

# Editorial

## A diverse treatise: from hyoscine in labour to viral haemorrhagic fevers in Uganda

Welcome to this Christmas issue, 2012. We bring you diverse topics that range from the effect of hyoscine bromide in the 1<sup>st</sup> stage of labour (1) to Ebola and Marburg in Uganda.

We also review female genital cutting in Djibuti (2), contraceptive practices of women in urban settings (3) as well as mammographic breast density (4) while Peltzer muses over adolescent pregnancy in South Africa (5).

This leads us into Victoria Nakibuuka's study of perinatal death in Uganda (6). We sustain the death theme by using Philippe's treatise on medical students' beliefs on death and cadavers (7). Anterior open bites (8), sounds from esophageal speakers in Algeria (9) and the role of plain x-rays (10) in the diagnosis of maxillary rhino-sinusitis completes the first section.

Gender differences in perceived body image (11) and halitosis (12) among university students are mundane but interesting approaches to University health care. A treatise on epistaxis (13) and acute intoxications in Burkina Faso (14) sharpen our University focus. From Burkina Faso we cross over to Ethiopia where Hayelom reports the effect of a root extract on blood, liver and kidney tissues (15) in mice while a study of antidiabetic effect of kola seeds on rats leaves us marveling (16). Ajayi reports barriers to oral health utilization in Ibadan (17). Lamina reports on facial palsy (18) while Alema reports findings of endoscopic studies of upper GI bleeding (19) followed by Zhang's treatise on ANGPTL3 on pigs (20). Not to be outdone, we have Ugare's work on death in an emergency department (21) and Afolabi's construct validation of an instrument to measure patient satisfaction with pharmacy services (22).

Mengistu's work on moringa and blood pressure (23), and Yong's work on explosive brain injury (24) complete the work.

Fikri's work (25) on 'case series' together with Adisa's report on infertility and schistosomiasis (26) introduce us to the case series: geophagia in South Africa (27), rare foreign bodies in the esophagus (28) and plasma exchange in Goodpasture syndrome associated with Turner's syndrome. (29). We find ourselves full circle then, this intriguing case of

amilodine induced gingival hyperplasia in chronic renal failure (30).

Finally we end with a little but interesting piece on Uganda's curse of viral hemorrhagic fevers (31): from Ebola in Luweero and Kibaale to Marburg in Kabale and Ibanda. But why are these deadly viral hemorrhagic fevers lingering on in Uganda? The answer, my friend, is blowing in the wind!

**James K Tumwine**

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