

Editorial

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In this September 2019 issue of African Health Sciences, we bring you papers on a wide range of topics relevant to the people of Africa, and those in the diaspora. We particularly focus on infections and non-communicable diseases. While there isn't a plethora of papers on HIV (unusual for this time of the year) we, never the less, have very interesting papers on viral illness in general, including some on HIV.

The papers on HIV are particularly poignant, given the forthcoming ICSA conference in Kigali, Rwanda later this year. There are five papers on HIV: one on behavior and HIV transmission¹, integrated HIV/NCDs management², late initiation of ART³ and HIV-TB testing and linkages.⁴ The last one is on Herpes zoster and phrenic nerve palsy and respiratory problems.⁵ There is a lone paper on acute CMV among blood donors⁶, and is food for thought: to screen or not to screen blood donors for CMV?

The papers on bacterial infections include antibiotic prescriptions, self-medication, diagnosis and neonatal sepsis. Hence from a tertiary hospital in Nigeria, we have a paper on antibiotics prescription and determinants of utilization⁷, while from Indonesia we have a report on self-medication profile for diarrhea with traditional medication⁸. The paper on the role of C-reactive protein in the diagnosis of meningitis⁹ and the two papers on neonatal sepsis^{10,11} shine some light on infections in children. The paper on colistine resistance¹², inflammatory markers¹³ and antibiotic sensitivity¹⁴ highlight the importance of diagnosis of bacterial infections.

This pushes us into the realm of truly neglected diseases including malaria (emphasis mine!) Hence we have papers on population dynamics of Leishmaniasis¹⁵, diagnosis and treatment of hydatid disease¹⁶ and the magnitude

and factors associated with hookworm infection in Ethiopia¹⁷. Two papers on malaria crown this section: genetic polymorphism of malaria surface protein genes in *Plasmodium falciparum* in Senegal¹⁸ and factors associated with antimalarial self-medication in Kasulu – Kigoma in Tanzania.¹⁹

In this issue, we have a large collection of heterogeneous papers on non-communicable diseases. They range from cancer to diabetes mellitus, mental illness and trauma. Several cancers are discussed. Hence we have a paper on the treatment and outcome of Philadelphia chromosome negative myeloproliferative neoplasms²⁰; immunohistochemistry of endometrial carcinoma in Nigeria²¹ and the molecular biology of colorectal cancer risk²². Three papers are on diabetes mellitus: genetics on diabetes in Iran²³; effects of anti-diabetic drugs on the histology of the pancreas²⁴ and diabetic foot in Tunisia²⁵. The other papers are on mental health^{26,27,28,29,30}; trauma³¹, hypertension^{32,33} and obesity³⁴.

There are several papers on maternal and child health. Hence, there is one on the impact of free services on maternal and child health care utilization in Kenya³⁵; and KAP on post partum tubal ligation³⁶.

Three papers are on sexuality: sexual dysfunction in women in Turkey³⁷, sexual debut in Nigeria³⁸, and male circumcision in Uganda.³⁹

There are papers on maternal anaemia⁴⁰ and caesarean section⁴¹

Several papers on breastfeeding⁴² pollutants of grasshoppers⁴³ malnutrition⁴⁴, fasting⁴⁵, neonatal feeding assessment⁴⁶

The miscellaneous papers include trainability of beggars^{47,48} anesthesia and surgery^{49,50,51} rehabilitation^{52,53} community health workers⁵⁴ and children^{55,56}

We wish you insightful and focused reading. Good luck!

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