

Insights in Medical Microbiology and Diagnosis

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Editor's Note

The current issue of JMMD (volume 5, issue 3) contains 8 articles, consisting of 6 research articles, 1 review and 1 short communication. For your convenience, here are a few words to let you know what to expect from each article.

Research article by Seri Intan Mokhtar and Nur Ain Abd Aziz. This research is a quantitative study of the activity of Averrhoa tree fruit extracts against several gram-positive and gram-negative organisms. The anti-bacterial constituents of the extracts can be very important in this age of emergence of multi-drug resistant (MDR) bacteria [1].

Review article by Iman Nasr, Humaid A Al Wahshi, Aisha A Al Wahshi, Joanna Lukawska. This article deals with how to prevent, detect and treat IgE-mediated and cell-mediated allergic reactions to antibiotics currently in use. The article is an authoritative and practical review of management of allergic responses to commonly utilized antibiotics [2].

Research article by Joel K Weltman. This research is a computational bioinformatic approach to predicting potentially useful ZIKV E protein epitopes. The aim of the research is to facilitate design of an anti-ZIKV vaccine and to increase our understanding of ZIKV biology at the molecular and cellular levels [3].

Research article by Ale Zehra, Syed Baqir Shyum Naqvi and Syeda Qadam Ali. An exploration of antibiotic-like activity of some of the herbs and leaves used in folk medicine, especially in Pakistan, and tested against a broad spectrum of clinically isolated bacterial specimens. Such studies are especially significant in this age of global emergence of multi-drug resistant (MDR) bacteria [4].

Research article by Claudia Rizzo, Nadia Marascio, Emilia Zicca, Grazia Pavia, Angela Quirino, Angelo Giuseppe Lamberti, Maria Carla Liberto and Alfredo Focà. The gram-negative bacterium *Acinetobacter baumannii* (*A. baumannii*) is an increasingly significant cause of nosocomial infections. This study addresses the role of overexpression of the adeABC efflux pump as a cause of multidrug resistance (MDR), especially resistance to the antibiotic tigecycline, by *A. baumannii* isolated from such infections [5].

Short communication by Angus Turnbull and Michael Osborn. The autopsy rate has declined dramatically throughout the world. Is there actually a constructive role for autopsy in the 21st century? The authors present a strong case for "yes", both for teaching and for research [6].

Research article by Emilia Zicca, Nadia Marascio, Grazia Pavia, Francesco Bombardiere, Sabrina D'Agostino, Fernanda Fabiani, Anna Bilotta, Nicola Perrotti, Francesco Trapasso, Maria Carla Liberto and Alfredo Focà. Hepatitis C virus is a single-stranded, positive-sense RNA virus that causes chronic liver disease leading to cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma. P7 is a small viral protein involved in viral packaging and replication. Presented in this research article is a 3-step PCR method for producing full-length p7 cDNA. The method provides a virus-free working environment that enables the safe production of fully antigenic p7 protein. Such a method is aimed at facilitating the study of molecular mechanisms of Hep C infection [7].

Research article by Orji OL, Olayinka BO, Afolabi B, Ejikeugwu Chika P, Nwakaeze EA, Eze CJ, Eluu SC and Agbom C. Pantone-valentine leukocidin (PVL) is a toxin synthesized by strains of *Staphylococcus aureus*. PVL toxin is a bacterial virulence factor that produces lethal pores in membranes of target cells of the infected host. This research is a study of the occurrence of *Staphylococcus aureus*, with and without production of PVL toxin, in a hospital, clinical setting [8].

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