

Editorial view of this issue

Development of health services is a multifaceted task, one of these is reflection; where do we stand and what are we providing now? And where is the step that we are standing on located on the line that we have drawn in a quest to achieve our target? Clinical audit is very important tool to help any health system answering these questions. In this issue, the readers will find a clinical audit about breast cancer. Yes, it is an experience from a hospital in the UK, but we hope it to trigger our health care providers to do the same, each in his own speciality.

Professor Al-Wali in his article “First do no harm: Optimizing antimicrobial prescribing and antimicrobial stewardship” has tried to draw a map of how to use antibiotics judiciously. WHO says, “Antibiotic resistance is rising to dangerously high levels in all parts of the world”.¹ What add to the problem is that we are running out of antibiotics as the WHO reported in 20 September 2017.² We are exhausting our already available antibiotics and at the same time unable to produce new classes. Most of the drugs currently in the clinical practice are modifications of existing classes of antibiotics.² So, noway other than using the available antibiotics wisely and judiciously would be effective in preserving them, and this what Al-Wali is trying to say and we should not only echo what he is saying, but we should adopt and implement a nationwide system of antibiotic stewardship to keep these precious and vital substances, antibiotics, alive and effective as long as possible.

Editors of the INMJ in their editorials have shown a light on important issues in our health system. Mohammed Nemat has chosen to talk about how to establish a modern environment for a medical research, he based his view on his observations of the medical research environment at University of Colorado School of Medicine in the USA. Ala Ali has written about mentor-mentee relationship and how it may be used in health. He enumerates what should be available in the mentor and what mentee needs to do and what are the difficulties facing this relationship. At the end, I wrote about how we should promote health management and leadership in Iraq an experience based on the result of Iraqi-Sheffield Hallam project of training health leaders in Iraq.

This issue includes also a statement of The Iraqi Environment and Health Society in the UK (IEHS-UK); a statement that draws attention about the impact of Daesh on environment. Its an outcry about the detrimental consequences of burning of oils and sulphur wells in the north of Iraq for example on the current and future environment

Readers are also invited to read many research articles in urosurgery, haematology, hepatology and psychiatry; in addition, we are presenting two case reports. The final section in this issue would be, as always, the continuous medical education. We will review together the important aspects in the diagnosis and management of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and these aspects are based on the recommendations of the GOLD 2017. In the same section, Huda A Habeeb will guide you to show how to behave as a health care provider when you come across the conflict of autonomy and beneficence in patients with psychiatric illness or other conditions impairing patient capacity to decide.

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1. WHO. Antibiotic Resistance. [Internet] [Updated November 2017; cited on 2nd January 2018] Available at: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/antibiotic-resistance/en/>

2. WHO. The world is running out of antibiotics, WHO report confirms. [Internet] [Updated on 20th September 2017; cited on 2nd January 2018] Available at: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2017/running-out-antibiotics/en/>