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Thank you.

Universal Health Coverage gains momentum

This issue of the AHJ starts with an opinion piece that imagines a world in which avoidable deaths are not accepted as normal. It is a summary of my statement to a side event at the UN General Assembly in September. This meeting, like the TICAD7 in Yokohama, Japan, and the 69th Regional Committee of the WHO Africa Region that took place in August, which also feature in this issue, all champion the drive to achieve the SDGs.

The Annual Symposium of the African Forum for Research and Education in Health (AFREhealth) that took place in August points out the critical role of improving the contribution of health professionals education and research to achieving SDGs in Africa. This four-year-old institution consolidates all professionals interested in education and research into one organisation. This issue also reports on a recent meeting of the group 'The Network: Towards Unity For Health' in Australia. This is a global community that promotes accountability in health workforce education, training and service.

There is an article on the final push on leprosy in Uganda, a disease whose elimination is proving elusive. There are lessons here for all our other efforts on disease control.

The East, Central and Southern African Health Community (ECSA) has described their remarkable work in the region and shared with the community through the 12th ECSA-HC Best Practices Forum, where the authors elaborate Innovation and Accountability in Health Towards Achieving Universal Health Coverage. This article highlights the added value of regional economic communities in supporting joint learning

and mutual accountability for health.

There are several articles on human resources for health, including a discussion of migration, and one on the Nursing Now Global Campaign, a three-year effort led by the UK that has got WHO to declare 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife. Preparations are now underway in African countries on activities to realise the objectives of the campaign.

Uganda's journey in creating a culture of quality is described by an international group of experts in quality assurance in health care. This was one of the very first quality of care initiatives in Africa.

There is an article on the impact of Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights agreements on public health with elaboration on tensions between TRIPS agreement and public health by Professor Aginam Obijiofor.

Finally, a section on obituaries has been introduced, with Professor Roy D. Mugerwa of Makerere University being the first to be eulogised in our journal.

The AHJ is available online as an open access web-based publication (africa-health.com). There are updates on news and current affairs that are visited by a large audience. There is also dialogue through social media of the AHJ. Those wishing to advertise are welcome to use the print and electronic media of the AHJ.



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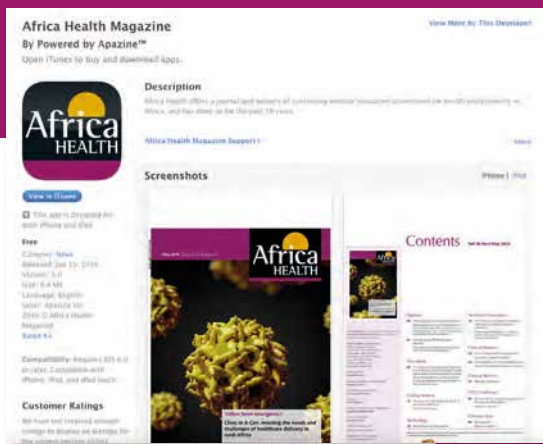
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