

Africa Health revisited

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And so the new dawn breaks. *Africa Health* returns with a comprehensive design makeover and the introduction of a range of new articles and authors. For 7 years *Mera* interloped as our cover title and was a valuable 'carrier' of the extended range of material, but upon review we realised that we were trying to be too many things to too many people. Our roots are in being a review journal and being the messenger of new developments, we cannot also be the publisher of scientific originality. So back to *Africa Health*, back to a single-journal format dedicated to continuing medical education.

But there are big differences, or better stated, big additions to the *Africa Health* of old. First we have introduced a CPD Challenge. Continuing Professional Development has to be at the forefront of medical practice today, and a journal such as *Africa Health* can play a useful part in the process. So at the end of many of the articles you will see a 'CPD Challenge' logo. Go to page 77 and you'll find questions on that article. You can do the tests as a pure self-assessment, or you might prefer to discuss the issues at a journal club or over a lunchtime snack or evening beer with colleagues. Whichever, we want the reading to be a little more proactive than the usual sedentary process.

And second, our website is undergoing a complete refit to make it a portal through which you can find the knowledge that you seek, quickly and efficiently. And journals like the *African Journal of Respiratory Medicine* will become both fully web-based on an open access principle AND independently available in paper format. Core review articles with broad appeal will still appear in *Africa Health*. The website may not be quite ready by the time you read this, but if you don't get online straight away, bear with us, it won't be too long before www.africa-health.com is ready. Much more on this in our November issue.

And so to this issue. We kick off with an entertaining opinion piece from the great Dr Shima Gyoh, who I am hoping

is going to become a regular columnist for us. His experience is so broad and his commitment so great that he can commentate on anything. I hope he'll stir some useful debate. And what else? Kevin De Cock's 'state of the HIV universe' lecture is compulsory reading I promise. You won't find a better constructed commentary anywhere; and beyond that we are covering rapid diagnostic tests for malaria, TB/HIV coordination, how mobile phones could protect against counterfeit drugs, a briefing on male circumcision, H1N1 vaccine availability, capacity building, accessing the Global Fund... and not forgetting another new columnist; Dr Yunkap Kwampan asks 'Can you read eHealth?' Well can you? And then there is the *Medicine* journal section covering the management of cough, and the use of flexible bronchoscopes, followed by our Clinical Review section, the *Medicine* Digest abstracts, and of course the Quiz.

I hope you find it a useful mix. It is work in progress and it will take two or three issues to settle down into a recognisable formula. BUT I do want feedback. I want noise. I want to hear from readers who have used the content as a basis of clinical discussion within a department, practice, health centre, etc; and I want comment and discussion on issues raised. So... £100 paid by Western Union to the author of best letter in the November issue.

All best

Bryan Pearson

