

Editor's choice: Tackling infectious diseases, NCDs and sexual reproductive health issues as we enter our 24th year of remarkable growth

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You are welcome to this first issue of 2024, which marks our entry into the 24th year of publication of *African Health Sciences*. In August 2024, we shall be celebrating 24 years of steady growth and survival, as a journal in a highly competitive environment. We thank all our partners, authors, readers, reviewers, editorial team members, and our volunteer staff, and others, for your selfless, unconditional support. We do not take this support for granted, and we are extremely grateful to all of you. We are very proud of you as we, together, strive to push scientific publishing in Africa to greater heights. Thank you very much indeed!

In this March 2024 issue of *African Health Sciences*, we bring you papers on infectious diseases, sexual reproductive and child health, non-communicable diseases, and health system issues.

The eleven papers on infectious diseases are, as usual, dominated by HIV and tuberculosis¹⁻⁶, and others⁷⁻¹¹, such as viral hemorrhagic fever and otomycosis.

The next section covers sexual reproductive and child health¹²⁻¹⁹. These range from gender-based violence¹²⁻¹³, contraception¹⁴, screening for cervical cancer¹⁵, occupational hazards, preterm labour, and attitudes to abortion¹⁶⁻¹⁹.

The treatise on non-communicable diseases is somewhat on familiar territory covering diabetes mellitus²⁰⁻²², cancer²³; irritable bowel²⁴, COPD²⁵, Parkinson's disease²⁶ and intussusception²⁷.

The next section is a salad of sorts: surfactant, newborn screening, and nutrition status²⁸⁻³⁰. Health systems domi-

nate the next section and include traditional health system referrals³¹⁻³², mobile phones in health care³³⁻³⁴, and an odd paper on deodorants in Palestine. The Editor's choice ends with two interesting papers on herbal medicine and pharmacogenetics.

We wish you very productive and enjoyable reading!

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