Health Workforce Remains Central to the Conversation

The July issue of the African Health Journal (AHJ) presents a diverse array of articles focusing on various aspects of the health workforce, primarily drawing from experiences in Uganda and other African nations.

Francis Omaswa's Opinion piece emphasizes the significance of South-South collaboration, highlighting successful examples from Africa. He argues that these partnerships offer a more practical approach to addressing Africa's challenges of poverty, disease, and lack of education - issues that have persisted since independence from colonial rule. Omaswa advocates for increased support and promotion of such collaborations, viewing them as key to achieving the long-held aspirations of African nations. By leveraging shared experiences and resources, South-South partnerships are seen as a vital pathway to sustainable development and progress across the continent.

The issue opens with a brief conference report on the Dr. Lee Jong-Wook Fellowship Program (LJWFP) General Assembly in Seoul, organized by the Korea Foundation for International Healthcare (KOFIH). KOFIH's commitment to international collaboration and humanitarian values through health assistance projects in Asia and Africa is highlighted, emphasizing the importance of South-to-South cooperation.

Two articles showcase KOFIH-supported work in Tanzania and Uganda. The first, "Capacity enhancement of medical technical services (CEOMETS) project and health care technical services in Tanzania," written by Engineer Suniva Haule, emphasizes the value of training biomedical engineers and technicians. It demonstrates the positive impact on healthcare technical services management and health technology management improvement in Tanzania. The second article, "The Uganda Trauma Assessment and Treatment Algorithm" by Dr. Alfonse Omona, illustrates how in-service training using local, cost-effective modules can enhance emergency care quality in Uganda. Both authors are beneficiaries of the LJWFP, underscoring the program's impact on capacity building in Africa.

John Paul Bagala's article describes an initiative by Uganda's Ministry of Health to improve maternal and child outcomes. This comprehensive approach includes awareness campaigns, advocacy, training, and the establishment of monitoring and evaluation systems, reshaping the safe motherhood landscape in the country.

Francis Kakooza's piece highlights the crucial role of cross-border surveillance in enhancing pandemic preparedness in East Africa. The article discusses efforts to integrate surveillance systems, share information, build capacity, and engage communities to improve the region's ability to detect and respond to health threats. It also outlines challenges and recommendations for strengthening cross-border surveillance, emphasizing the need for collaboration among policymakers, educators, and health professionals to ensure regional and global health security.

An innovative health education project is described by Yamawaki et al., detailing the adaptation of Japan's Creative Health project for post-genocide recovery in Rwanda. Implemented at two schools, the project focuses on anatomy, medical history, and practical skills, fostering cross-cultural learning and collaboration. The article notes the active engagement of Rwandan students and the successful adaptation of storytelling techniques to the local context.

Dr. Fabruce Ramaherimamonjy's story exemplifies the African Union's Africa Day theme: "Educate an African fit for the 21st Century." His journey from aspiring engineer to founder of Bethany Hospital Centre in Madagascar showcases dedication to medical education and improved healthcare standards, aligning with Africa's goal of inclusive, lifelong learning for sustainable development.

Tamale Elvis, a young Ugandan doctor, shares his experience founding Medxmentor, a hybrid mentorship program supporting the holistic development of undergraduate health sciences students. He emphasizes the importance of mentorship in guiding students toward self-discovery and personal growth.

Alfred Driwale, Commissioner for Institutional Capacity Building and Human Resource Development at Uganda's Ministry of Health, reports on the National Policy Dialogue on the Health Workforce in Uganda. He outlines the event's proceedings, key findings from the Health Labour Market Analysis, and recommendations from the dialogue. This is complemented by David Okello's policy brief addressing the paradoxical challenge of rising unemployment among health workers and the need to manage the externalization of excess health workforce in Uganda.

The issue includes an obituary for Dr. Joshua Bazaale Musinguzi, who recently passed away following cardiac surgery. Dr. Musinguzi had served as Assistant Commissioner/Program Manager of the AIDS control program in Uganda's Ministry of Health.

The journal concludes with its regular features, including a medicine digest, quiz, news, and advertisements. The AHJ is available as an open-access web-based publication at Africa-health.com, which is updated daily with current affairs and engages readers through social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook. The journal welcomes advertisers to utilize both print and electronic channels, following provided guidelines.

This issue of the African Health Journal offers a comprehensive look at various aspects of healthcare in Africa, from capacity building and innovative education programs to policy dialogues and cross-border health initiatives. It showcases the ongoing efforts to improve healthcare delivery, education, and workforce management across the continent, while also highlighting international collaborations and the importance of mentorship in developing the next generation of healthcare professionals.



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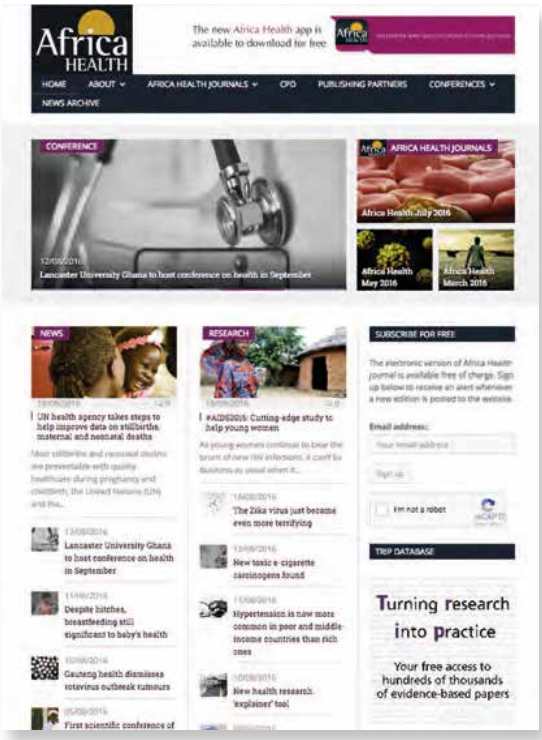
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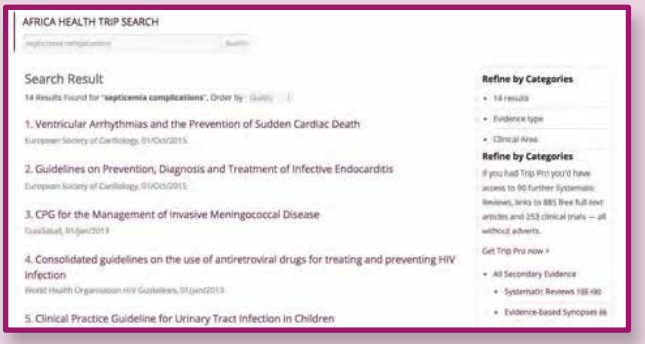
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