

# Richard J Lessells

## List of Publications by Citations

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113  
papers

4,729  
citations

32  
h-index

67  
g-index

127  
ext. papers

8,176  
ext. citations

11.6  
avg, IF

5.51  
L-index

#	Paper	IF	Citations
113	Detection of a SARS-CoV-2 variant of concern in South Africa. <i>Nature</i> , <b>2021</b> , 592, 438-443	50.4	685
112	Emergence and rapid spread of a new severe acute respiratory syndrome-related coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) lineage with multiple spike mutations in South Africa		446
111	Escape of SARS-CoV-2 501Y.V2 from neutralization by convalescent plasma. <i>Nature</i> , <b>2021</b> , 593, 142-146	50.4	344
110	Omicron extensively but incompletely escapes Pfizer BNT162b2 neutralization.. <i>Nature</i> , <b>2021</b> ,	50.4	209
109	Sixteen novel lineages of SARS-CoV-2 in South Africa. <i>Nature Medicine</i> , <b>2021</b> , 27, 440-446	50.5	206
108	Rapid epidemic expansion of the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant in southern Africa.. <i>Nature</i> , <b>2022</b> ,	50.4	205
107	Gender differences in survival among adult patients starting antiretroviral therapy in South Africa: a multicentre cohort study. <i>PLoS Medicine</i> , <b>2012</b> , 9, e1001304	11.6	166
106	Universal test and treat and the HIV epidemic in rural South Africa: a phase 4, open-label, community cluster randomised trial. <i>Lancet HIV,the</i> , <b>2018</b> , 5, e116-e125	7.8	140
105	SARS-CoV-2 Omicron has extensive but incomplete escape of Pfizer BNT162b2 elicited neutralization and requires ACE2 for infection. <b>2021</b> ,		130
104	Cohort profile: Hlabisa HIV treatment and care programme. <i>International Journal of Epidemiology</i> , <b>2011</b> , 40, 318-26	7.8	123
103	Retention in HIV care for individuals not yet eligible for antiretroviral therapy: rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. <i>Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes (1999)</i> , <b>2011</b> , 56, e79-86	3.1	110
102	Scale-up of a decentralized HIV treatment programme in rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa: does rapid expansion affect patient outcomes?. <i>Bulletin of the World Health Organization</i> , <b>2010</b> , 88, 593-600	8.2	95
101	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. <i>Trials</i> , <b>2013</b> , 14, 230	2.8	93
100	Association of age with mortality and virological and immunological response to antiretroviral therapy in rural South African adults. <i>PLoS ONE</i> , <b>2011</b> , 6, e21795	3.7	85
99	Escape of SARS-CoV-2 501Y.V2 from neutralization by convalescent plasma		71
98	The emergence and ongoing convergent evolution of the SARS-CoV-2 N501Y lineages. <i>Cell</i> , <b>2021</b> , 184, 5189-5200.e7	56.2	61
97	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> , <b>2010</b> , 82, 512-5	3.2	53

96	Tracking the international spread of SARS-CoV-2 lineages B.1.1.7 and B.1.351/501Y-V2 with grinch. <i>Wellcome Open Research</i> , <b>2021</b> , 6, 121	4.8	50
95	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> , <b>2013</b> , 8, e72152	3.7	48
94	The emergence and ongoing convergent evolution of the N501Y lineages coincides with a major global shift in the SARS-CoV-2 selective landscape <b>2021</b> ,		46
93	Tracking the international spread of SARS-CoV-2 lineages B.1.1.7 and B.1.351/501Y-V2. <i>Wellcome Open Research</i> , <b>2021</b> , 6, 121	4.8	46
92	Dolutegravir for first-line antiretroviral therapy in low-income and middle-income countries: uncertainties and opportunities for implementation and research. <i>Lancet HIV,the</i> , <b>2018</b> , 5, e400-e404	7.8	44
91	Mortality among adults transferred and lost to follow-up from antiretroviral therapy programmes in South Africa: a multicenter cohort study. <i>Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes (1999)</i> , <b>2014</b> , 67, e67-75	3.1	43
90	Are subtype differences important in HIV drug resistance?. <i>Current Opinion in Virology</i> , <b>2012</b> , 2, 636-43	7.5	41
89	Whole Genome Sequencing of SARS-CoV-2: Adapting Illumina Protocols for Quick and Accurate Outbreak Investigation during a Pandemic. <i>Genes</i> , <b>2020</b> , 11,	4.2	39
88	Abdominal tuberculosis: sonographic diagnosis and treatment response in HIV-positive adults in rural South Africa. <i>International Journal of Infectious Diseases</i> , <b>2010</b> , 14 Suppl 3, e108-12	10.5	38
87	Early transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in South Africa: An epidemiological and phylogenetic report. <i>International Journal of Infectious Diseases</i> , <b>2021</b> , 103, 234-241	10.5	37
86	Poor long-term outcomes for cryptococcal meningitis in rural South Africa. <i>South African Medical Journal</i> , <b>2011</b> , 101, 251-2	1.5	36
85	A year of genomic surveillance reveals how the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic unfolded in Africa. <i>Science</i> , <b>2021</b> , 374, 423-431	33.3	35
84	Impact of Point-of-Care Xpert MTB/RIF on Tuberculosis Treatment Initiation. A Cluster-randomized Trial. <i>American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine</i> , <b>2017</b> , 196, 901-910	10.2	34
83	The tuberculosis challenge in a rural South African HIV programme. <i>BMC Infectious Diseases</i> , <b>2010</b> , 10, 23	4	34
82	Reduction in early mortality on antiretroviral therapy for adults in rural South Africa since change in CD4+ cell count eligibility criteria. <i>Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes (1999)</i> , <b>2014</b> , 65, e17-24	3.1	32
81	Disengagement from care in a decentralised primary health care antiretroviral treatment programme: cohort study in rural South Africa. <i>Tropical Medicine and International Health</i> , <b>2013</b> , 18, 934-41	2.3	32
80	Persistent SARS-CoV-2 infection and intra-host evolution in association with advanced HIV infection		32
79	Omicron extensively but incompletely escapes Pfizer BNT162b2 neutralization. <i>Nature</i> ,	50.4	31

78	Trends in Pretreatment HIV-1 Drug Resistance in Antiretroviral Therapy-naïve Adults in South Africa, 2000-2016: A Pooled Sequence Analysis. <i>EclinicalMedicine</i> , <b>2019</b> , 9, 26-34	11.3	29
77	Increasing HIV-1 Drug Resistance Between 2010 and 2012 in Adults Participating in Population-Based HIV Surveillance in Rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. <i>AIDS Research and Human Retroviruses</i> , <b>2016</b> , 32, 763-9	1.6	28
76	Implementing HIV-1 genotypic resistance testing in antiretroviral therapy programs in Africa: needs, opportunities, and challenges. <i>AIDS Reviews</i> , <b>2013</b> , 15, 221-9	1.5	26
75	Emergence and phenotypic characterization of C.1.2, a globally detected lineage that rapidly accumulated mutations of concern		23
74	Tuberculosis pericarditis with cardiac tamponade: management in the resource-limited setting. <i>American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene</i> , <b>2010</b> , 83, 1311-4	3.2	22
73	SARS-CoV-2 prolonged infection during advanced HIV disease evolves extensive immune escape.. <i>Cell Host and Microbe</i> , <b>2022</b> ,	23.4	22
72	Reduced efficacy of HIV-1 integrase inhibitors in patients with drug resistance mutations in reverse transcriptase. <i>Nature Communications</i> , <b>2020</b> , 11, 5922	17.4	22
71	Cost-effectiveness of public health strategies for COVID-19 epidemic control in South Africa: a microsimulation modelling study. <i>The Lancet Global Health</i> , <b>2021</b> , 9, e120-e129	13.6	22
70	Human resources needs for universal access to antiretroviral therapy in South Africa: a time and motion study. <i>Human Resources for Health</i> , <b>2012</b> , 10, 39	4.6	21
69	Current Affairs of Microbial Genome-Wide Association Studies: Approaches, Bottlenecks and Analytical Pitfalls. <i>Frontiers in Microbiology</i> , <b>2019</b> , 10, 3119	5.7	20
68	Treatment of cryptococcal meningitis in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. <i>PLoS ONE</i> , <b>2010</b> , 5, e8630	3.7	20
67	Renal impairment in a rural African antiretroviral programme. <i>BMC Infectious Diseases</i> , <b>2009</b> , 9, 143	4	20
66	Rapid epidemic expansion of the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant in southern Africa. <i>Nature</i> ,	50.4	20
65	Early transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in South Africa: An epidemiological and phylogenetic report <b>2020</b> ,		20
64	International spread of MDR TB from Tugela Ferry, South Africa. <i>Emerging Infectious Diseases</i> , <b>2011</b> , 17, 2035-7	10.2	19
63	Evaluation of tuberculosis diagnostics: establishing an evidence base around the public health impact. <i>Journal of Infectious Diseases</i> , <b>2011</b> , 204 Suppl 4, S1187-95	7	18
62	Drug resistance in children at virological failure in a rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, cohort. <i>AIDS Research and Therapy</i> , <b>2014</b> , 11, 3	3	17
61	A novel variant of interest of SARS-CoV-2 with multiple spike mutations detected through travel surveillance in Africa		17

60	Rapid replacement of the Beta variant by the Delta variant in South Africa		17
59	Omicron infection enhances neutralizing immunity against the Delta variant. <b>2021,</b>		15
58	High Resolution analysis of Transmission Dynamics of Sars-Cov-2 in Two Major Hospital Outbreaks in South Africa Leveraging Intra-host Diversity <b>2020,</b>		15
57	HIV status alters disease severity and immune cell responses in Δvariant SARS-CoV-2 infection wave		15
56	Moderate-to-High Levels of Pretreatment HIV Drug Resistance in KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa. <i>AIDS Research and Human Retroviruses</i> , <b>2019</b> , 35, 129-138	1.6	15
55	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> , <b>2014</b> , 14, 116	2.9	14
54	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> , <b>2010</b> , 100, 146-7	1.5	14
53	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> , <b>2016</b> , 11, e0148801	3.7	14
52	HIV treatment cascade in tuberculosis patients. <i>Current Opinion in HIV and AIDS</i> , <b>2015</b> , 10, 439-46	4.2	13
51	Rapid epidemic expansion of the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant in southern Africa		12
50	SARS-CoV-2 evolved during advanced HIV disease immunosuppression has Beta-like escape of vaccine and Delta infection elicited immunity. <b>2021,</b>		12
49	A tale of two variants: Spread of SARS-CoV-2 variants Alpha in Geneva, Switzerland, and Beta in South Africa		11
48	Selection analysis identifies clusters of unusual mutational changes in Omicron lineage BA.1 that likely impact Spike function.. <i>Molecular Biology and Evolution</i> , <b>2022,</b>	8.3	10
47	Africa: tackle HIV and COVID-19 together. <i>Nature</i> , <b>2021</b> , 600, 33-36	50.4	9
46	Time to eligibility for antiretroviral therapy in adults with CD4 cell count > 500 cells/μl in rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. <i>HIV Medicine</i> , <b>2015</b> , 16, 512-8	2.7	8
45	Selection analysis identifies unusual clustered mutational changes in Omicron lineage BA.1 that likely impact Spike function. <b>2022,</b>		8
44	HIV status alters disease severity and immune cell responses in beta variant SARS-CoV-2 infection wave. <i>ELife</i> , <b>2021</b> , 10,	8.9	8
43	Transmission dynamics of SARS-CoV-2 within-host diversity in two major hospital outbreaks in South Africa. <i>Virus Evolution</i> , <b>2021</b> , 7, veab041	3.7	8

42	Southern African Treatment Resistance Network (SATuRN) RegaDB HIV drug resistance and clinical management database: supporting patient management, surveillance and research in southern Africa. <i>Database: the Journal of Biological Databases and Curation</i> , <b>2014</b> , 2014, bat082	5	7
41	Effect of the HIV epidemic on liver cancer in Africa. <i>Lancet, The</i> , <b>2008</b> , 371, 1504	40	7
40	Spatial clustering of drug-resistant tuberculosis in Hlabisa subdistrict, KwaZulu-Natal, 2011-2015. <i>International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease</i> , <b>2018</b> , 22, 287-293	2.1	7
39	Continued Emergence and Evolution of Omicron in South Africa: New BA.4 and BA.5 lineages		7
38	Omicron sub-lineages BA.4/BA.5 escape BA.1 infection elicited neutralizing immunity		7
37	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> , <b>2019</b> , 9, 10724	4.9	6
36	Collective patient behaviours derailing ART roll-out in KwaZulu-Natal: perspectives of health care providers. <i>AIDS Research and Therapy</i> , <b>2013</b> , 10, 20	3	6
35	Fly caught in foreskin: an usual case of preputial myiasis. <i>Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons of England</i> , <b>2008</b> , 90, 7-8	1.4	6
34	Immunogenicity of SARS-CoV-2 infection and Ad26.CoV2.S vaccination in people living with HIV. <i>Clinical Infectious Diseases</i> , <b>2021</b> ,	11.6	6
33	The effect of interventions on the transmission and spread of HIV in South Africa: a phylodynamic analysis. <i>Scientific Reports</i> , <b>2019</b> , 9, 2640	4.9	5
32	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> , <b>2013</b> , 14, 170	2.8	5
31	HIV and hepatitis B co-infection in Africa. <i>Lancet Infectious Diseases, The</i> , <b>2008</b> , 8, 210-1	25.5	5
30	A malaria outbreak following a British military deployment to Sierra Leone. <i>Journal of Infection</i> , <b>2004</b> , 48, 209-10	18.9	5
29	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> , <b>2019</b> , 4, 190	4.8	5
28	Tuberculosis mortality and the male survival deficit in rural South Africa: An observational community cohort study. <i>PLoS ONE</i> , <b>2017</b> , 12, e0185692	3.7	5
27	Genomic epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2 in Mauritius reveals a new wave of infections dominated by the B.1.1.318, a variant under investigation		5
26	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> , <b>2019</b> , 16, 100115	2.1	4
25	Clinical outcomes and cost-effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination in South Africa. <i>Nature Communications</i> , <b>2021</b> , 12, 6238	17.4	4

24	Cost-effectiveness of public health strategies for COVID-19 epidemic control in South Africa: a microsimulation modelling study <b>2020</b> ,		4
23	SARS-CoV-2 Genetic diversity and lineage dynamics of in Egypt		3
22	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> , <b>2019</b> , 22, e25402	5.4	3
21	Emergence and phenotypic characterization of the global SARS-CoV-2 C.1.2 lineage.. <i>Nature Communications</i> , <b>2022</b> , 13, 1976	17.4	3
20	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.. <i>International Journal of Infectious Diseases</i> , <b>2022</b> ,	10.5	3
19	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> , <b>2019</b> , 4, 190	4.8	2
18	NEBnext library construction and sequencing for SARS-CoV-2: Adapting COVID-19 ARTIC protocol v1		2
17	Emtricitabine-induced pure red cell aplasia. <i>Southern African Journal of HIV Medicine</i> , <b>2019</b> , 20, 983	1.4	2
16	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> , <b>2020</b> , 75, 3319-3326	5.1	2
15	Implementation of an efficient SARS-CoV-2 specimen pooling strategy for high throughput diagnostic testing. <i>Scientific Reports</i> , <b>2021</b> , 11, 17793	4.9	2
14	Outcomes of laboratory-confirmed 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> , <b>2022</b> ,	2.3	2
13	Comparison of SARS-CoV-2 sequencing using the ONT GridION and the Illumina MiSeq.. <i>BMC Genomics</i> , <b>2022</b> , 23, 319	4.5	2
12	Individualized Treatment of Multidrug-resistant Tuberculosis Using Whole-Genome Sequencing and Expanded Drug-Susceptibility Testing. <i>Clinical Infectious Diseases</i> , <b>2020</b> , 71, 2981-2985	11.6	1
11	Neurocognitive functioning in MDR-TB patients with and without HIV in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. <i>Tropical Medicine and International Health</i> , <b>2020</b> , 25, 919-927	2.3	1
10	Prevalence and Risk Factors for Infection Among Adolescents in Rural South Africa. <i>Open Forum Infectious Diseases</i> , <b>2021</b> , 8, ofaa520	1	1
9	HIV-1 drug resistance in adults and adolescents on protease inhibitor-based antiretroviral treatment in KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa. <i>Journal of Global Antimicrobial Resistance</i> , <b>2021</b> ,	3.4	1
8	Immunogenicity of SARS-CoV-2 infection and Ad26.CoV2.S vaccination in people living with HIV		1
7	Clinical outcomes and cost-effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination in South Africa <b>2021</b> ,		1

6	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> , <b>2021</b> , 18, 74	3	o
5	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> , <b>2021</b> , 11, e050116	3	o
4	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> , <b>2021</b> , 11, e045373	3	o
3	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> , <b>2021</b> , 16, 3-14	1.6	o
2	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> , <b>2021</b> , 16, e0256033	3.7	o
1	Rapid Point-of-Care Diagnostic Tests for Tuberculosis <b>2019</b> , 105-125		