

Editorial

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Welcome to the current issue of IJIC. In this edition workers from the Indian sub-continent and Bangladesh are particularly represented, along with contributions from Mongolia, Saudi Arabia and the United States.

Al-Mously *et al.* describe the prevalence of multi drug resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* over a four year period in Saudi Arabia. A wide range of hospital units was affected, with many strains showing wide antibiotic multiresistance. The authors point to the need for a national surveillance scheme for such bacteria. Continuing with blood stream infections, Ghalot *et al.* present a concise study undertaken over the course of a year in an ITU in Northern India in which they assess the extent of catheter related blood stream infections. They have reinforced the message that colonisation of central venous catheters, with associated blood stream infection, remains an unfortunately common event.

Abad *et al.* report their study of healthcare workers required to undergo treatment for latent tuberculosis in the United States and the recognised phenomenon of non-compliance with treatment regimens. With only 73% of the healthcare workers being fully compliant, the authors point to the need for further efforts to ensure comprehensive observance of the programme.

Khullar *et al.* have examined the quite different field of the efficacy of different methods of cleaning endodontic

instruments. Decontamination of instruments was assessed grossly by staining for residual debris and subsequent light microscopic examination. The results suggested much scope for improvement with 93% of samples that had been decontaminated showing debris, and with different efficacy according to the decontamination method used - ultrasonic cleaning emerging as the most successful. Continuing the oral surgery theme, Khandelwal *et al.* conducted a questionnaire study on waste disposal policies amongst private dental practitioners in India. Among the 105 questioned, many were disposing of waste in a manner which did not meet basic requirements and would be considered hazardous. On a positive note the authors reported that simple ignorance was much of the cause of non-compliance, and in many cases practitioners expressed a willingness to be educated; some respondents however felt proper waste disposal would impose an unnecessary extra workload.

Remaining with the oral cavity, Gurley *et al.* conducted a study which started from the observation that transmission via respiratory secretions had accounted for a considerable number of cases of Nipah virus infections in Bangladesh, and what might be done to reduce this. The study examined the possibility of reducing close physical contact by family care-givers which might reduce contamination by respiratory secretions. A direct observational study showed that

care givers would generally comply with instructions to reduce exposure through close physical contact, but that lack of water for hand-washing proved a barrier.

Finally, exploring a wider perspective, Popp *et al.* describe a collaborative project between Mongolia and Germany where exchange visits by workers have permitted both sides to learn about problems and solutions in quite differing environments. The rapid development of healthcare in Mongolia is reported, bringing with it the familiar problems of struggling with healthcare associated-infections, antibiotic policies and antibiotic resistance, immunisation and decontamination.