

Autism update and more CPD!

Both locally and internationally many people have campaigned tirelessly not only for the declaration of a special World Autism Day but also for increased awareness about the autism spectrum of disorders. It is interesting that a woman has been recognised for her outstanding effort in this endeavour. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's recent message on the inauguration of World Autism Awareness Day stated that he and his organisation '... commend this important initiative spearheaded by the State of Qatar, and applaud the leadership of Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned, the Consort of His Highness the Emir of Qatar, in raising awareness about children with developmental disabilities'.

The recent resolution by the General Council of the United Nations to declare 2 April World Autism Day, while considered overdue, has been welcomed by most people. Coinciding with this historic landmark, this issue of *SAJCH* contains a detailed review by Moolman-Smook and co-authors on the autism spectrum of disorders. It is accompanied by a brief editorial by Mubaiwa. We hope that these articles will be of real practical use for clinicians looking after patients who might well have undiagnosed autism. In addition information is available on the Internet, including www.autismsouthafrica.org, and at least two local support organisations ('Reach Autism SA' and 'Defeat Autism Now') can be contacted.

This issue of *SAJCH* contains a variety of other useful articles, from which readers will be able to extract helpful clinical information. The survey by Stefan and Wessels and the audit by Ogunlesi *et al.* are important steps for reviewing current practice and planning studies that will improve the quality of patient care. Original studies on neonatal hormone problems are few, particularly from developing countries, and the article on galactosaemia and primary congenital hypothyroidism by Lebea and Pretorius contains a good-size sample of just over a thousand subjects and should raise interesting discussion, particularly on the merits of neonatal screening.

This first issue of our second year in existence marks yet another milestone. Not only has *SAJCH* been approved for continuing professional development (CPD), but you can earn points from this very issue! To simplify the process for your convenience, answers can be entered on-line on www.cdpjournals.org.za, the same website used by all journals providing CPD in the SAMA stable. A link will also be provided from *SAJCH*'s own website www.sajch.org.za.

We hope all our readers will use this facility to earn additional CPD points. Remember that *SAJCH* is the common platform for all South African child health practitioners, and we look forward to submission of your manuscripts for peer review.

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Editor



A proudly South African congratulations to editors Kibel, Saloojee and Westwood on the recent appearance of the 4th edition of *Child Health for All*. The book is published by Oxford Southern Africa.

