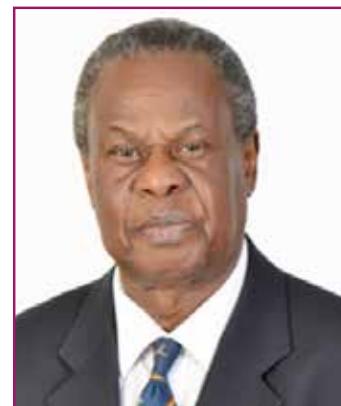


Unprecedented times



We are publishing this April 2020 issue of the journal in the middle of an unprecedented global phenomenon. The world has been brought to a standstill by a tiny virus, novel CORONA Virus. It was first noticed in humans in Wuhan, China and has now reached each and every country. The World Health Organization (WHO) has provided outstanding leadership in issuing timely ongoing guidance to countries and at times directly to general population round the world, for example on correct hand washing procedures and technical guidelines to health workers on the use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). World leaders have responded in tandem to the WHO guidelines with strict orders to their populations to stay at home and upgrade health systems to respond to the pandemic.

The AHJ is contributing to this effort in this issue through several relevant articles. The Opinion calls for community mobilisation and empowerment so that transmission of Covid-19 is prevented at that level by active participation of the people, infected individuals are identified, isolated, tested and treated and all contacts are traced. This acknowledges the fact that building and holding the trust of communities is the foundation of the pandemic control.

Another article advocates Inter-Sectoral collaboration as the entry point for recruiting the participation of the whole of government and maximising the value of available resources. There is an article on the mental health implications of Covid-19, which are often overlooked. And there is a short article on the wider implications for

Universal Health Coverage that, among other things, draws attention to the recurring global challenge that frontline health workers are facing in accessing PPEs.

Just before going to press, we were able to add an important Open Letter in support of the WHO in the light of unwarranted attacks on its response to Covid-19.

The AHJ cannot forget to have a balance between discussing Covid-19 and other public health needs of the population. Neglect of other health needs of the people has been noted to incur serious collateral damage from the disproportionate attention that the pandemic has received. Maternal health and obstetric emergencies for example have been victim in some countries. We have therefore published an article of Family Planning as a critical input into human rights, maternal and family health and as a contributor to the demographic dividend which cannot be achieved without a reduction in fertility. In line with this, we have an incisive article on the Demographic Dividend that gives a development perspective that actors in the health sector need to get familiar with.

Non-Communicable Diseases in Nigeria are presented by a panel authors from Australia, India and Lagos University. This article provides a comprehensive analysis of current trends, government policies and efforts, including challenges of decentralisation and governance. From Kumasi, Ghana, we have an article on impressive progress with Emergency Medicine in Ghana that was triggered by a report of a Commission of Inquiry into the tragedy in a football stadium years ago.

Snake bite is a fairly common experience in rural Africa and we have an article from the Coalition for Health Promotion and Social Development (HEPS-Uganda). Snakebites are estimated to cause death to 81,000-138,000 people and 435,000-580,000 amputations and other permanent disabilities annually.

There is an article describing the development of an electronic platform for Health Professional Councils to facilitate the registration and licensing of health workers in Uganda. This technology should be of interest to all countries as it simplifies the processes for maintaining health professional registers.

Finally we have an obituary of Professor Fitzhugh Mullan, an American doctor who has made a significant contribution to contemporary health professionals' education in Africa.

There is the usual quiz, plenty of news and advertisements including the report of the Health Ministers Conference of East Central and Southern African Health Community in Lusaka, Zambia.

The AHJ is available online as an open access web-based publication (africa-health.com). This website is active daily with current affairs, social media such as Twitter and FaceBook, and is visited by a large audience. Those wishing to advertise are welcome to use the print and electronic channels of the AHJ using guidelines that are in the journal.

Professor Francis Omaswa

(omaswaf@achest.org)

The Africa Health website

The website includes:

- The latest issue, and the back issues of [Africa Health](#)
- Latest news
- The TRIP searchable database for evidence based articles and guidelines
- Continuing Professional Development courses
- Conference and meetings calendar
- An insight into African scientific publishing
- Subscription information
- Banner advertisements

Search the TRIP database for free

Here is a free database which gives you access to millions of articles, all indexed and uniquely ranked.

Content is entirely evidence-based and peer-reviewed, and in addition to the scientific

articles on every medical subject you can imagine; the database also includes a host of guidelines on treatment and management protocols.

Crucial in the use of the database is the need to understand the filtering options (see image to the right) or you will find yourself





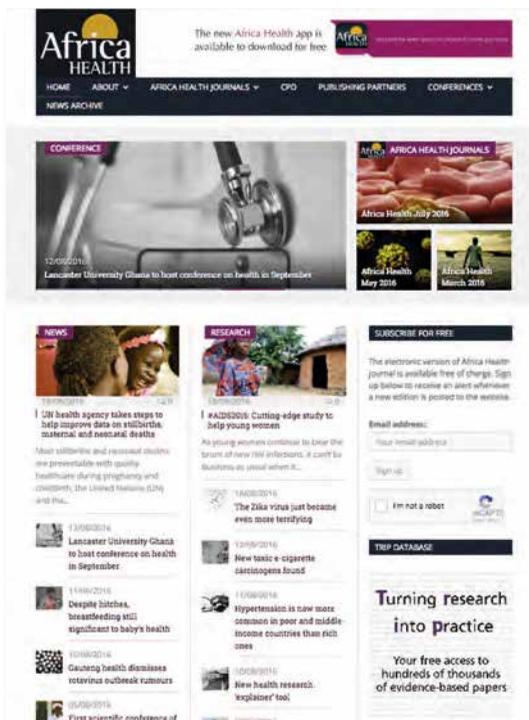
Get Africa Health on the go

The Africa Health app is available to download. You can now read the latest edition and archived editions of Africa Health on the go.

You can find the Africa Health app is available for both iPhone and Android via the app stores.

The app and it's content is completely free to download from the app store.

Please note that the app currently shows a couple of years worth of journals. More of the archive will be added in due course.



View the latest edition and back issues of the Africa Health journal

Subscribe for free to the Africa Health e-alerts. This enables you to read every edition online as soon as they are available



with a 'selection' of several thousand papers. Having carefully chosen the search words (be as specific as you can) you will then see (down the right hand side) a number of refinements that you can make to your search. You'll then have a much more manageable and relevant search outcome.



I need you here...

Taking your HIV medication EVERY DAY can help you be here when I grow up. I heard there's a "Triple Pill" that can make it easier.



Take a Triple a Day. Every Day.

Ask your Doctor if there is a Triple Pill for YOU.

The 2014 Namibian Guidelines for Antiretroviral Therapy and The World Health Organization recommend Fixed-Dose Combination Therapy Consolidated Guidelines on the Use of Antiretroviral Drugs for Treating and Preventing HIV Infection, Geneva, World Health Organization, 2013. (<http://www.who.int/hiv/pub/guidelines/arv2013/en>)

