WHO 60th anniversary commemorative volume

This month’s special theme is prevention and control of childhood pneumonia. This theme ties in with the cover poster, which highlights the health of newborn babies. In an editorial, Brian Greenwood (322) introduces this special issue with an overview of the global action required for the prevention and control of childhood pneumonia. The burden of pneumonia among HIV-infected children is under particular scrutiny, with a report from South Africa (324–325) and an editorial by Prakash Mohan Jeena (323). Theresa Braine (325–326) reports on the controversial funding mechanism considered to be a possible solution in the global struggle for funds to fight pneumonia.

Vaccines improve child survival
Shahir A Madhi et al. (365–372) discuss advances made in the use of both established and newer conjugate vaccines in reducing childhood pneumonia morbidity and mortality.

Antibiotics, oxygen and training
Stephen M Graham et al. (349–355) examine current pneumonia case-management guidelines and propose improvements in a variety of settings among different at-risk groups.

Indoor air pollution
Mukesh Dherani et al. (390–398) demonstrate an increased risk of pneumonia to young children exposed to indoor air pollution from unprocessed solid fuels.

Advances increase inequity
Interventions to improve child survival from pneumonia don’t always reach those in greatest need, according to E K Mulholland et al. (399–407).

Who is at risk and why?
Igor Rudan et al. (408–416) examine global statistics on childhood pneumonia and provide details on the main risk factors.

Is the vaccine safe?
In a review of research, Frank DeStefano et al. (373–380) did not identify major safety problems with pneumococcal conjugate vaccines.

Case management at tipping point
David R Marsh et al. (381–389) assess current policies and plans on managing pneumonia in 57 high-risk countries.

Nutrition and pneumonia
Daniel E Roth et al. (356–364) suggest some nutritional interventions that may help reduce the burden of childhood pneumonia.

Cuba
Primary health care revolution
Gail Reed (327–329) reports from Havana on how primary health care has been an essential part of Cuba’s health system since the 1960s.

Pakistan
Number one killer
In an interview, Tabish Hazir (330–331) explains why pneumonia is the number one killer of Pakistan’s children less than five years of age.

Uganda
Seeing care too late
In rural Uganda, Karin Källander et al. (332–338) investigate fatal pneumonia cases among children less than five years old to determine why they died.

Malawi
Making oxygen available
Penny Enarson et al. (344–348) describe the successful implementation of oxygen concentrators in paediatric wards in all district hospitals.

South Africa
A lethal combination
Claire Keeton (324–325) reports from Cape Town on how HIV is driving child pneumonia in sub-Saharan Africa.

Nepal
Twenty years’ experience
P Dawson et al. (339–343) demonstrate how community-based management of childhood pneumonia can be effective in resource-limited settings, such as Nepal.

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