

Editorial Comments

In the true interdisciplinary spirit of Health SA Gesondheid, this volume presents to our discerning readers a smorgasbord of articles. Once again, authors ranging from emergency medical care, public health workers, pharmacists and psychologists to nursing professionals bring you a variety of articles based on a variety of research methodologies and enquiries while various communities and geographical areas are represented by the authors as well as research participants in this volume.

In the qualitative tradition Emergency Medical Care professionals conducted a comparative study which resulted in significant findings which the health professions should take cognisance of. This article disseminates results pertaining to the preparation of skin sites, for skin puncture, with 70% isopropyl alcohol and the effects thereof on the subsequent levels of blood glucose concentrations. Both the authors from the public health sector and from psychology focused on youth in their articles. The important area of youth's perceptions of sexuality was investigated from a public health perspective. This qualitative research article explores and describes the views of young people regarding sexuality. Important results pertaining to the use of condoms, sexually transmitted diseases and the prevention of HIV infection were shared in this article. The focus on young people continues with a study by Psychologists in which factors facilitating well-being in adolescents and young adults were investigated by means of qualitative research methodologies. In the spirit of positive psychology the results from this study indicate that the extent to which they have discovered meaning in life and developed a sense of coherence predict the ability of young people to cope with multiple stressors whilst they also have to negotiate the transition from childhood to adulthood. Pharmacologists, on the other hand, contribute to the quality of this volume by a research article based on the investigation of medicine claims databases regarding the prescribing patterns and costs of antidiabetic medicine in the health care sector in South Africa. They observed an interesting trend towards combination therapy away from monotherapy for the treatment of diabetes. These results can inform decision-makers with critical knowledge to curb unnecessary costs. Both the contributors from the Nursing Sciences to this volume elucidate femininity and sexuality seen through cultural lenses. The cultural beliefs of the Vhavenda in terms of the causes and transmission of sexually transmitted infections are described by the first article from the nursing professions. The results of the grounded theory inquiry can inform health educators about sexually transmitted infections in order to change clients' health behaviour and to render culturally congruent care. The second article from the Nursing Scientists is also the final one in this volume. In this explorative, descriptive, contextual, quantitative survey, results that highlight several risks that could increase women's chances to develop cervix cancer are shared. From these results it seems that the risks are embedded in knowledge and awareness of cervix cancer, women's socioeconomic situation as well as practices during menstruation.

It is clear from an overview of the contents of this volume that, once again, it offers something for everyone interested in human health. May you, our discerned reader, find this volume as informative and thought provoking as I have.

Prof Gertie (HG) Pretorius

Professional Editor