

Editorial

Reliable diagnosis is required for effective management of infectious diseases and remains a challenge to both clinicians and laboratory personnel in resource limited settings. Part of the problem, as has been realized with dengue, zika virus, and many other infections is that they are most prevalent in just those settings. It is therefore encouraging to note that research into many aspects of these infectious diseases is increasing in countries challenged both by the disease and resource limitations. One of the key aims of SLJID is to offer a platform for those working under such limitations to publish their work so that country based databases on infections of importance and/or interest becomes accessible to others, both within the country and internationally.

This issue of SLJID carries a review, articles and case reports which highlight both the lack of information on infections prevalent in Sri Lanka as well as work being done locally to investigate some of the gaps.

Leptospirosis is a recurring problem in Sri Lanka and as demonstrated in the review in this issue, causes island wide outbreaks annually, with associated morbidity and mortality. However, gaps in our knowledge of the causative species and their association with different clinical presentations, availability of reliable diagnostic tests for use in the early stages of the infection, optimum management and effective preventive methods remain to be investigated further. It is our hope that investigators in Sri Lanka, and the many other tropical countries where this disease is prevalent, will take the challenge to further our understanding, so that these gaps could be narrowed in the coming decades.

The four case reports in this issue demonstrate the need to provide an effective microbiology service throughout the country. Each case report highlights the role of the laboratory in providing an unexpected diagnosis which required specific treatment.

Another concern in many countries with limited resources is the quality of products used in patient treatment, particularly as setting up of laboratories to test such products is not easily achievable for many reasons. The report of an outbreak, related to a commonly used product, is a stark reminder that quality assurance mechanisms need to be set up, to ensure safety of products used in patient care to prevent such undesirable consequences.

We hope that you will continue to find the contents of this issue useful and thought provoking. Do let us have your feedback 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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