EDITORIAL

Welcome to this holiday issue as we wind up 2007. Once again, we are most grateful to the readership, authors, editors and administration staff.

It is speculated that N. meningitidis – derived invasive infections may be nearing an epidemic cycle in the Meningitis Belt of Africa, but the infections have greatly reduced in countries like the UK due to vaccination. Combining two or more vaccines reduces health-care costs and may increase community acceptability and coverage. According to Otto, Crane and Bolgiano there is no indication for degradation and no evidence of significant associative interactions when H. influenza and Meningococcal group C vaccines are combined.

It is convenient but not always helpful to bundle most obscure psychiatric illnesses under the diagnosis “psychosis”. Psychiatric illness might, however, be a multifaceted complex of illnesses and co-morbidities. Besides, the illness may change with time requiring reevaluation and recategorization. Specific diagnoses require specific and expeditious interventions for better prognosis. Ndetei and Khasakhala et al, employing DSM-IV diagnostic criteria, found several disorders including schizophrenia and bipolar illnesses, in patients who had initially been labeled as psychosis in one Kenyan mental hospital. They advocate evaluation of patients using a structured diagnostic check list.

Cinderella is one emotional-moving fairy tale which has captivated many a tender child-loving heart including mine, down the ages. Less privileged orphaned children need someone who has captivated many a tender child-loving heart including mine, including mine, including mine. Like the fairy godmother in the Cinderella fable, they note the exploitation, abuse and neglect in the orphaned children and advocate for interventions.

Management of urinary tract infections in Rubaga hospital, Kampala, has been greatly eased by Kyabaguzi, Ejobi and Ollila, through profiling and defining antibiotic sensitivity of the causative bacteria and their antibiotic sensitivities.

Concern for food hygiene has prompted Ogieroh et al to probe that beloved West African delicacy, gari and they have not found it without blemish. Among the horde of organisms gari harbors are the villainous fungi genera: Aspergillus and Penicillium, ill-famed for their production of the noxious aflatoxins. Those who prepare, vend and devour this foo dstuff should care to ensure its purity.

The medical properties of honey have been further explored and expanded by Ndip, Alertia, Malange et al, in their ground-breaking research revealing response of H. pylori to different types of honeys.

Batwala, Mulogo and Arabaku sound a siren on poor oral hygiene in Ugandan school children in Mbarara town, citing a high prevalence of dental caries, plaque, calculus and malocclusion. They disregar the rampant custom of nylon teeth mulation or “Eht Lyn.”

Two decades down the road, in the fight against HIV/AIDS, there are still vestiges of stigma of persons living with HIV/AIDS in South-Nigeria, according to Bassey et al, hence the need to continue dispelling these uncalled for attitudes and misconceptions.

The global rise in prevalence of obesity and its related problems has not spared Africa either. Mengesha reports on the high prevalence of hypertension, obesity and hypercholesterolemia among type 2 diabetes mellitus patients in Gaborone, Botswana.

“Like father like son”, goes the old English saying. Muula and Sizinya in their analysis of determinants of smoking among school-going adolescents in Lusaka, Zambia observe that a history of ever smoked is associated with a parent who smokes. Muktar et al, from Kaduna Nigeria, wrap up this festive season issue with a letter on HIV incidence in blood donors. Have an enjoyable and worthwhile time as you browse this issue. African Health Sciences wishes you a merry festive season and happy 2008.

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References