 9, 2640.	3.3	9
71	Impact of pretreatment low-abundance HIV-1 drug-resistant variants on virological failure among HIV-1/TB-co-infected individuals. <i>Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy</i> , 2020, 75, 3319-3326.	3.0	9
72	Protocol for a randomised feasibility study of Point-Of-care HIV viral load testing to Enhance Re-suppression in South Africa: the POWER study. <i>BMJ Open</i> , 2021, 11, e045373.	1.9	9

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73	Collective patient behaviours derailing ART roll-out in KwaZulu-Natal: perspectives of health care providers. <i>AIDS Research and Therapy</i> , 2013, 10, 20.	1.7	8
74	Fly caught in foreskin: an usual case of preputial myiasis. <i>Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons of England</i> , 2008, 90, 7-8.	0.6	8
75	A malaria outbreak following a British military deployment to Sierra Leone. <i>Journal of Infection</i> , 2004, 48, 209-210.	3.3	7
76	Effect of the HIV epidemic on liver cancer in Africa. <i>Lancet</i> , The, 2008, 371, 1504.	13.7	7
77	Southern African Treatment Resistance Network (SATuRN) RegaDB HIV drug resistance and clinical management database: supporting patient management, surveillance and research in southern Africa. Database: the <i>Journal of Biological Databases and Curation</i> , 2014, 2014, bat082-bat082.	3.0	7
78	Temporal trends of population viral suppression in the context of Universal Test and Treat: the ANRS 12249 TasP trial in rural South Africa. <i>Journal of the International AIDS Society</i> , 2019, 22, e25402.	3.0	7
79	Exploring the promise and reality of ward-based primary healthcare outreach teams conducting TB household contact tracing in three districts of South Africa. <i>PLoS ONE</i> , 2021, 16, e0256033.	2.5	7
80	Tuberculosis mortality and the male survival deficit in rural South Africa: An observational community cohort study. <i>PLoS ONE</i> , 2017, 12, e0185692.	2.5	7
81	Simplifying TREATment and Monitoring for HIV (STREAM HIV): protocol for a randomised controlled trial of point-of-care urine tenofovir and viral load testing to improve HIV outcomes. <i>BMJ Open</i> , 2021, 11, e050116.	1.9	7
82	Prevalence and Risk Factors for <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> Infection Among Adolescents in Rural South Africa. <i>Open Forum Infectious Diseases</i> , 2021, 8, ofaa520.	0.9	7
83	Targeted Sanger sequencing to recover key mutations in SARS-CoV-2 variant genome assemblies produced by next-generation sequencing. <i>Microbial Genomics</i> , 2022, 8, .	2.0	7
84	Impact of a novel molecular TB diagnostic system in patients at high risk of TB mortality in rural South Africa (Uchwepheshe): study protocol for a cluster randomised trial. <i>Trials</i> , 2013, 14, 170.	1.6	6
85	High dose oral rifampicin to improve survival from adult tuberculous meningitis: A randomised placebo-controlled double-blinded phase III trial (the HARVEST study). <i>Wellcome Open Research</i> , 2019, 4, 190.	1.8	6
86	HIV-1 drug resistance in adults and adolescents on protease inhibitor-based antiretroviral therapy in KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa. <i>Journal of Global Antimicrobial Resistance</i> , 2022, 29, 468-475.	2.2	6
87	Adherence Measured Using Electronic Dose Monitoring is Associated with Emergent Antiretroviral Resistance and Poor Outcomes in People with Human Immunodeficiency Virus/AIDS and Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis. <i>Clinical Infectious Diseases</i> , 2022, 75, 1489-1496.	5.8	6
88	SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern: the knowns and unknowns. <i>Anaesthesia, Critical Care & Pain Medicine</i> , 2021, 40, 100868.	1.4	5
89	Implementation of an efficient SARS-CoV-2 specimen pooling strategy for high throughput diagnostic testing. <i>Scientific Reports</i> , 2021, 11, 17793.	3.3	5
90	Neurocognitive functioning in MDR-TB patients with and without HIV in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. <i>Tropical Medicine and International Health</i> , 2020, 25, 919-927.	2.3	4

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91	Individualized Treatment of Multidrug-resistant Tuberculosis Using Whole-Genome Sequencing and Expanded Drug-Susceptibility Testing. <i>Clinical Infectious Diseases</i> , 2020, 71, 2981-2985.	5.8	3
92	Toward Simpler, Safer Treatment of Cryptococcal Meningitis. <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i> , 2022, 386, 1179-1181.	27.0	3
93	Emtricitabine-induced pure red cell aplasia. <i>Southern African Journal of HIV Medicine</i> , 2019, 20, 983.	0.9	2
94	Acquired HIV drug resistance and virologic monitoring in a HIV hyper-endemic setting in KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa. <i>AIDS Research and Therapy</i> , 2021, 18, 74.	1.7	2
95	HIV assessment and testing for hospital in-patients: still a weak link in the cascade. <i>Public Health Action</i> , 2017, 7, 243-243.	1.2	1
96	Using the Emanuel Framework to Explore the Ethical Issues Raised in a Participatory Visual Research Project in Rural South Africa. <i>Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics</i> , 2021, 16, 3-14.	1.3	1
97	Delaminid for multidrug-resistant pulmonary tuberculosis. <i>Thorax</i> , 2013, 68, 730-730.	5.6	0