

Editorial view of this issue

The discovery of the antibiotics was one of the greatest achievement in the history of medicine.¹ It enabled the human being, for the first time, to support the body immunity from outside in its relentless struggle against an outside intruder, the microorganism. This big triumph has hindered by the emergence of bacterial resistance coincide with our inability to produce new antibiotics. Calls, here and there, are heard to draw attentions about how serious the problem is on our present and the future.² In this issue, we address infections and antibiotics in many ways. Maysoon et al in her report about types of microorganism cultivated from operating theatres in Iraq during the first six months of 2018, have reported that *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *Staphylococcus aureus* are the commonest cultivated microorganisms (see page 5). Linh and her colleagues (page 35) have thrown a light on the awareness of Iraqi people about misuse of antibiotics. She measured the knowledge, practice and attitude of Iraqi employees working at 10 Iraqi ministries about the use and misuse of antibiotics. This, I guess, can help authorities in designing the educational training programmes for people aiming at achieving a judicious use of antibiotics in the community. Ala Sh. Ali (page 60) seizes the centennial of the first influenza pandemic in the history that killed over 20 million persons in the world. He writes some facts about risks of influenza, prevention and management with special concentration on the indications, contraindications, and effectiveness of flu vaccines.

About half of Iraqi general practitioners still believe in textbooks as the most common source of finding knowledge in their daily practice as Wesam has concluded in her study (page 28). This indicate that the surveyed sample were still bounded to the style they were taught about in their undergraduate study. A cooperative hard work between authorities of MoH and faculties of medical colleges in Iraq to change mind of undergraduate medical students towards the concept of evidence based medicine and using e-learning and online scientific and accredited websites as a rapid and accurate way of finding the required knowledge. This approach is recommended by the experts in the world.³

Also, find in this issue many other topics addressed by authors who want to share with you their veiws about different health issues, hence you are invited to open an interactive discussion with them for better yield.

REFERENCES

1. Fanu JL. The rise & fall of modern medicine. London: Abacus; 2011
2. WHO. Antibiotic resistance [Internet]. 2018 [updated 5 February 2018; cite 30 December 2018]. Available from: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/antibiotic-resistance>
3. Walsh K. Pandemic infectious diseases: the future is now. *Iraqi New Medical Journal* 2018;8(4):80-81.

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