

## **Editorial**

The current issue of SLJID reflects many of the issues and concerns which are prevalent in several countries around the world.

The Review on chronic ulcers is a reminder to all of us that chronic non healing ulcers on the lower limbs are still too commonly seen in diverse clinical situations. There is an improving understanding of the pathogenesis of such ulcers. However, in relatively poorly resourced health systems, a parallel improvement in the management of patients with such ulcers is yet to be seen. The initiation by the author of a multidisciplinary model of care, within the time and cost constraints of a public health care system is commendable. This programme, which emphasizes preventive as well as curative management, is a step in the right direction and offers hope to many patients who have spent many years attempting to find relief for their non-healing ulcers.

The availability and quality of diagnostic tests continue to be of concern, not only in countries where there is no formal regulatory system but also in countries such as the USA, where there is an active on-going discussion on the need for increased regulation of diagnostic tests. While the need for regulation, including validation of a test in the population where it is to be used, is accepted by many, the reality is that non validated tests are routinely used in diagnostic laboratories in many parts of the world. The paper on the reliability of rapid tests for the detection of HBsAg suggests that we need to focus on this area and develop mechanisms which ensure the use of validated tests in the diagnosis of infectious diseases.

The SLJID continues to emphasize the need for improving laboratory diagnosis throughout Sri Lanka. The 3 case reports demonstrate the benefits to patients as well the health system when a definitive aetiological diagnosis can be made. The public health impact of a definite diagnosis, inclusive of inputs into decisions on policy is underscored by the large outbreak of hepatitis A described in this issue as well as the case report on MDR-TB. There is however still much room for improvement – both in the island wide availability of a diagnostic microbiology service as well as in timely and accurate pathogen detection and characterization. One of the aims of the Journal is that, by publishing your contributions to SLJID, we will continue to be an encouragement to all those working to provide a high quality diagnostic service throughout the country.

We hope that you will continue to find the contents of this issue useful and thought provoking. Do let us have your feedback and as well as contributions for publication in forthcoming issues. Please visit the journal's submission and peer review website at <http://www.sljol.info/>. We would also invite you to register as a Reviewer, as the availability of a wide pool of subject specialists for this purpose would assist us in our task of continuously improving the quality of the Journal.

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