

# Non communicable diseases persist despite being overshadowed by Covid-19 globally

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In this March 2021 issue, we start with interesting papers on non-communicable diseases.

Thus, Jian Ma and colleagues have a meta-analysis on the efficacy of dapagliflozin in type 1 diabetes mellitus.<sup>1</sup> Keeping with the diabetes theme we have papers on vitamin D receptor gene in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus,<sup>2</sup> TCF7L2 gene polymorphism<sup>3</sup>, overweight<sup>4</sup> and knowledge, attitude and practice in the Sudan<sup>5</sup>. Continuing with the NCD theme, we bring you papers on cancer of the breast<sup>6,7</sup>, childhood tumors<sup>8</sup>, oncology nursing care in Mexico<sup>9</sup>, and multiple myeloma in Uganda.<sup>10</sup> We then have papers on hypertension<sup>11,12</sup> cholesterol and aortic dilatation<sup>13</sup>, and heart rates in smoker and nonsmoker athletes.<sup>14</sup> You talk of smoking! Gazibara and others write for us an interesting article on differences among former light and heavy smokers in a post conflict setting.<sup>15</sup> Then comes the paper on risk factors for hazardous drinking among South African and Belgian University Students.<sup>16</sup>

Nyoni-Kachambwa's paper on skin bleaching<sup>17</sup> in Zimbabwe is a must read and so is Celik's on p wave dispersion associated with obstructive pulmonary disease.<sup>18</sup>

Papers on sickle cell anemia<sup>19</sup>, IgA nephropathy<sup>20</sup>, and pseudobulbar palsy<sup>21</sup>, spice this series.

Olusegun-Joseph et. al have written on mortality in an emergency department in Nigeria<sup>22</sup>, while Sarwar's paper<sup>23</sup> on MAO-A gene association with aggression in Pakistan concludes this NCD section.

## Infections

Now to infections. Yes, you guessed right! We have failed to resist the temptation and included papers on Covid-19: roles of exercise and immunity<sup>24</sup>, and mortality among Indian patients;<sup>25</sup> and a paper on Corona-Virus reaching far beyond the common cold.<sup>26</sup> So we are deep in the infectious disease territory: risk factors for multiple drug resistant bacteria in urinary tract infections (UTI)<sup>27</sup>, and UTI in nurses and civil servants.<sup>28</sup>

We have several papers on TB: hearing-threshold in

drug-resistant TB<sup>29</sup>; non adherence to MDR-TB treatment in Uganda<sup>30</sup>, and TB/HIV service integration in Kampala.<sup>31</sup> HPV/HIV confection in Kenya<sup>32</sup>, and first line HIV treatment failure in Ethiopia<sup>33</sup>, conclude the HIV papers. We have a series of papers on malaria<sup>34</sup>, septic shock<sup>35</sup>, and wound infection with MRSA<sup>36</sup> concluding the infections disease section.

## Reproductive and child health

Now to reproductive and child health. There are papers on ectopic pregnancy in the Gambia<sup>37</sup>, postpartum haemorrhage management in Kenya<sup>38</sup> and South Africa<sup>39</sup> and Caesarean section deliveries in Ibadan in Nigeria.<sup>40</sup> We also have papers on married women procuring abortions<sup>41</sup>, fetal ear length<sup>42</sup>, infertility<sup>43</sup>, and paternity in motherless children.<sup>44</sup> These are followed by papers on birth length<sup>45</sup>, neonatal asphyxia<sup>46</sup>, and neonatal mortality<sup>47</sup>, and factors associated with underweight in Ethiopia.<sup>48</sup>

Then we have a cocktail of papers on anti-inflammatory potential of *Eucalyptus*<sup>49</sup>, herbal medicine use in Ethiopia<sup>50</sup>, and traditional bone-setting in Tanzania<sup>51</sup>.

This ushers in *surgical* issues: intestinal stoma in Uganda<sup>52</sup>, phthisis bulbi in Nigeria<sup>53</sup>, cataract surgery in Ghana<sup>54</sup>, mercury in dentistry<sup>55</sup>, dental health insurance hygiene<sup>56</sup>, and ethical issues in seeking consent for health procedures in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.<sup>57</sup> We hope that you will enjoy this hybrid issue of AHS. Good reading.

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