



The Burden of HIV/AIDS & TB in KZN

In May 2004, the South African government began providing anti-retroviral (ARV) therapy to HIV patients through the public sector. **The availability of treatment has made it essential to identify and promote optimal strategies for delivery of HIV care**, especially among impoverished patients who have little access to sophisticated medical services and supervision.

Multiple challenges exist that threaten the success of the ARV program, particularly in **KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), which bears the greatest burden of HIV-infected persons in the country** and has one of the highest rate of HIV-TB co-infections in the world.

South Africa currently delivers HIV & TB care though two independent treatment programs, as is the case in most countries in resource constrained settings, which limits integration of care for the HIV-TB co-infected patient. Additionally, **KZN has a TB treatment program that faces enormous challenges, with one of the lowest rates of TB treatment completion and cure.**

In addition to optimizing systems for delivery of HIV/AIDS & TB care, there is an urgent need to develop a comprehensive campaign to educate and involve the community in efforts to decrease HIV stigma, ensure accurate information about ARV treatment, address perceived conflicts between western and traditional medicine/beliefs, and create community-driven treatment support, **all of which are critical in ensuring success in the fight against HIV/AIDS and TB.**

Our Mission

To provide a comprehensive intervention to support and improve delivery of HIV & TB care within the Public Health Sector in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

“The world has made defeating AIDS a top priority. This is a blessing. But TB remains ignored. Today we are calling on the world to recognize that we can't fight AIDS unless we do much more to fight TB as well.”

- Nelson Mandela, World AIDS Conference, Bangkok, Thailand 2004

Aims of iTEACH

- 1. Provide integrated HIV-TB Education & Training**
 - To Health Care Providers (hospital & clinic in-service)
 - To Patients infected/affected by HIV/AIDS and TB
- 2. Assist with improvement of healthcare delivery systems**
 - Hospital level in-patient care
 - Clinic level out-patient care
 - Hospital & Clinic interface (referral & communication)
- 3. Implement Community Awareness/Mobilization Campaign**
 - NGOs, FBOs, CBOs, traditional healers, activist groups
 - Community level workshops & media campaigns
- 4. Support the Medicine Housestaff Training Programme**
 - Training support (clinical journals, texts, online conferencing)
 - Host Visiting International Medical Specialists
 - Host visiting medicine residents from Mass General Hospital

Why Edendale Hospital?



Edendale was chosen because it **is** burdened with all of the challenges of a KZN government hospital. Serving as the referral centre for over 1 million persons, its catchment is spread over a vast geographic area of both peri-urban and rural settings. The hospital wards are overfilled with patients in end stage AIDS, many of whom are co-infected with TB. Patients, most living in extreme poverty, must travel significant distances to receive care. Achieving success in this setting, may serve as a model for other resource-limited sites in KwaZulu-Natal and South Africa.



At only 6-months of operation, it has become clear that Edendale was an excellent choice for iTEACH. A central reason is Dr Douglas Wilson, who as HOD of Medicine, is 100% committed to improving patient care within the hospital & catchment. Not only an advocate of iTEACH's work, Dr. Wilson plays an integral part as an outstanding clinician-educator for the MGH resident exchange program and as an experienced HIV & TB clinical researcher.

How is iTEACH funded?

iTEACH is sponsored by Mass General Hospital, & Partners AIDS Research Centre, USA.



PRIMARY FUNDING

- Witten Family Foundation, USA. (private philanthropy)

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

- Harvard University Program on AIDS (HUPA)
- Mark & Lisa Schwartz (International Scholar Fund & donations)
- Alan Eisenberg (philanthropic donation)

Meet the iTEACH Core Team



Krista Dong

iTEACH Programme Director

An Infectious Diseases & HIV specialist from the states, Dr Dong first came to South Africa in 2000. After founding the *iThemba* HIV clinic in Durban, she was a member of the Advisory Committee to the SA National ARV Task Team during the 2003 drafting of the SA National ARV Guidelines. In 2004, she was part of KZN training team prior to the KZN ARV launch.



Zinhle Thabethe

iTEACH Educ & Training Coordinator

Zinhle has worked in HIV/AIDS since 2002, building her expertise in ARV adherence at the *iThemba* Clinic. Prior to the ARV rollout in 2004, she & Dr Dong provided HIV/AIDS training throughout KZN & the Free State. As a member of the Sinikithemba choir, Zinhle has spoken widely on HIV, including several events in the states & at International HIV Congresses.



Thobe Mchunu

iTEACH Clinical Operations Coordinator

Thobe joined the iTEACH team from Durban, where she worked at the UKZN & MGH linked paediatric HIV research study (PEHSS). She brought additional HIV/AIDS expertise from her prior work with the *iThemba* HIV Clinic, where she was in charge of clinic operations including patient scheduling, default tracing & data management.



Gugu Mofokeng

iTEACH Office Manager

After working at the KZN ARV Adherence Support Programme (ASP), Gugu brought her administrative experience back to her hometown of PMB and iTEACH. Gugu gained her initial business experience in the private sector at *Black Management Forum* (BMF).



Tina Wallengren

iTEACH Data Analyst Clinical Investigator

A molecular biologist and epidemiologist, Tina joins us from the Harvard School of Public Health, where her research focuses on TB and susceptibility factors – such as iron storage in the body. She is also working toward setting up a computer data base in CDC.



Matanja Coetzee

Edendale Medicine Housestaff Coordinator & PA to Dr. Wilson

In her role assisting the HOD of Medicine & helping to organize the Housestaff Training Programme, including the visiting residents from MGH, Matanja plays a very important role on the iTEACH team ... making Dr Wilson's work & our collaboration more efficient!