

## Editorial

### *From sexual orientation to cochlear transplants in a tropical environment*

Welcome to this December issue of *African Health Sciences* in which we bring you topical subjects ranging from sexual orientation of University students<sup>1</sup> to HIV, TB and cochlear transplants in a tropical environment. The menu will have something for you and for all of us interested in health and development in Africa and among the diaspora.

*Reproductive health:* South African and Thai researchers introduce us to the reproductive health discourse describing reasons non-use of contraception among university students in 22 countries<sup>2</sup>, while Nigerian authors tackle the issue of sexual orientation among university students in what has emerged as Africa's largest economy<sup>3</sup>. Scandinavian researchers have also bravely tackled another emotive subject among women: skin bleaching.<sup>4</sup> Their findings are disturbing but not stunning. What we need are projects to sensitize women and men of colour on the physical, cultural and psychological dangers of skin bleaching.

The section continues with a report on hydatidiform moles from Tanzania<sup>5</sup>, intermittent preventive treatment with sulphadoxine-pyrimethamine (IPTp-SP) use during pregnancy in Ghana<sup>6</sup>; and early amniotomy and outcome of spontaneous labour in Enugu, Nigeria<sup>7</sup>. It concludes with a disturbing study of vesico-vaginal fistulae seen in the Democratic Republic of Congo<sup>8</sup>. We have a brief child health section on ultra-sonography and fetal weight<sup>9</sup>, determinants of low birth weight in a traditional birth home<sup>10</sup>, and factors associated with delayed initiation of breastfeeding among mothers in Uganda.<sup>11</sup>

*Non communicable diseases:* This thrusts us into the non communicable disease section with papers on: microvascular complications in type 2 diabetes<sup>12</sup>, exercises and symptoms of fatigue related to inflammatory cytokines in obese patients with type 2 diabetes<sup>13</sup>; and one on the contribution of ENPP1, TCF7L2, and FTO polymorphisms to type 2 diabetes in mixed ancestry ethnic populations of South Africa<sup>14</sup>.

We have articles on vitamin B and metabolic syndrome<sup>15</sup>, continuous training on lung function and cardio-respiratory fitness in smokers<sup>16</sup>, rheumatic heart disease in Uganda<sup>17</sup>, and on diagnosis and management of asthma among adults in resource limited settings.<sup>18</sup>

Does bile acid cycle disruption in patients with nasopharyngeal carcinoma promote the elevation of interleukin-10 secretion? Well, read Wang's work<sup>19</sup>, or do you want to find out if there is a relationship between gene polymorphism and idiopathic generalized epilepsy?<sup>20</sup> You can also transition to stigma in patients with epilepsy<sup>21</sup>. This section ends with papers on post-stroke depression<sup>22</sup>, and clinical and genetic data of Huntington disease in Moroccan patients<sup>23</sup>.

*Infectious diseases:* The infectious disease section begins with a systematic review of factors associated with tuberculosis recurrence in people living with HIV in Africa<sup>24</sup>. It continues with the prevalence of positive tuberculin skin test and associated factors among Makerere medical students in Uganda<sup>25</sup> and the effects of treatment on free radicals in patients with pulmonary tuberculosis<sup>26</sup>.

Now, we move into the realm of ethno-pharmacology. What are the *in vivo* anti-plasmodial activities and toxic impact of lime extract in mice infected with chloroquine-sensitive *Plasmodium berghei*?<sup>27</sup> We have reports on the effect of ketolide agents on *Plasmodium falciparum*<sup>28</sup>; aminoglycoside-modifying enzymes genes in clinical isolates of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*<sup>29</sup>; and antimicrobial resistance pattern of *Staphylococcus aureus* in Nigeria<sup>30</sup> and Turkey.<sup>31</sup>

Have you heard of *Lonicera japonica* and its mechanism of anti-upper respiratory tract infection action in children?<sup>32</sup> What about dental caries?<sup>33</sup>

*Therapeutics:* We have two interesting therapeutics papers: one on adverse drug reaction reporting among healthcare workers in Uganda<sup>34</sup>, and the other on prescription pattern and patients' opinion on healthcare practices in Ibadan, Nigeria.<sup>35</sup> We return to the old debate on poverty and inequality – as social determinants of health in Africa<sup>36</sup>.

We conclude this discourse with case reports on permanent neonatal diabetes<sup>37</sup>; cochlear implant in Uganda<sup>38</sup>; cardiomyopathy<sup>39</sup>; and epicardial fat thickness and cardiovascular involvement.<sup>40</sup>

### References:

1. Tumwine JK: University students sexual orientation, contra-

- ception and toxic skin bleaching products. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):i
2. Peltzer K, Pengpid S: Contraceptive non-use and associated factors among university students in 22 countries. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1056-1064.
  3. Boladale M, Olakunle O, Olutayo A, Adesanmi A: Sexual orientation and quality of life among students of Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Nigeria. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1065-1073.
  4. Darj E, Infanti JJ, Ahlberg BM, Okumu J: "The fairer the better?" Use of potentially toxic skin bleaching products. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1074-1080.
  5. Kitange B, Matovelo D, Konje E, Massinde A, Ram-bau P: Hydatidiform moles among patients with incomplete abortion in Mwanza City, North western Tanzania. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1081-1086.
  6. Orish VN, Onyeabor OS, Boampong JN, Afoakwah R, Nwaefuna E, Acquah S, Sanyaolu AO, Iriemenam NC: Prevalence of intermittent preventive treatment with sulphadoxine-pyrimethamine (IPTp-SP) use during pregnancy and other associated factors in Sekondi-Takoradi, Ghana. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1087-1096.
  7. Onah LN, Dim CC, Nwagha UI, Ozumba BC: Effect of early amniotomy on the outcome of spontaneous labour: a randomized controlled trial of pregnant women in Enugu, South-east Nigeria. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1097-1103.
  8. Paluku JL, Carter TE: Obstetric vesico-vaginal fistulae seen in the Northern Democratic Republic of Congo: a descriptive study. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1104-1111.
  9. Eze CU, Abonyi LC, Njoku J, Okorie U, Owonifari O: Correlation of ultrasonographic estimated fetal weight with actual birth weight in a tertiary hospital in Lagos, Nigeria. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1112-1122.
  10. Oladeinde HB, Oladeinde OB, Omoregie R, Onifade AA: Prevalence and determinants of low birth weight: the situation in a traditional birth home in Benin City, Nigeria. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1123-1129.
  11. Kalisa R, Ombeva OM, Nankunda J, Tumwine JK: Magnitude and factors associated with delayed initiation of breastfeeding among mothers who deliver in Mulago hospital, Uganda. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1130-1135.
  12. Olamoyegun M, Ibraheem W, Iwuala S, Audu M, Kolawole B: Burden and pattern of micro vascular complications in type 2 diabetes in a tertiary health institution in Nigeria. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1136-1141.
  13. Abd El-Kader SM, Al-Jiffri OH, Al-Shreef FM: Aerobic exercises alleviate symptoms of fatigue related to inflammatory cytokines in obese patients with type 2 diabetes. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1142-1148.
  14. Yako YY, Madubedube JH, Kengne AP, Erasmus RT, Pillay TS, Matsha TE: Contribution of ENPP1, TCF7L2, and FTO polymorphisms to type 2 diabetes in mixed ancestry ethnic population of South Africa. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1149-1160.
  15. Tosunbayraktar G, Bas M, Kut A, Buyukkaragoz AH: Low serum 25(OH)D levels are associated to higher BMI and metabolic syndrome parameters in adults subjects in Turkey. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1161-1169.
  16. Koubaa A, Triki M, Trabelsi H, Masmoudi L, Zeghal KN, Sahnoun Z, Hakim A: Effect of low-intensity continuous training on lung function and cardiorespiratory fitness in both cigarette and hookah smokers. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1170-1181.
  17. Zhang W, Okello E, Nyakoojo W, Lwabi P, Mondo CK: Proportion of patients in the Uganda rheumatic heart disease registry with advanced disease requiring urgent surgical interventions. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1182-1188.
  18. Kirenga BJ, Schwartz JI, de Jong C, der Molen Tv, Okot-Nwang M: Guidance on the diagnosis and management of asthma among adults in resource limited settings. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1189-1199.
  19. Wang C-S, Liu S-H, Peng J, Tang C, Zhu W-G: Bile acids cycle disruption in patients with nasopharyngeal carcinoma promotes the elevation of interleukin-10 secretion. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1200-1203.
  20. Berrin T, Hikmet Y, Gülşen V, Ferda B, Erdal B, Ece O: No relation between EFHC2 gene polymorphism and Idiopathic generalized epilepsy. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1204-1210.
  21. Bifftu BB, Dachew BA, Tiruneh BT: Perceived stigma and associated factors among people with epilepsy at Gondar University Hospital, Northwest Ethiopia: a cross-sectional institution based study. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1211-1219.
  22. Gyagenda JO, Ddumba E, Odokonyero R, Kadumukasa M, Sajatovic M, Smyth K, Katabira E: Post-stroke depression among stroke survivors attending two hospitals in Kampala Uganda. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1220-1231.
  23. Bouhouche A, Regragui W, Lamghari H, Khaldi K, Birouk N, Lytim S, Bellamine S, Kriouile Y, Bouslam N, Haddou EHAB et al: Clinical and genetic data of Huntington disease in Moroccan patients. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1232-1238.
  24. Moodley Y, Govender K: A systematic review of published literature describing factors associated with

- tuberculosis recurrence in people living with HIV in Africa. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1239-1246.
25. Lou JK, Okot-Nwang M, Katamba A: Prevalence of positive tuberculin skin test and associated factors among Makerere medical students, Kampala, Uganda. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1247-1255.
26. Adebimpe WO, Faremi AO, Nassar SA: Effects of treatment on free radicals in patients with pulmonary tuberculosis in South Western Nigeria. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1256-1261.
27. Idowu ET, Ajaegbu HCN, Omotayo AI, Aina OO, Otubanjo OA: In vivo anti-plasmodial activities and toxic impacts of lime extract of a combination of *Picralima nitida*, *Alstonia boonei* and *Gongronema latifolium* in mice infected with Chloroquine-sensitive *Plasmodium berghei*. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1262-1270.
28. Makgatho M, Maimela E, Mbajjorgu F: Ketolide agents HMR 3004 and HMR 3647 (telithromycin) inhibit the growth of *Plasmodium falciparum* in vitro. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1271-1276.
29. Odumosu BT, Adeniyi BA, Chandra R: Occurrence of aminoglycoside-modifying enzymes genes (aac(6)-I and ant(2<sup>''</sup>)-I) in clinical isolates of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* from Southwest Nigeria. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1277-1281.
30. Ayeni FA, Gbarabon T, Andersen C, Nørskov-Lauritsen N: Comparison of identification and antimicrobial resistance pattern of *Staphylococcus aureus* isolated from Amassoma, Bayelsa state, Nigeria. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1282-1288.
31. Oguzkaya-Artan M, Baykan Z, Artan C, Avsarogullari L: Prevalence and risk factors for methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* carriage among emergency department workers and bacterial contamination on touch surfaces in Erciyes University Hospital, Kayseri, Turkey. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1289-1294.
32. Lu H, Zhang L, Huang H: Study on the isolation of active constituents in *Lonicera japonica* and the mechanism of their anti-upper respiratory tract infection action in children. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1295-1301.
33. Kutesa A, Kasangaki A, Nkamba M, Muwazi L, Okullo I, Rwenyonyi CM: Prevalence and factors associated with dental caries among children and adults in selected districts in Uganda. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1302-1307.
34. Katusiime B, Semakula D, Lubinga SJ: Adverse drug reaction reporting among healthcare workers at Mulago National Referral and Teaching hospital in Uganda. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1308-1317.
35. Adisa R, Fakeye TO, Aindero VO: Evaluation of prescription pattern and patients' opinion on healthcare practices in selected primary healthcare facilities in Ibadan, south-western Nigeria. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1318-1329.
36. Worku EB, Woldesenbet SA: Poverty and inequality – but of what - as social determinants of health in Africa? *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1330-1338.
37. Nyangabyaki-Twesigye C, Muhame MR, Bahendeka S: Permanent neonatal diabetes mellitus - a case report of a rare cause of diabetes mellitus in East Africa. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1339-1341.
38. Byaruhanga R, Thomas RJrJ, Buname G, Kakande E, Awubwa M, Ndorelire C, Namwagala J: A case report: the first successful cochlear implant in Uganda. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1342-1348.
39. Jiang D-M, Sun Z-W, Han J: Tako-tsubo cardiomyopathy after a quarrel. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1349-1353.
40. Balta S, Demır M, Yıldırım AO, Demırkol S, Ozturk C, Celik T: Epicardial fat thickness and cardiovascular involvements. *Afri Health Sci* 2015, 15(4):1354-1355.

James K Tumwine

**Editor in chief**