

# Infectious diseases and chronic care in Africa

James K Tumwine

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Welcome to this June issue of *African Health Sciences* that is another bumper harvest because of a backlog that we are trying to clear at AHS.

We bring you very interesting manuscripts on infectious diseases particularly hepatitis<sup>1,2</sup>; HIV AIDS<sup>3,4</sup> and H1N1 Influenza A virus<sup>5</sup> in the context of chronic care in Africa. Burkina Faso researchers report on the diagnostic performance and operational characteristics of four rapid immune-chromatographic syphilis tests<sup>6</sup> while Ethiopian scientists report on risk factors for multidrug resistant tuberculosis patients.<sup>7</sup> Keeping with the TB theme we have work from Angola on emotional distress among patients with tuberculosis<sup>8</sup>. In a similar study Sudanese workers give an insight into illness perceptions and quality of life among tuberculosis patients in Gezira<sup>9</sup>.

Now parasites! Pakistani workers report on prevalence of *Giardia intestinalis* and *Hymenolepis nana* in Afghan refugee population of Mianwali district, Pakistan<sup>10</sup>. This is followed by three articles on malaria.<sup>11,12,13</sup>

To break the infectious disease theme we introduce several articles on pain, trauma and arthritis.<sup>14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21</sup>. We climax our non-communicable disease (NCD) themes with many articles on diabetes mellitus, rightly so, because this has become such an important disorder in Africa contrary to predictions in the pre-independence colonial era<sup>22,23,24,25</sup>. This is followed by reproductive health issues<sup>26,27,28,29,30</sup>, oncology<sup>31,32,33,34</sup>, herbal medicine<sup>35,36,37</sup>, sleep quality<sup>38</sup> and anthropology<sup>39</sup>. The next set of papers include: lead toxicity<sup>40</sup>, retinol<sup>41</sup>, educational audit<sup>42</sup> and microbiology<sup>43</sup>.

We conclude the review with a relook at chronic care<sup>44</sup>, medical ethics in Africa<sup>45</sup>, alpha thalassemia<sup>46</sup>, asthma<sup>47</sup>, miliary TB<sup>48</sup> and cortical blindness preceded by pre-ecclampsia<sup>49</sup>. Have enjoyable reading!

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