

HIV VACCINES LEARNER'S HANDBOOK

MASIKHULISANE, SAAVI COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMME

HIV Vaccines Learner's Handbook

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Editors: Patricia Southwood, Barbara Hutton.

PO Box 19070, Tygerberg 7505, South Africa
Tel: +27 (0) 21 938-0911, Fax: +27 (0) 21 938-0823
www.saavi.org.za

Disclaimer

This *Learner's Handbook* aims to provide users with information to better understand the process of HIV vaccine research and development, and related ethical, legal and human rights and community involvement issues. It is not provided as medical or professional advice or intended to be used to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease. Persons who have, or suspect that they have, a health-related problem should consult a suitable health care provider.

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Who is Masikhulisane?

Masikhulisane is SAVI's Community Involvement Programme, our name meaning 'Let's grow together'. *Masikhulisane* was formed in 2004 after receiving further funding from the European Commission (EC) to continue the work that began with the South African HIV Vaccine Action Campaign (SA HIVAC). SA HIVAC began when the MRC received funding from the EC for its activities in 2000.

Masikhulisane's Vision is to see: A South African society working in a mutually beneficial and meaningful partnership with researchers in a vibrant human and legal rights environment.

Our Mission is: To create a sustainable, accountable learning organisation founded on a human rights ethos; and to ensure an informed and educated South African society with strengthened, active and sustained community involvement in the HIV vaccine-development process (this includes the research, development and testing of HIV vaccines).

To achieve our Mission, we focus on the following activities:

- awareness raising and education about HIV vaccines in different sectors of South African society;
- providing a toll-free HIV Vaccine Info-Line;
- research and capacity development in community involvement, and human rights, legal and ethical issues related to HIV vaccines; and
- facilitating collaborative activities to encourage knowledge-exchange between national, regional and international role-players involved in the HIV vaccine-development process.

Masikhulisane sees community involvement as an ongoing, long-term engagement with communities through consultation and dialogue about all parts of the HIV vaccine-development process. Here community involvement includes 'community preparedness' which is seen as the preparation of a community around a trial site where an HIV vaccine will be tested.

Currently *Masikhulisane* is headed by a Programme Manager, who manages a team of staff including a Programme Administrator, several Community Educators across the Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng, a Materials Developer, and a Human Rights, Legal and Ethics Advisor. *Masikhulisane* is SAVI's Community Involvement Programme. It is located in, and is part of, the South African Medical Research Council (MRC).

Contact details for Masikhulisane:

+ 27 (0) 21 938-0552

SAVI Info-Line:
080 822 2463

www.saavi.org.za

AUTHORS AND CONTRIBUTORS TO THE HIV VACCINES FACILITATOR'S MANUAL

Modules 2-7 of the *HIV Vaccines Facilitator's Manual* were used as a basis for the *HIV Vaccines Learner's Handbook*. The contributing authors and contributors to the *Manual* include:

Module 2 *Contributing authors:* Dr Ashraf Grimwood, Mary Crewe, Brenton Maart, Patricia Southwood.

Useful comments and additions: Dr Keren Middelkoop, Nadine Nannan, Dr Tim Tucker, team members of *Masikhulisane*, and the Community Advisory Group (CAG) and Community Outreach teams from the following HIV vaccine trial sites: Africa Centre, Klerksdorp, Orkney, Stilfontein and Hartebeesfontein (KOSH), Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital (Soweto), MRC Durban, MEDUNSA, Masiphumelele and Nyanga.

Module 3 *Contributing authors:* André Croucamp, Dr Eftyhia Vardas, Dr Ashraf Grimwood.

Useful comments and additions: Dr Carol Metcalf, Dr Keren Middelkoop, Dr Tim Tucker, Dr Heather Jaspen, Mrs Matilda Mogale, team members of *Masikhulisane*, and the Community Advisory Group (CAG) and Community Outreach teams from the following HIV vaccine trial sites: Africa Centre, Klerksdorp, Orkney, Stilfontein and Hartebeesfontein (KOSH), Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital (Soweto), MRC Durban, MEDUNSA, Masiphumelele and Nyanga.

Module 4 *Contributing authors:* André Croucamp, Dr Eftyhia Vardas, Dr Ashraf Grimwood.

Useful comments and additions: Dr Carol Metcalf, Dr Keren Middelkoop, Dr Tim Tucker, Dr Heather Jaspen, Mrs Matilda Mogale, team members of *Masikhulisane*, and the Community Advisory Group (CAG) and Community Outreach teams from the following HIV vaccine trial sites: Africa Centre, Klerksdorp, Orkney, Stilfontein and Hartebeesfontein (KOSH), Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital (Soweto), MRC Durban, MEDUNSA, Masiphumelele and Nyanga.

Module 5 *Contributing authors:* Cathy Slack of the HIV/AIDS Vaccines Ethics Group (HAVEG).

Useful comments and additions: Melissa Stobie, team members of *Masikhulisane*, and the Community Advisory Group (CAG) and Community Outreach teams from the following HIV vaccine trial sites: Africa Centre, Klerksdorp, Orkney, Stilfontein and Hartebeesfontein (KOSH), Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital (Soweto), MRC Durban, MEDUNSA, Masiphumelele and Nyanga.

Module 6 *Contributing author:* Thomas Smit

Useful comments and additions: HAVEG, Ncumisa Nongogo, Pierre de Vos, team members of *Masikhulisane*, and the Community Advisory Group (CAG) and Community Outreach teams from the following HIV vaccine trial sites: Africa Centre, Klerksdorp, Orkney, Stilfontein and Hartebeesfontein (KOSH), Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital (Soweto), MRC Durban, MEDUNSA, Masiphumelele and Nyanga.

Module 7 *Contributing authors:* André Croucamp, Nolwazi Gasa, Elise Levendal, Barbara Hutton.

Useful comments and additions: Team members of *Masikhulisane*, and the Community Advisory Group (CAG) and Community Outreach teams from the following HIV vaccine trial sites: Africa Centre, Klerksdorp, Orkney, Stilfontein and Hartebeesfontein (KOSH), Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital (Soweto), MRC Durban, MEDUNSA, Masiphumelele and Nyanga.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF THE *HIV VACCINES FACILITATOR'S MANUAL*

Mary Crewe is an educationalist, and founder and Director of the Centre for the Study of AIDS (CSA) at the University of Pretoria. She has many years experience working in the field of HIV and AIDS.

André Croucamp is a freelance writer, facilitator and educational media developer, who has helped pioneer several different approaches to HIV and AIDS education.

Dr Ashraf Grimwood is Executive Director of Absolute Return for Kids (ARK), South Africa. ARK aims to transform the lives of children who are victims of abuse, disability, illness and poverty. In South Africa this includes a focus on AIDS treatment. Ashraf was previously Deputy Director of SAAVI and Manager of the SAAVI Community Preparedness Programme (now *Masikhulisane*).

Nolwazi Gasa is a Health Specialist at the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA). She has experience in research design and implementation, programme management, and community mobilisation which includes experience working with Community Advisory Groups (CAGs). Nolwazi was previously Project Manager at the CSA.

Robin Hamilton is a clinical psychologist, as well as an editor and writer who has been involved in developing HIV and AIDS training materials. He is currently Project Manager: Psychology Services for the Aurum Health Institute.

Elise Levendal is a registered chief professional nurse with a special interest in health education. Elise is currently Interim SAAVI Director, and Programme Manager of *Masikhulisane*. She was previously Executive Director of the Progressive Primary Health Care (PPHC) Centre for Learning.

Brenton Maart is a writer and artist, and previously worked as Education Specialist for the Centre for the Study of AIDS (CSA). Brenton was responsible for managing the original development of the *HIV Vaccines Facilitator's Manual*.

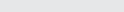
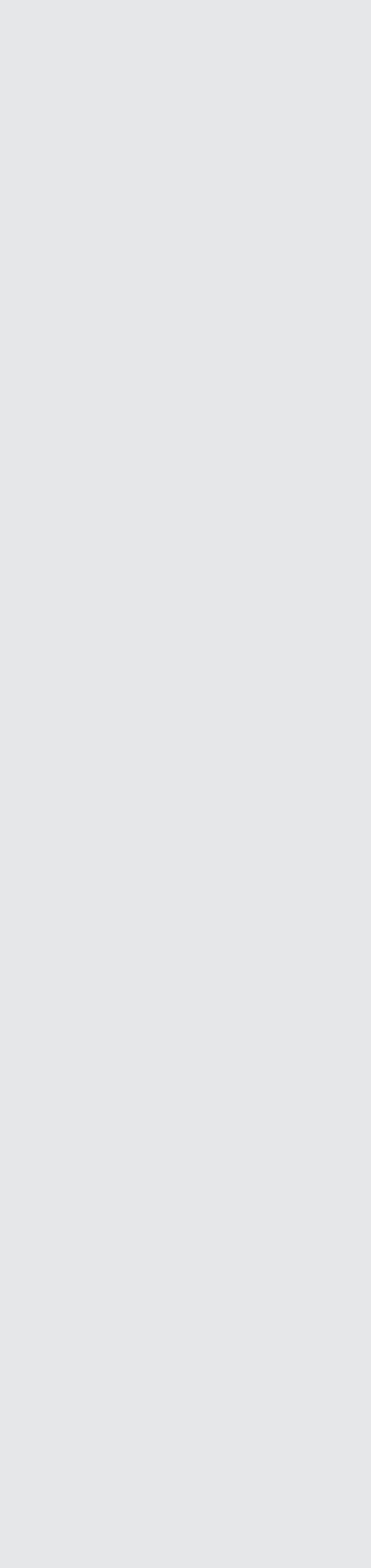
Cathy Slack is a clinical psychologist and Project Co-ordinator for the HIV/AIDS Vaccines Ethics Group (HAVEG), based at the School of Psychology, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg.

Thomas Smit is the Legal, Human Rights and Ethics Advisor for *Masikhulisane*. He was previously Vaccines Project Co-ordinator for the AIDS Legal Network (ALN), and has worked for Lawyers for Human Rights, the ANC and transitional organisations including the Constitutional Assembly.

Patricia Southwood is a writer and editor, and currently Materials Developer for *Masikhulisane*. She has several years experience in developing health care communication materials and has been involved in, and was responsible for managing the writing, editing and final production of the *HIV Vaccines Facilitator's Manual* and the *Learner Handbook*.

Dr Eftyhia Vardas is a doctor and clinical virologist and is currently Director of the HIV/AIDS Vaccine Division of the Perinatal HIV Research Unit (PHRU) of the University of Witwatersrand.

Barbara Hutton is a writer and editor who specialises in developing materials for adults who are second-language English learners. She is currently working at ABE Development Services Trust and was responsible for rewriting the content of the *HIV Vaccines Facilitator's Manual and the Learner's Handbook* in plain English.



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