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We bring you this December 2024 Issue of *African Health Sciences* in a season when the Africa region is grappling with infectious diseases such as Mpox. Fortunately, the Marburg outbreak in the region has been nipped in the bud, and there is a semblance of relief in East Africa. In this issue, we bring you articles in 4 main categories: Infectious diseases; sexual and reproductive health; Non-communicable Diseases; Child Health, and other issues

Infectious Diseases

In this section, we bring you a paper on genomic variations of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in Uganda¹, oncogenic human papilloma virus in Ethiopia², and molecular epidemiology of hepatitis C in Pakistan³.

There are two extra papers on hepatitis B and C⁴ and the other on hepatitis B and E⁵. The next one is on the diagnosis of microfilariasis⁶, Leishmaniasis⁷, and Schistosomiasis⁸.

Not to be outdone, COVID-19 resurfaces - first on a treatise on wound infection⁹, and effects of the vaccine¹⁰.

The infections section is concluded with surgical site¹¹ and orthopedic¹² infections. A seminal case report on toxoplasmosis in a patient with cancer¹³ is the icing on the cake.

Sexual Reproductive Health

This thrusts us into a diverse but very interesting section on sexual reproductive health issues. First, we have a paper on a randomized control trial for hysterectomy¹⁴, followed by two studies on pre- and post-menopausal women. One reports on adnexal masses in premenopausal women¹⁵, followed by endometrial thickness in post menopause¹⁶.

Next, we have papers on fertility outcome of intravaginal insemination among women with unconsummated marriages¹⁷, followed by surrogate maternity in Eastern Europe¹⁸.

Sexual behaviour and condom use among older adults living with HIV/AIDS¹⁹ is intriguing as are renal com-

plications of uterine fibroids²⁰ in Nigeria. Prevention of obstetric fistula²¹, mHealth for boosting antenatal care [ANC]²² and use of herbal medicine²³ among ANC attendees follow.

We then delve into the perinatal period with papers on detection of fetal heart diversity among patients with pregnancy-induced hypertension²⁴, second trimester pregnancy loss²⁵, and Caesarean sections among East African refugees²⁶.

The section ends with a trans-cultural tool for detection of postnatal mental illness²⁷.

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)

This launches one into the section on NCDs. It consists of papers on prognostic serum anti-inflammatory markers for breast cancer²⁸, adenocarcinoma of the appendix²⁹, and anti-inflammatory effects of *Punica granatum L.* on leukemic cell lines³⁰.

There are two cancer papers including one on the effect of radio-frequency ablation on ground glass nodules³¹, and a case of schwannoma of the nasal septum³².

Quite naturally, stroke papers follow and here we have one on the efficacy of acupuncture on stroke³³, while the other is on the treatment of stroke complications³⁴. Then come orthopaedic/surgery papers including one on fibrosis of the intervertebral disc³⁵, rheumatoid arthritis³⁶, anesthesia for total hip arthroplasty³⁷, osteoporosis in rheumatoid arthritis³⁸, and treatment of gout³⁹. Then we have a paper on the role of ginsenoside in CNS disease⁴⁰, physiotherapy for Parkinson's disease⁴¹ and uptake of refractive error services⁴².

The next subsection has found a temporary home under NCDs and these include irritable bowel syndrome⁴³, male adolescent smoking⁴⁴, pesticide exposure among farmers in Palestine⁴⁵, treatment for periodontitis⁴⁶, mobile devices for drug education⁴⁷, and diabetic nephropathy⁴⁸.

The final section is on Child Health issues. These include effectiveness of a breastfeeding program⁴⁹, malnutrition of children of adolescent mothers⁵⁰, stunting

among children⁵¹, and exclusive breastfeeding in Nigeria⁵². A seminal paper of hearing loss among school children in Ethiopia brings us to the end of this Editor's choice for this December 2024 issue of African Health Sciences.

We thank our colleagues and partners for giving us the opportunity to publish high quality and truly open-access papers of relevance to Health sciences in Africa and the diaspora. We wish you a very enjoyable festive season and a happy 2025.

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