

Preface to the 3rd issue of the International Journal of Medicine and Biomedical Research, 2013

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Modern medicine has substantially changed the disease course and improved quality of life by effective prevention, prompt detection and appropriate therapeutic regimens. Along with the unprecedented growth of biomedical sciences, there is an unmet need for the communication of medicine and biomedical research. The goal of our journal is to facilitate the communication of cutting-edge knowledge, raise the social awareness of important health care issues and catalyze the translation of knowledge from bench top to the bedside. The 3rd issue of the 2nd volume of our journal, International Journal of Medicine and Biomedical Research, works hard to select the depth and breadth of quality articles worldwide, covering topics in pharmaceutical chemistry, infectious diseases, cancer research, drug regulation, and health care education.

The first paper gave a thorough review of the novel anticonvulsant medication Levetiracetam. Levetiracetam effectively inhibits the excessive firing of neurons during a seizure with a unique mechanism of action and an unusually high safety margin. This review discusses the the molecular mechanism, pharmacokinetics, uses and side-effects of levetiracetam in the treatment of various types of epileptic seizures.

Disease demographics and management in developing countries is important but usually poorly-studied and it is one of the focuses of our journal. The second paper in this issue reports a retrospective study of the clinical and demographic feature and the treatment of 108 oral pyogenic granuloma cases in Ghanaians.

Chukwuonye *et al.* performed a community-based study on the pattern of alcohol consumption in Abia state, Nigeria. The authors highlight that the percentage of heavy alcohol consumers in Abia is high. Furthermore, the authors state that authorities' intervention is needed to reduce the health burden associated with heavy drinking and suggest approaches such as health education, alcohol taxation, and importation regulation.

Early detection of tumours has substantially improved the chances of survival for many types of cancer; however, for bladder cancer, we are still in the process of identifying the best biomarkers to facilitate prompt diagnosis and the design of treatment. In this issue of IJMBR, Miakhil *et al.* provide an up-to-date review of all the molecular markers of bladder cancer isolated from various sources, such as serum, urine and tissue, covering proteomic, genetic and epigenetic categories. Some of the markers are already approved by FDA and the authors expect them to be incorporated into the UK standard practice in the near future.

Human Pappiloma Virus (HPV) vaccination effectively prevents the infection of this sexually-transmitted oncogenic virus only if injected before the infection. Therefore, to understand the determinants of premarital sex will help the decision of the age of HPV vaccination. Bukar *et al.* report a cross-sectional study of 221 people in Maiduguri, Nigeria, and drew a clear conclusion from the study that religion and occupation are the determinants of premarital sex. The study results also imply that the majority of people in Maiduguri are ready for the introduction of HPV vaccine.

Drug prescription for neuropathic pain is often symptomatic and poorly regulated. The study

by Tan *et al.* showed irrational drug use in the treatment neuropathic pain in Turkey. As the irrational drug use may cause health issue and exert an economic burden, the authors call for better education of healthcare professional and better regulations in reimbursement of neuropathic pain treatment.

An interesting study led by *et al.* assessed the quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in Cross River state, Nigeria, using the World Health Organization Quality Of Life BREF. The authors showed a lower score for living condition but a higher score for physical health, which not only implies that PLWHA has physically benefited from anti-viral therapy but also calls for new policies, such as loans, to empower them to establish means of livelihood.

Infectious disease prevention and treatment is an essential issue in the health care system. In a comparative study, Ashikeni *et al.* documented the effect of the community intervention on the perception and practice of malaria among mothers in Abuja, Nigeria. The authors reported that young mothers in Kuje had poor knowledge of the cause and prevention of malaria but this problem can and should be solved by adequate health education.

A study by Rajesh *et al.* evaluated the variations of the carrying angle of the elbow joint in adolescents. The data from the study is useful in the management of elbow displacement, fractures, epicondylar disease and surgical planning for elbow reconstruction.

Neonatal jaundice and birth asphyxia are major causes of cerebral palsy in Nigeria. Okperi B.O surveyed 116 doctors in Nigeria and revealed that surprisingly high percentage of doctors currently has wrong beliefs and practices regarding the management of neonatal jaundice and birth asphyxia. This study results support physician's Continuous Medical Education.

In the Letter to Editor, Savadkar *et al.* described a fatal case in which a patient died due to clozapine-induced atypical Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS). The authors point out that attention and mechanistic studies about atypical NMS are urgently needed.

We hope our readers enjoy reading this issue of International Journal of Medicine and Biomedical Research and we look forward to receiving and publishing more high-quality scientific manuscripts.

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