

# Global health governance in crisis

The October issue focuses on global health governance. This theme runs through all the articles. The Opinion piece illustrates the governance challenges observed especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. It also offers solutions that could mitigate these challenges by strengthening South-South Collaboration. The article on global health governance comprehensively defines and elaborates how it addresses newly emerging and re-emerging health issues in an age of globalisation. It explains how complicated and messy it can be. This is further expounded on by an article on the COVID-19 African perspective which also talks about global health in relation to vaccine distribution. It explains how the pandemic has affected the treatment rates for specific conditions like HIV and TB which are still a challenge in Africa. It also has a portion on how low-income countries particularly in Africa are often constrained in negotiating favourable vaccine supply arrangements and may not have the infrastructure to develop local manufacturing capability. This reveals the inequity in vaccine distribution and points to challenges in global health governance.

Vaccines constitute another compelling topic in this issue. The article on COVID-19 vaccine myths and misconceptions explains which vaccines are most widely used and those that are most available in Africa. It highlights the fact that vaccine related myths are a leading cause of sub-optimal vaccine uptake in the African region and explains why. It illustrates what the myths and facts are; and this is useful for health workers who have to explain to the public on what is true and what is false. There is an article on BCG, one of the oldest vaccines in the world which has greatly impacted

global health by reducing infections and deaths from Tuberculosis (TB). Although one of the oldest-known treatable infectious diseases, TB still affects many people especially in LMICs. The article talks about the evolution of BCG, its benefits, how its distribution has been affected by COVID-19 and the prospects of development of a new TB vaccine.

Venous thromboembolism (VTE) is a serious potentially fatal medical condition that is given attention in this issue, giving an overview on its epidemiology, pathophysiology, risk factors, prevention, diagnosis and treatment as well as its relation to COVID-19.

The article on Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) reflects on how a 20-year-old African Institution has developed its programmes, achievements and lessons learned, sustainability and building trust in the institution. It includes the institutional memory and insights of all of four Executive Directors since inception, the co-authors of the article.

There are several specialties in surgery, one of which is Oral Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS). An article has been included in this issue to highlight why super-specialisation is important and how some disciplines are not well understood. The authors also give a report on the scope of work of OMFS, its training and what the future hold in Africa for the discipline.

Two conferences are reported on in this issue: the first one was held by the African Forum on Research and Health in Africa (AFREhealth) which was its first ever virtual conference. The discussions around 'Social Justice and Equity for Health in Africa' will go a long way in contributing to developmental ideas in the region. The second conference was also virtual, held by The Network: Towards Unity for Health (TUFH). The meeting came up with a declaration

on working towards inclusiveness, social accountability principles, inter-professional practice and education, and health equity.

The article on Telemedicine elaborates its benefits and challenges for patients, health care systems and governments in Africa.

Carol Natukunda reports on how the simple act of cleaning hands can reduce illness. This is in relation to the Global Handwashing day that was celebrated on 5 October worldwide under the theme 'Our Future is at Hand – Let's Move Forward Together.' She highlights the importance of handwashing especially during this period with a pandemic on our hands. She gives us details of how the day was celebrated in Uganda and also gives synopsis of what was said by the Global Health leaders on the topic.

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**Elsie Kiguli-Malwadde**

(kigulimalwadde@achest.org)

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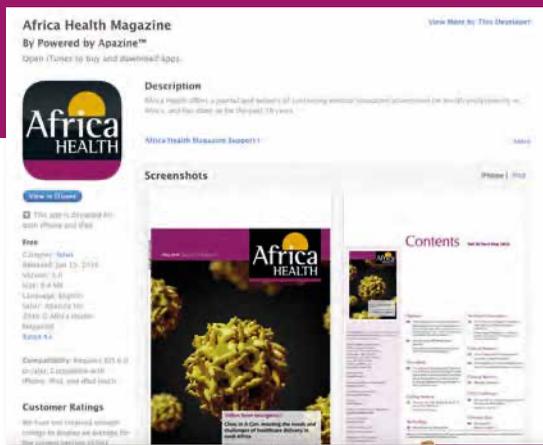
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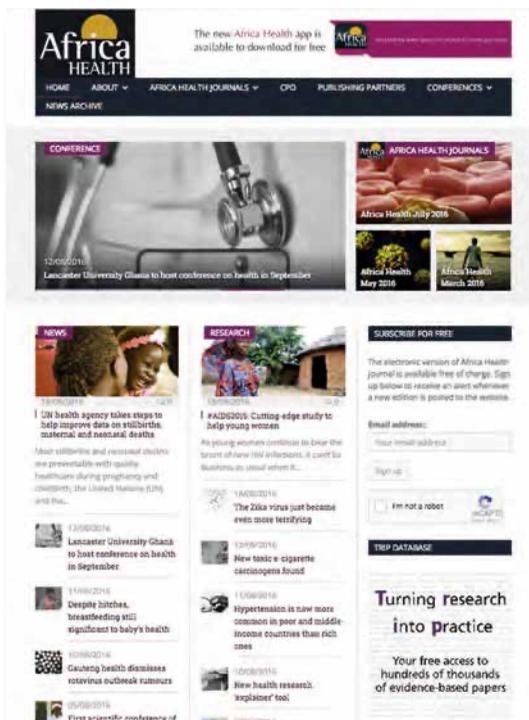
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