Double Burden of disease



The April issue addresses several topics that underscore Africa's double burden of disease, comprising both communicable and non-communicable diseases. Two articles focus on the resurgence of Mpox in Africa, and another highlights the growing concern of prostate cancer. These themes informed the title of this month's editorial.

Prof. Francis Omaswa shares an insightful opinion piece based on his extensive experience. He discusses the critical gaps in African health systems, particularly within laboratory services, and advocates for the adoption of a Quality Assurance approach across all health sectors.

This issue also covers two major conferences: the inaugural Advancing Medical Education in Africa Conference (MedEdAfrica 2025), organized by the University of Global Health Equity (UGHE) in collaboration with Rwanda's Ministry of Health, and the 16th Annual Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) Conference held in Atlanta, Georgia, co-hosted by Emory University, the University of Georgia, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

As mentioned, two articles explore Mpox. One by Dr. Nachega outlines the emergence of Mpox, tracing its evolution from zoonotic origins to human transmission. He identifies critical gaps in surveillance, diagnosis, and treatment, offering policy and public health recommendations. The second article, authored by the WHO Uganda Country Office team, shares their experiences, challenges, and lessons learned during Uganda's Mpox outbreak response. These articles highlight the ongoing struggle Africa faces with emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. Notably, in April, Malawi reported several Mpox cases, contributing to a broader continental surge, with over 52,000 infections and nearly 1,800 deaths across 16 countries this year. The Africa CDC estimates that 6.4 million vaccine doses are needed, yet only 1.3 million have been received so far.

The issue also includes three short reports. The first marks the Global Day for women affected by childbirth injuries, with the Worldwide Fistula Fund reflecting on 30 years of fighting to end obstetric fistula. The second raises alarm over the deadly impact of counterfeit medicines, particularly fake antimalarials on the continent. The third discusses new research linking oral and gut bacteria to brain changes and cognitive decline in Parkinson's disease.

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A feature article by the president of the World Medical Association (WMA) offers a historical overview of the WMA since its founding in 1947. It also highlights women's leadership in global health, spotlighting Dr. Kitulu's inspiring journey to the presidency.

Nabawanuka et al. present a compelling article on building sustainable interventional radiology training and research infrastructure in East Africa. This piece underscores the power of both global and regional collaboration in advancing this emerging field. This approach shows that south to south collaboration can meaningfully contribute to development in the African region. Many times Africa looks to the north for expertise while they could help each other gain expertise without leaving the region. This is a great example to emulate within our region.

In a follow-up to a previous article on prostate health, experts from the Pan-African Urological Surgeons Association's Institute for Urological Training in Africa (PIUTA), based at the Ibadan Centre, call for urgent and coordinated action to address Africa's escalating prostate cancer burden.

Another notable article addresses the growing challenges faced by the elderly in Africa, especially amidst limited resources. Iraguha et al. describe a successful grassroots intervention in Uganda that takes a holistic approach to disability management and socio-economic empowerment among the elderly, a scalable model for broader implementation across Africa.

Prof. Omaswa also pens a heartfelt tribute to his late friend and colleague, Professor Ignatius Kakande—a revered teacher, surgeon, and family man, whose legacy lives on through the many patients he treated and students he mentored.

This issue introduces a new feature: a book review of Global One Health and Infectious Diseases: An Interdisciplinary Practitioner's Guide. Reviewer Will Sander commends the book for integrating the wide-ranging topics essential for global health practitioners working at the intersection of human and animal health, particularly in developing regions.

We also include our usual Medicine Digest, quiz, news updates, and advertisements. The Africa Health Journal (AHJ) is available as an open-access, web-based publication at Africa-health.com. The site is updated daily and actively engages audiences via social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook. Advertisers are encouraged to utilize both the print and digital formats of the AHJ, following the provided guidelines.

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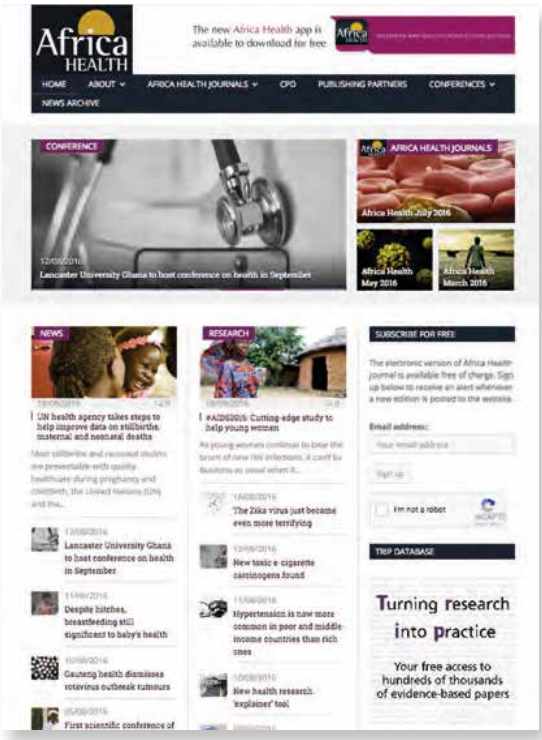
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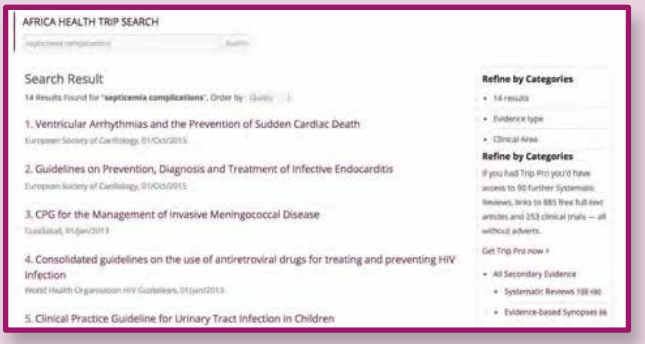
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