

Foreword



Amesika Nyaku, Editor-in-Chief

Amesika Nyaku, MD, MS, is Assistant Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and a physician-researcher. She provides clinical care for people living with HIV or other infectious diseases and substance use disorders. Her research focuses on 1) evaluating long-acting therapeutics for HIV and opioid use disorder, 2) the implementation of integrated care models for HIV and substance use disorders to improve health outcomes, and 3) increasing the inclusion and participation of racial/ethnic minorities in clinical trials research. She is the Principal Investigator for the Northwestern University Clinical Research Site of the NIH sponsored Advancing Clinical Therapeutics Globally HIV/AIDS and Other Infections Network.

Welcome to the latest edition of *touchREVIEWS in Infectious Diseases*, where we continue our mission to deliver insightful, cutting-edge perspectives in infectious disease diagnosis and management. This issue offers an array of topics spanning diagnostics, service delivery innovations and preventive care, reflecting the dynamic challenges and opportunities in our field.

In our first editorial, Barbara Van Der Pol focuses on the BD CORTM System and its integration with the BD MAX™ Vaginal Panel Assay. This automated PCR-based tool represents a significant advancement in the detection of pathogens causing vaginitis, offering potential improvements in diagnostic accuracy and patient outcomes. By addressing bacterial vaginosis, candidiasis and trichomoniasis simultaneously, this technology enhances the quality of care for women with vaginal health concerns.

Next, Danielle Giovenco et al. make a compelling case for sustained investment in differentiated models of HIV service delivery. The COVID-19 pandemic catalyzed innovative approaches to healthcare access, demonstrating the potential of client-centred models to bridge systemic gaps. This editorial emphasizes the importance of research and funding to scale these models globally, ensuring equitable care for vulnerable populations.

Finally, Grace Johanna Salazar Tamayo addresses the pervasive issue of multidrug resistance in hospital settings. Her practical guidance highlights the necessity of robust antibiotic stewardship, meticulous infection control measures, and active leadership to curb resistance trends. This piece underscores the collaborative effort required to maintain patient safety.

We extend our gratitude to the contributors and editorial board for their dedication to advancing infectious disease knowledge. We hope you find this issue both informative and inspiring. 