Important Issues in Africa, Health Workforce and Breast cancer.

This issue is dominated by two important topics, health workforce training and breast cancer. They are two distinct topics, each with its own significance for Africa. The continent still faces major challenges of significant health workforce shortage. While breast cancer disease burden seems relatively lower in Sub Saharan Africa (SSA), survival is staggeringly low, with disproportionately high mortality rates, Therefore this makes it an important issue to focus on considering that October is breast cancer awareness month.

Francis Omaswa emphasizes Health Workforce (HWF) leadership as a weak link in achieving UHC in Africa, citing a lack of trained HWF managers. He urges stakeholders to develop specialized managers capable of planning and managing health workers effectively. This followed a WHO Africa meeting (Lusaka, Zambia, November 12–14, 2024), participants focused on competency-based curricula for training health workers. They highlighted the need for practical skills over theoretical knowledge. This culminated in the Lusaka Statement on Health Professions Education (HPE), featured in this issue, stressing the importance of equipping future HWFs to meet population health needs.

Two significant African conferences are highlighted. The 7th AFREhealth Symposium took place from August 6–8, 2024, in Nairobi, Kenya, with 225 global participants. Under the theme "Progress towards SDGs in Africa: Celebrating Milestones and Overcoming Challenges," members emphasized learning from both successes and setbacks. They advocated leveraging technology, advancing research, and addressing healthcare gaps to build a sustainable future. Achieving the SDGs requires collective effort, and Africa must lead with purpose to realize this vision.

The second conference, the Network Towards Unity for Health (TUFH) and Rural WONCA joint event, was held on September 10–13, 2024. Named "Ubuntu 2024" (meaning "I am, because you are"), it marked TUFH's 45th anniversary and the 20th WONCA World Rural Health Conference. Ubuntu 2024 underscored interconnectedness, emphasizing collective identity, inclusivity, and the value of interpersonal bonds. The conference concluded with the Ubuntu 2024 Declaration, reflecting these principles and promoting a holistic approach to global health.

Next we have an article by Ambrose Otau Talisuna which highlights the epidemics and pandemics that have occurred in Africa and proposes concrete actions to safeguard frontline health workers. It is in remembrance of Dr. Matthew Lukwiya and other fallen health care workers who died during Ebola pandemics in Uganda and elsewhere in the African continent. It brings to light the importance of the urgent need to protect frontline health care workers and proposes concrete actions to safeguard frontline health workers.

It has been said that Africa is faced with a double burden of diseases; both the communicable and non-Communicable diseases are still a challenge in Africa. The next two articles are written by experts on breast cancer. The first one written by a team of imaging experts describes initiatives undertaken to raise breast cancer awareness in Uganda. They note that early detection and access to effective treatment remain a challenge for countries with limited resources, despite there being proven and cost-effective interventions. They describe programs they have put together to promote early detection and support those affected by this disease among health workers and the public. Another article on breast cancer also emphasizes the fact that breast cancer represents a significant and growing health concern. It tells us about the factors contributing to the burden of breast cancer in Africa, the efforts that have been made to address breast cancer in Africa as well as some future directions and Recommendations.

The rest of the articles are on health professions education. They all elaborate on different Methods of training and their attributes. One is by Florence Githinji, a Quality Assurance Officer who gives her insight on fostering competence and safety of future healthcare professionals in the context of the Digital Education Revolution. She describes the evolution of eLearning and discusses the quality assurance mechanisms that need to be put in place to foster e-Learning for Health. She concludes that eLearning in has the potential to transform healthcare education in Africa, but its success depends on the implementation of effective quality assurance practices. There is an article by the director of Mercy Ships, Guinea on transforming dental training in Africa. He discusses the importance of having appropriate spaces for skills training for the dentists which are often inadequate in many training institutions in Africa. He describes efforts that have been put in place to overcome this issue in Guinea, which are scalable in other African countries. Allan Pamba in another article discussed the current state of funding for achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Africa, with a particular focus on diagnostics. He also proposed actionable steps to address the challenges and pave the way forward. Caroline Kisia, Africa ECHO Director crowns it with a revolutionary model that transforms how healthcare knowledge is disseminated across the globe by leveraging technology. Project ECHO has a philosophy: "All Teach, All Learn." This principle underscores the idea that both experts and learners contribute to the learning process. It is a must read.

There's our usual medicine digest and quiz, along with plenty of news and advertisements. The AHJ is available online as an open-access web-based publication (Africa-health.com). This website is active daily, sharing current affairs and engaging through social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook, drawing a large audience. Those interested in advertising are welcome to utilize both the print and electronic channels of the AHJ, following the guidelines provided in the journal.



Elsie Kiguli-Malwadde
(kigulimalwadde@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

Africa HEALTH



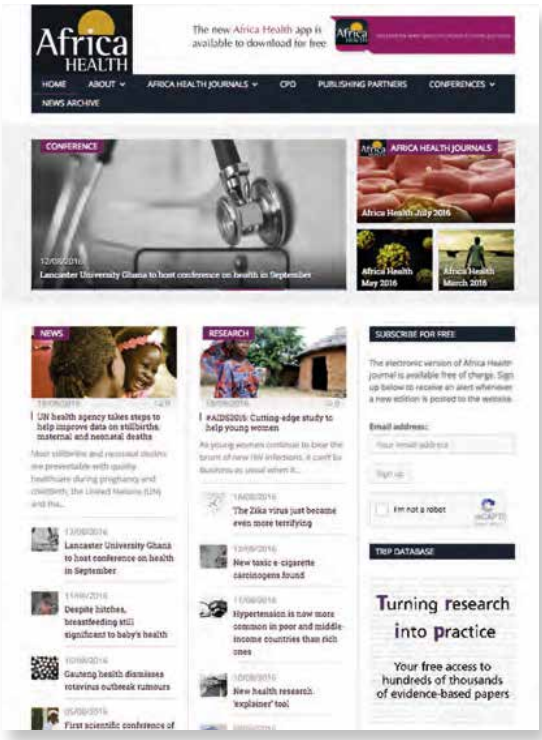
Get Africa Health on the go

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.

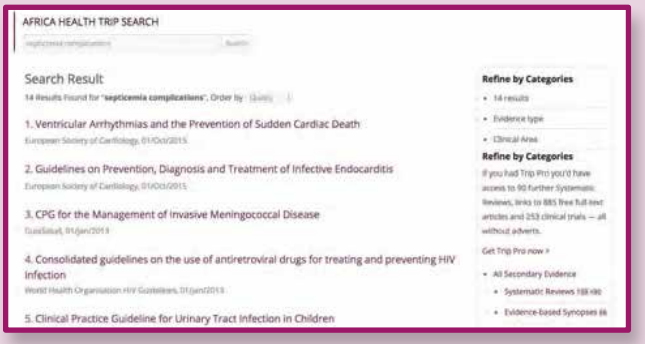
Please note that the app currently shows a couple of years worth of journals. More of the archive will be added in due course.



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.



www.africa-health.com