New developments in the prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV

Presented by Professor Stanley Luchters, Principal for Sexual and Reproductive Health, Burnet Institute

When: 11.00 am – 12.00 pm, Monday 1st October 2012
Where: Room 302, Level 3, 207 Bouverie Street, Carlton

In high-burden countries, HIV is a significant cause of maternal death, accounting for 9% of deaths of pregnant women in sub-Saharan Africa (42.5% in South Africa) and substantially hindering progress towards reducing maternal mortality. HIV infection during pregnancy also contributes to poor perinatal outcomes including pre-term birth and low birth weight. Access and timely initiation of antiretroviral interventions are the principal determinants of HIV infection of infants and HIV-related maternal deaths. In 2010 an estimated 1.49 million women living with HIV were pregnant, but only 48% received appropriate antiretroviral interventions either for their own health, or to prevent maternal-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV. This presentation will outline new developments in the prevention of MTCT and of HIV-related maternal deaths.

Professor Stanley Luchters is Principal for Sexual and Reproductive Health at the Burnet Institute and Acting-Head of the Centre for International Health. He holds visiting professorial appointments at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Ghent University, Belgium, the School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa and is Associate Professor at the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University. For over 10 years he has worked in varying low-income countries particularly in sub-Saharan Africa (Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, and Malawi) with a focus on sexual and reproductive health. He has been the Principal Investigator of 16 clinical research studies ranging from single site epidemiological studies to international multi-centre clinical intervention trials following international ICH-GCP guidelines. He was the PI of a WHO coordinated international multi-site RCT to assess the safety and efficacy of prophylactic maternal combination antiretrovirals during pregnancy and breastfeeding to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV in three sub-Saharan African countries (Kesho Bora study). He has published widely and was the leader writer of the 2010 WHO guidelines on “Antiretroviral drugs for treating pregnant women and preventing HIV infection in infants: toward universal access”.

No RSVP required. For further information please contact:

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