

JEMDSA 2009 – A firm foundation for the future!

As 2009 draws to a close, there is time to reflect on the new-look JEMDSA. Through the tireless work of Professor Stephen Hough, a new publisher was found and the endocrine community drew together to ensure the success of JEMDSA as the official journal of six societies (SEMDSA, DESSA, NOFSA, SASOM, LASSA, and PAEDS-SA). It has been gratifying to witness the coordinated and willing effort of many people who have provided review articles, insightful commentary and some original research. It has, however, been somewhat perplexing to note a rather lukewarm response from the traditional supporters of the journal in terms of commercial advertising. This was unexpected given the tremendous buy-in from all the societies and organisations involved with the journal. Despite this, the first two issues have been a great success and the goals set out in the formative meeting at the SEMDSA congress in Johannesburg earlier in the year have been attained. The current issue furthers this trend and the editorial staff owes a debt of thanks to all the authors of the articles that appear in this issue. All have busy schedules but provided manuscripts punctually. Thanks are also due to the reviewers who ensured strict adherence to the peer-review process.

In this issue, Dr Larry Distiller tackles the controversies surrounding the optimal level of glycaemic control in subjects with type 2 diabetes. He makes sense out of the bewildering and apparently contradictory results of recent clinical trials and provides practical and workable advice.

On World Aids Day the extent of the HIV epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa was emphasised and as the anti-retroviral treatment roll-out expands, increasing metabolic consequences of this therapy will emerge and require clinical management. The article by Ismail and colleagues from the Division of Chemical Pathology, University of Cape Town reviews insulin signalling pathways and provides evidence for the influence of protease inhibitors on these pathways.

Dr Tobie de Villiers submits a timely review of bisphosphonate therapy given the disquieting reports of fractures that occur at atypical sites in subjects on long-term therapy. The new South African guidelines for the management of osteoporosis

are expected soon and these findings will no doubt play a role in treatment algorithms.

Professor Tessa van der Merwe reviews the impact of obesity on women and shows how obesity influences health in an age-related manner. This extends even into the older age-group where evidence is provided that obesity is an independent risk factor for Alzheimer's disease.

Professor Derick Raal comments on a meta-analysis of statin trials aimed at determining risk and benefit in subjects without established cardiovascular disease and argues for wider use of these agents in selected patient groups.

A report of an uncommon case of oncogenic osteomalacia from the Division of Endocrinology, University of the Witwatersrand highlights the rewarding cure of a devastating metabolic disorder.

Those engaged in regular clinical work can attest to the frustration of limited adherence of patients to drug regimens. There are probably many reasons for this, but some of the solution lies in more effective involvement of Pharmacists in the health care team. This is exemplified in the management of diabetes where ongoing education and reinforcement of treatment will improve outcomes of management and this is addressed in the article by J Berg and colleagues.

The journal has something for everybody who has an interest in endocrinology and with the foundation so firmly laid, the much-awaited 2010 promises more than world class football, but also a world class journal.

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