
EDITORIAL

About this issue...

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the first edition of 2019 of the Southern African Gynaecological Oncology Journal.

A major revision of the FIGO staging for cervical carcinoma was released earlier this year. For the first time nodal involvement will heavily impact the staging system reflecting the poor prognosis for these patients. Professor Neerja Bhatla and Prof Lynette Denny, two eminent names in gynaecological oncology provide us with their insights into these new changes.

Dr Barnardt from Stellenbosch University presents a detailed comprehensive guideline on the management of gestational neoplastic disease with a focus on women living with HIV. His many years of experience and first-hand knowledge provide the reader with an essential guide.

The personal perspective comes for Kenya. Orang'o *et al* describe the success and challenges of developing a sub-specialty training programme in gynaecological oncology in a low-resource setting and the high value of twinning with a well-resourced centre to build infrastructure and sustainability.

There are two original research papers. The first from Shabani *et al* describes a cohort study in Pietermaritzburg interrogating

attitudes and knowledge related to HPV vaccination. They note the limited knowledge amongst both rural and urban women, but importantly the interest and the willingness to have access to more information. In the age of resistance to vaccination, improving access to reliable information is essential.

Hapsari *et al* describe an interesting study examining the utility of a simple Ca 125 serum test that could be used as a surrogate marker to identify patients with increased risk of nodal involvement, prior to surgery, for endometrial carcinoma. Examination of novel, cheap ideas in improving patient outcomes is one of the strengths of our local gynaecological oncology community, as we look for solutions in our low-resource environments.

The case report in this issue discusses the rare and unusual presentation of lymphoma of the endometrium.

We thank our editorial team at Medpharm for their ongoing support and we encourage our colleagues in both the academic sector and in private practice to share their insights and interesting cases with the larger gynaecological oncology community.

Hannah and Linda