Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

Infection, Disease & Health (2019) **24**, 1–2

Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

ScienceDirect

journal homepage: http://www.journals.elsevier.com/infection-disease-and-health/

Editorial

Achievements and highlights for Infection, Disease and Health

I am very pleased to announce that Infection, Disease and Health was accepted for MEDLINE indexation in late 2018. This has been the culmination of years of work. I wish to thank all those who have contributed to this achievement, including the Editorial Board. I particularly wish to thank Professor Ramon Shaban, Professor Stephanie Dancer, Professor Allen Cheng and Professor Lyn Gilbert. The journal continues to see year on year increases in article downloads and website views. In 2018, we launched several virtual special issues, a collation of articles on a common theme. These included the themes of antimicrobial resistance and urinary tract infections. We intend to release some further virtual special issues in 2019.

I would like to also take this opportunity to reflect on some of my 'Editor picks', from articles published in 2018. I have highlighted and summarised some papers you may find interesting below:

- *How much do superbugs cost Australian hospitals? [1] An evidence-based open-access tool* [1]. This article described an innovative online open-access tool, that provides estimates of the national cost of common drug-resistant infections in Australia. The tool can be used to help make sense of complicated data in a user-friendly output.
- *Twitter and Middle East respiratory syndrome, South Korea, 2015: A multi-lingual study* [2]. In this study, the authors explored data from Twitter to identify MERS related tweets and the discussion in different languages. The authors suggest that understanding audiences' unique Twitter cultures will help public health agencies to develop appropriate Twitter health communication strategies. This article was a classic example of how data from social media could be used in infection prevention and control initiatives.
- *Antibiotic prescribing in primary healthcare: Dominant factors and trade-offs in decision-making* [3]. This article explored the factors influencing general practitioner decision-making on antibiotic prescribing in the Australian primary healthcare sector. Patient expectation for antibiotics was the dominant modifiable factor influencing prescribing behaviours and demonstrates the power consumers have the power to reduce the use of antibiotics.
- Attitudes of healthcare workers to influenza vaccination [4]. In this cross sectional study, the authors identified barriers to vaccination including concerns about vaccine safety and efficacy, and difficulties accessing vaccination, thus suggesting that educational messages and operational strategies need to be implemented to optimise vaccine uptake.

In addition to the articles above, there was a the publication *C. difficile* infection control guidelines, developed by the Australasian Society for Infectious Disease and Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control [5], research suggesting that reducing *C. difficile* is possible by reducing length of stay [6], a local response to an outbreak of *Mycobacterium chimaera* [7], a discussion paper on pricing safety [8], and evidence of evidence of biofilm on endoscopes [9]. These articles demonstrate the breadth of articles published in the journal.

Finally, I wish to thank all the reviewers for the journal, who have taken the time to review and provide constructive feedback to authors. In this issue, we list those who have reviewed articles for Infection Disease and Health in 2018.

Conflict of interest

Brett Mitchell is the Editor-in-Chief of Infection Disease and Health.

Funding

No funding was received in relation to this editorial.

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.idh.2018.12.004

References

[1] Wozniak TM, Graves N, Barnett AG. How much do superbugs cost Australian hospitals? An evidence-based open-access tool. Infect Dis Health 2018;23(1):54—6.

[2] Fung ICH, Zeng J, Chan CH, Liang H, Yin J, Liu Z, et al. Twitter and Middle East respiratory syndrome, South Korea, 2015: a multi-lingual study. Infect Dis Health 2018;23(1):10—6.

[3] Lum EP, Page K, Whitty JA, Doust J, Graves N. Antibiotic prescribing in primary healthcare: dominant factors and trade-offs in decision-making. Infect Dis Health 2018;23(2):74—86.

[4] Knowler P, Barrett M, Watson DAR. Attitudes of healthcare workers to influenza vaccination. Infect Dis Health 2018;23(3):156—62.

[5] Stuart RL, Marshall C, Harrington G, Sasko L, McLaws ML, Ferguson J. ASID/ACIPC position statement—Infection control for patients with *Clostridium difficile* infection in healthcare facilities. Infect Dis Health 2019;24(1):32—43.

[6] Brain DC, Barnett AG, Yakob L, Clements A, Riley TV, Halton K, et al. Reducing length of stay to improve Clostridium difficile-related health outcomes. Infect Dis Health 2018;23(2):87—92.

[7] Henderson B, Lindsay M, Playford EG. M. chimaera—The challenges for infection prevention and control. Infect Dis Health 2018;23(4):243—5.

[8] Magid B, Murphy C, Lankiewicz J, Lawandi N, Poulton A. Pricing for safety and quality in healthcare: a discussion paper. Infect Dis Health 2018;23(1):49—53.

[9] Johani K, Hu H, Santos L, Schiller S, Deva AK, Whiteley G, et al. Determination of bacterial species present in biofilm contaminating the channels of clinical endoscopes. Infect Dis Health 2018;23(4):189—96.

Brett G. Mitchell, Professor, Editor-in-Chief,
Professor of Nursing, Avondale College of Higher Education, Wahroonga, NSW, 2076, Australia
Adjunct Fellow, School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Newcastle, Newcastle, NSW, Australia