

FROM THE EDITOR



Well, spring has sprung and this bumper Spring edition is the final for 2007. What a year it has been! Important circumcision trial results push us to ask about the implementation logistics, and equally important negative results in HIV vaccine, microbicide and diaphragm research make us realise that the road to efficacious prevention modalities will be a long one. In the meantime safer sex, more testing and positive prevention are what we must rely on to curb the epidemic. We must also continue to hone our expertise in treating both HIV and the myriad of opportunistic infections associated with HIV. This edition highlights fungal infections, with excellent laboratory insights from Govender, a terrific cryptococcal review by Jarvis *et al.*, and of course our signature guidelines, in this edition

focusing on cryptococcal management. Thanks to the guideline committee led by Graeme Meintjies for this. A case study illustrating just how complex multiple opportunistic infections can be is also presented.

We also highlight the 3rd South African HIV Conference, held mid-year in Durban. It focused on consensus building with the launch of the Conference Declaration (www.sa-aidsconference.com), and featured here are some of the highlights as captured by the track rapporteurs and a synopsis of a plenary on positive prevention by Kalichman. As the epidemic moves into its 3rd decade, we pay tribute to Reuben Sher, a great stalwart and warrior of the South African epidemic. We also feature a thought-provoking article by Whiteside *et al.* entitled 'AIDS: A Darwinian event?', in which the authors question why historians have not written about the HIV epidemic as a history-changing event and make a convincing case for this.

At the end of 2007, with its highs and lows, its politics and its triumphs (not least those in green and gold), despite having an HIV epidemic of unprecedented proportion and much work to be done, it is GOOD to be in South Africa!

LINDA-GAIL BEKKER

Editor

