

Editorial I

Reproductive health issues, infections and non-communicable diseases

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Welcome to this bumper March 2020 issue of African Health Sciences. The first five papers in this issue are on sexuality in men and adolescents. Hence Lampiao and Chisaka have written an interesting research article on the 'incidence and impact of hyperviscosity on sperm parameters of Malawian men seeking assisted reproduction'¹. A similar paper from Tanzania reports on 'bacteriospermia' and other factors associated with male infertility². The next three articles are on sexual behaviour and practice. They include: 'use of sachet alcohol and sexual behaviour among adolescents in Nigeria'³; sexual knowledge and practice of adolescent learners in rural South Africa⁴; and sexual behaviours and risk perception of STIs among polytechnic students' in Nigeria⁵.

The next group of papers are on, yes you have guessed right, infectious diseases. They cover uptake of human papilloma virus vaccines among female secondary school students;⁶ *Candida* spp. and age-related disparities amongst women presenting with vaginitis;⁷ and toxoplasmosis in pregnant women⁸. Continuing with the pregnancy theme, we have a paper on the use of alternative medicines during pregnancy in Zimbabwe⁹; and outcome of gestational trophoblastic disease in Egypt¹⁰. The infectious disease theme continues with work on HIV-related knowledge level among Indonesian women¹¹ and a systematic review of ARVs¹². There are more papers: chronic HIV infection and health related quality of life in resource poor settings¹³; cryptococcosis among HIV patients in sub-Saharan Africa¹⁴; malnutrition amongst HIV adult patients¹⁵; viral suppression and low attrition in healthy HIV-infected patients initiated on ART with CD4 above 500 cells/ μ L¹⁶; acceptance and utilization of HIV testing among the youth¹⁷; rabies in Kwazulu-Natal¹⁸; and central line-related bloodstream infections¹⁹. There are papers on *Stenotrophomonas* species²⁰; risk factors for trachoma in Burundi²¹; plasmid-mediated resistance genes and multidrug-resistant uropathogens²²; prevalence of *plasmodium*, *leptospira* and *rickettsia*²³; seroepidemiology of human fascioliasis²⁴; Parvovirus B19 DNA detection in HIV anemic patients²⁵; safety of vaccines used in rou-

tine immunization in Africa²⁶ and distribution of genes among uropathogenic *Escherichia coli* and antimicrobial resistance²⁷.

The next group of papers is in the NCDs realm: obesity^{28,29,30}, diabetes^{31,32,33,34}, acute kidney injury³⁵ plasma homocysteine and hypertension³⁶, coronary care³⁷ and cancer^{38,39}. Then we have papers on smoking and lung function⁴⁰, epilepsy⁴¹, and gall stones⁴². One major observation made in patients with Covid_19 is hypercoagulability. We have a related article on hypercoagulability in sickle cell disease⁴³.

Other NCD papers are on hyperbilirubinemia⁴⁴, zinc deficiency in children,⁴⁵ effect of pumpkin seed oil on oxidative stress,⁴⁶ upper GI haemorrhage,⁴⁷ vitamin D deficiency⁴⁸ and cystic fibrosis in Tunisia⁴⁹. We have articles on risks associated with health care waste management⁵⁰; anti-proliferative effects of *Amarillydaceae*⁵¹; periodontal and dental conditions in a volcanic region with highly fluoridated community drinking water⁵²; effects of head-of-bed elevation on respiratory pattern⁵³; kangaroo mother care outcomes⁵⁴; and ultrasound and carotid stenosis⁵⁵. Others are on unorthodox ophthalmic preparations in Ghana⁵⁶, feeding and swallowing difficulties of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders⁵⁷; visual impairment⁵⁸; and two letters to the editor^{59,60}.

Quite a rich menu. Happy reading!

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