Editorial

A decade of African Health Sciences: Ten years ago in August 2001 we launched the first issue of African Health Sciences from very humble beginnings. Today we are publishing a bumper issue of the same journal with a great sense of satisfaction. Satisfaction but also awareness that journal publishing is undergoing unprecedented changes occasioned by revolutionary changes in information technology at a scale we have never witnessed before. African Health science is now fully online with all the articles available free of charge to all readers regardless of the continent where they live!

The printed version is available at a price, of course, to defray escalating printing and mailing costs. That means we have to develop an economic model that will take care of these realities. Advice on this regard is very much welcome.

Bumper issue: This June 2011 issue of African Health Sciences is very important in two ways: one it marks our tenth anniversary. Two, it is a bumper issue incorporating four sections: infections, surgery, mental health and oncology. Our lead article by Malisa and colleagues from Tanzania reports results of molecular monitoring of resistant dhfr and dhps allelic haplotypes in south eastern Tanzania. They found that the frequency of the most resistant allele increased from 1% in 17 years to 45% in 5 years of sulfa/oxime pyrimethamine use for malaria treatment. On the other Erume and Partidos report on their second study of the evaluation of the LTK63 adjuvant effect on cellular immune responses to measles virus nucleoprotein. Déjàvu? Not quite. Ongoina and colleagues report the seroprevalence and determinants of HHV8 infection among HIV infected adults in Nigeria. They found that HHV8 prevalence was over 60% in HIV infected adults versus 26% in the HIV uninfected.

Continuing with the viral infection theme, we bring you two articles on H1N1 virus. Turkish scientists investigated the clinical and prognostic features of patients with H1N1 while the second report is on knowledge of the H1N1 pandemic. The rest of the infectious disease articles are on nasal carriage of MRSA in Nigeria, UTI in Ugandan non pregnant women and tuberculosis in Gokwe in Zimbabwe. Studies of quinine physic chemical equivalence, risk factors for women in Zambia, sexual /reproductive health needs and rights of young people with perinatally acquired HIV infection in Uganda conclude this section.

The section on mental health consists of articles on suicide in Uganda’s capital city Kampala, and predictors of psychopathology among Nigerian adolescents; as well as enuresis. The next section is on surgical conditions such as dacrocystorhinostomy, injuries resulting in western Kenya, bone setting practices, uterine leiomyoma, and reference values for folate and vitamin B12.

We end with the oncology section. This has articles and case reports on breast cancer, squamous cell carcinoma arising from a cystic ovarian teratoma, Burkitt lymphoma in pregnancy, lymphoblastic lymphoma, and thyroid carcinoma. We thank all our authors, readers, reviewers consultants, board members, editorial and other staff, for supporting African Health Sciences.

Finally we at African Health Sciences are very grateful to all organizations and colleagues: African Journal Partnership Project, the British Medical Journal, Forum for African Medical Editors, Bioline, AJOL, Reuters Thompson ScholarOne/Manuscript Central, WHO TDR, WAME and others for support.

Thank you!

James K Tumwine, June 2011