Today is the 3rd anniversary of African Health Sciences having been launched in August 2001. In three years AHS has grown from strength to strength reaching a climax in April 2003 when it was indexed by MEDLINE – a clear note of confidence in AHS by a reputable indexing organization. African Health Sciences has firmly established herself as a leading health sciences journal in Africa and beyond.

This would have not been possible without the unwavering support of Professor Nelson Sewankambo the Dean of Makerere University Faculty of Medicine, our editorial staff, the board, international advisers, authors, reviewers, readers and well wishers. To all of you we extend our most heartfelt thanks for your continued support.

In this 3rd anniversary issue of African Health Sciences we bring you a moving article on traumatic events and symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder amongst Sudanese refugees – a study by Dutch German and US based researchers. They compared the incidence of traumatic events and its association with post-traumatic stress disorder in Sudanese nationals in Southern Sudan refugees and Ugandans in the West Nile region.

Sudanese refugees reported the highest number of violence events experienced. Witnessing traumatic events significantly predicted PTSD. The prevalence of PTSD was 48% for Sudanese stayees, 46% for Sudanese refugees and 18% for Ugandan nationals. The high prevalence of violence and symptoms of PTSD in refugee populations highlight the need for better protection and security in refugees settlements. These findings are pertinent especially when the Sudan has come under international scrutiny because of the humanitarian catastrophic events unfolding in the Darfur region.

Our second paper continues on HIV/AIDS. This time we focus our attention on the possibility of using simple total lymphocyte counts instead of the more expensive CD4+lymphocyte counts. Academic Alliance for AIDS Care and Prevention in Africa scientists based in Uganda and the USA report on their surprise finding that total lymphocyte count of 1200 is not a sensitive predictor of CD4 count among patients with HIV disease in Kampala, Uganda. African Health Sciences 2004; 4(2): 83-93.


I hope that you enjoy reading this 3rd anniversary issue of African Health Sciences the MEDLINE indexed journal that brings you up to date well-researched papers from Africa.

James K. Tumwine
Editor

Reference