

GULF MEDICAL JOURNAL

Editorial

Gita Ashok Raj

Citation: Raj GA. Editorial. Gulf Medical Journal. 2017;6(1):1.

Non-communicable diseases continue to dominate health problems in the Gulf region. The report *Effective Public Health Strategies to Reduce the Burden of Non-communicable Diseases in the Gulf Region* provides direction to health authorities in GCC countries.

This issue presents five articles that highlight new epidemiologic factors contributing to the growing prevalence of infectious diseases in the same community; these may be easily linked to the six key components in the *chain of infection* as confirmed by the research findings in these local geographic situations.

Three studies highlight pathogenic organisms. The emergence of antibiotic-resistant strains as well as the need for appropriate antibiotic prescription is reported in a study entailing *an audit of current prescriptions for management of sore throat in a primary care facility in Dubai*. A second study brings out the association of *irritable bowel syndrome with Helicobacter pylori infections* as its extragastric manifestation, while a third study on *Salmonella arizonae, an uncommon uropathogen*, which is reportedly increasing in Nigeria as in the Middle East, stresses the need to include unusual pathogens in the spectrum of causative agents being investigated.

The contribution of the host factor is highlighted by cases of *Fournier's gangrene* as an unusual complication of diabetes in a susceptible host. The debate on a new *link between dental ultrasonic scalers and cardiovascular implanted device* in the dissemination of organisms

in the host reservoir is yet another important association in the chain of infections.

Increasing use of daycare centers has resulted in the creation of yet another high risk population. Therefore, new measures such as improving *caregivers' knowledge, attitude, and health practices* while attending infants and children are required to control the growing prevalence of dental caries.

Three articles in this issue highlight congenital anomalies in a region better known for greater numbers of single gene disorders. A study on the *esthetic perception of maxillary midline diastema among female students* reports possible strategies for management. On a lighter note, the gap between the front teeth, a congenital anomaly, is a sign of beauty for many and better left untouched! Two case reports of rare congenital anomalies are attributed to possible metal residue contamination of the environment as a result of continuing warfare.

A study on the use of genetic testing to deliver personalized and precise medicine in the management of childhood nephrotic syndrome response to steroid therapy and their relationship to NPHS2 gene mutations in a multicenter study in Saudi Arabia concluded that genetic mutations must be confirmed in the indigenous populations before instituting therapies that are effective in other ethnic populations.

This issue ends with a mind tickler in the form of a *clinical quiz on a neck swelling*. We hope these anecdotal findings continue to enrich the bank of evidence for your own clinical practice.

Correspondence: Prof. Gita Ashok Raj, Provost, Gulf Medical University, Ajman, & Editor-in-Chief, Gulf Medical Journal, P.O. Box 4184, Ajman, UAE. Email: dr.gita@gmu.ac.ae