



**Africa Health** is a journal of continuing medical education information for physicians and other health professionals in Africa.

**Africa Health** is published by:  
FSG Africa Ltd  
Vine House, Fair Green, Reach  
Cambridge, CB25 0JD, UK  
Telephone: +44 1638 743633  
Fax: +44 1638 743998  
Email: editor@fsg.co.uk  
www.africa-health.com

Publisher/Editor  
**Bryan Pearson**

Assistant Editor/Production/Website  
**Michelle Tooke**

Summaries and Abstracts  
**Natalia Perepelova**

Business Development Director  
**Ibsen Jaywalker**

Accounts Manager  
**Grant Docking**

ISSN 0141-9536 (print)  
ISSN 2053-4760 (online)

Published six times a year by:  
FSG Africa Ltd

Printed in Lagos, Nigeria and  
Nairobi, Kenya

All contents are ©2017  
FSG Africa Ltd.

Front cover: Essaouira, Morocco



# Contents

**Vol 39 No 6 September 2017**

## Opinion

- 05** Homeopathy: the lure of the unknown  
Shima Gyoh yearns for better primary care services to persuade people away from traditional and homeopathic medicine
- 07** On the right track  
Francis Omaswa reports from the 67<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Health Organization Regional Committee for Africa

## Newsdesk

- 10** A round-up of news including: Point-of-care diagnosis for tuberculosis may reduce patients' time to treatment; Better patient communication gets more people admitting adherence issues; Rapid response to cholera outbreak in north-eastern Nigeria

## Bed nets

- 13** The challenge of using and misusing insecticide-treated bed nets  
William R Brieger

## Clinical trials

- 16** Conducting clinical trials during epidemics  
Keith P.W. J. McAdam, Gerald T. Keusch, Fred Wabwire-Mangen, Olayemi Omatade

## Filovirus outbreaks

- 18** Strengthening capacity for responding to filovirus outbreaks  
Mohammed Lamorde, Richard Walwema, Richard Brough

## Leadership

- 20** Developing effective leadership from the modern physician  
Liam Fisher Jones

## Cancer

- 21** Tackling Africa's cancer crisis  
Bryan Pearson

## Rectal artesunate

- 23** Increasing uptake of rectal artesunate to buy time against severe malaria  
Pierre Hugo and Elizabeth Poll

## Clinical feature

- 26** Acquired disorders of coagulation  
Vickie McDonald

## Clinical Review

- 29** STI  
Antenatal screening for sexual transmitted infections; Syphilis; Penicillin; Other STIs; Point-of-care testing
- Medicine  
The 'nocebo' effect; In praise of worms?; Drug stores in Africa; Antimalarial drug problems
- Paediatrics  
Newborn resuscitation and early respiratory support; Resuscitation; Respiratory care

## Medicine Digest

- 35** Abstracts taken from world-renowned medical journals focusing on:  
Obs & Gyn; Infection; Paediatrics; Diabetes; Gastroenterology; Misc

## CPD Challenge

- 39** Test yourself on the articles appearing in this issue of *Africa Health*  
Answers on page 39

## Clinical Quiz

- 40** A spoonful of sugar  
Answers on page 34

Below are our Publishing Partners for 2017. Each organisation has demonstrated its commitment to health in Africa by supporting this publication throughout the year.



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Scientific Conference on Medical Products Regulation in Africa

27 – 28  
November  
2017

Accra, Ghana

#SCoMRA

Important Discussion Topic – **ONE!**

## Medicines regulatory systems strengthening and harmonization in Africa – Where are we?

Medicines regulatory systems strengthening and harmonisation work has gained momentum in Africa and according to the Access to Medicines Index, access to medicine in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) has improved in 2016. However, Africa still accounts for over 25% of the world's disease burden and its share of global health expenditure is less than 1%. How can Africa device mechanisms for sustaining this momentum, address challenges, share lessons learnt and best practices to accelerate knowledge exchange and overturn this deficit?

### No need to re-invent the wheel

Africa needs strong institutions that can address these challenges. Learning from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the

European Medicines Agency (EMA) driven collaborative efforts is critical in accelerating medicines regulatory systems strengthening and harmonization efforts in Africa, as well as the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization (AMRH) Initiative and the African Vaccines Regulatory Forum (AVAREF). Establishment of a continental body such as the African Medicines Agency (AMA) is a step in the right direction to ensure proper coordination and strengthening of these Pan-African Initiatives.

Promoting partnerships and alignment of these efforts will ensure collective impact and mutual accountability. Involvement of private, public and private-public institutions is a cornerstone in sustaining this momentum and achieving sustainable growth of the pharmaceutical industry in Africa.

*Join us at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Scientific Conference to participate in the process and learn more*

 <http://www.nepad.org/scientificconference/>

