

# From MNHC, NCDs to prevention of infectious diseases and plantibodies: meeting challenges of our times.

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In this June 2016 issue of AHS, we have four main themes: maternal newborn and child health (MNHC); non communicable diseases (NCDs); prevention of infectious diseases; and plants in health and diseases including pioneering work on plantibodies!

*MNHC:* Ugandan authors report on health facility based neonatal care in limited resource settings, using Mulago Hospital Special Care Baby Unit as a case study. They report unacceptably high levels of neonatal mortality with prematurity and its complications being the major culprits.<sup>1</sup> They call for a rethink of the management of hypothermia and respiratory distress. The next articles focus on platelet counts as predictors of paediatric mortality;<sup>2</sup> ENT problems in Nigeria;<sup>3</sup> trends in congenital heart disease;<sup>4</sup> NCDs in children in Ghana<sup>5</sup> and deficiencies of vitamin A and iron in rural communities in Nigeria.<sup>6</sup> Authors from Kenya report a randomised controlled trial comparing weight adjusted dose versus fixed dose prophylactic phenylephrine infusion on maintaining systolic blood pressure during caesarean section under spinal anaesthesia.<sup>7</sup>

There is an interesting article on knowledge of pre-eclampsia in women living in Dodoma, Tanzania.<sup>8</sup> Still in Tanzania, we report on universal coverage of maternal services in Iringa rural District.<sup>9</sup> Spousal violence and pregnancy termination among married women in Nigeria is a big issue needing attention.<sup>10</sup>

Turkish authors on the other hand report on the effect of anxiety and depression on pregnancy outcomes<sup>11</sup>, while Zimbabwean authors report an interesting story on communicating reproductive health information.<sup>12</sup> *Ambllope! Makorokoto!*

*NCDs:* Up to now, we are still talking about NCDs because they have become endemic in our region. Bad news, but we have a duty to report progress or lack of it. So here we go! We have articles on vitamin D metabolism in patients with renal disease;<sup>13</sup> low glycemic foods in type 2 diabetes;<sup>14</sup> asthma control;<sup>15</sup> renal cancer and sickle cell disease;<sup>16</sup> depression and diabetes;<sup>17</sup> exercise and obstructive airway disease;<sup>18</sup> biomass effects on fishing communities;<sup>19</sup> and factors influencing men to undergo prostate specific antigen.<sup>20</sup>

The next 2 papers report on effect of weight loss on biomarkers of endothelial function<sup>21</sup>, and the effect of recombinant human endostatin on hypertrophic scar formation.<sup>22</sup>

We have an interesting article on geriatric fall injuries;<sup>23</sup> and exercise and insulin-like growth factors.<sup>24</sup>

### *Infections: prevention:*

The rest of the papers are on infectious diseases especially prevention. They range from Human papilloma virus vaccine in South Africa<sup>25</sup>, factors affecting vaccine handling and storage,<sup>26</sup> to the effect of *Boko Haram* insurgency in Nigeria on polio eradication.<sup>27</sup> From Ethiopia we have a paper on the prevalence and factors associated with TB/HIV co-infection,<sup>28</sup> while Nigerian workers write for us on thyroid function and multi drug resistant TB.<sup>29</sup> The section concludes a much awaited paper from Gabon: Cerebrospinal meningeal infections in HIV-infected patients.<sup>30</sup>

We have a paper on upper GIT endoscopy<sup>31</sup>, while the next set of papers is on herbal remedies.<sup>32,33</sup> The final paper is on the equivalent of antibodies in plants the so called plantibodies!<sup>34</sup> Enjoy your reading and drop us a line if you will.

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