

## Editorial

# Education, Prevention and Health Care Provision: The Pillars of Implementation Health Research

The Rwanda Journal of Medicine and Health Sciences has an explicit interest in publishing research that reveals gaps in education, prevention and care provision in the health care system in Rwanda and Africa in particular. The final edition of this year showcases relevant research findings that highlight gaps in our health care systems that need to be addressed; but also, hopeful examples of new practice and learning.

Concerning education in Rwanda, Bagweneza and team describe how an innovative experience learning technique can improve clinical practice for medical surgical nursing students using real-life examples that give inspiration on how we can continue to improve health education, ultimately resulting in better care provision. Yamuragiye and team describe two clinical events and argue for the importance of reflective practice in Anesthesia Clinical Teaching. Also in higher education, Gitema and team interrogated the students from ophthalmic clinical officers, eye health development stakeholders, and employers to get a better understanding of the real-life needs to inform higher education programmes. An important but disquieting study by Twagirayezu and team shows that the level of triage knowledge of nurses in emergency departments is not sufficient. Remediation is advised.

With regard to prevention, Uwamahoro and team shared the good news that physical activity levels of physiotherapy students at the University of Rwanda were above recommended standards; but also found that females and urban participants are less physically active than their counterparts. Interestingly, COVID-19 lockdowns do not seem to impact the level of physical activity. Uwayezu and team described how the use of toothpicks by primary school children – among other practices – is protective against developing caries; an easily implementable solution that should be promoted. Ndateba and team found that cervical cancer screening uptake at Rwamagana hospital was low, especially among poorly educated, low-income and poorly informed women.

About health care provision, Uwera and team revealed the high rate of surgical cancellation in Rwanda, a costly disruption that affects patients and their families; and provide insight in the reasons for the cancellations. Surely this study will contribute to improved planning at the hospitals going forward. Colleagues from Tanzania looked at antibiotics use in Moshi, as antimicrobial resistance is a raising concern in the region. They observed that even though knowledge was good, malpractice continues to exist. And finally, as Community Health Workers play such an important role in health care provision in Africa, colleagues from Nigeria studied their understanding of Standard Precautions in a tertiary health care setting and found that although attitudes were good, there are observable gaps in knowledge.

Enjoy the read!

*Rwanda J Med Health Sci 2021;4(3):333*

**Stefan Jansen , PhD, Assoc. Professor,  
University of Rwanda, College of Medicine and Health Sciences**