In the first editorial, Samantha Watson et al. (558) argue that health systems need to be better prepared for disasters. In the second, Atle Fretheim et al. (559) call for more evidence on the effects of performance-based financing. Gary Humphreys (562–563) reports on moves to identify and commercialize the active ingredients in traditional Chinese medicines and Jane Parry (564–565) reports on the expansion of genetic testing services in low- and middle-income countries. Ben Jones interviews Marion Nestle (566–567) on the changes in the food market that have contributed to an obesity epidemic.

United States of America

**How well do vaccines work?**
Lee A Hampton et al. (568–577) compare two methods for measuring the effect of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine.

Uganda

**Preventing vertical transmission of HIV**
Andreas Kuznik et al. (595–603) model the cost-effectiveness of three ways of providing antiretroviral treatment for pregnant women.

Rwanda

**Vaccinating schoolgirls**
Agnes Binagwaho et al. (623–628) describe how high coverage with papillomavirus vaccine has been achieved.

Japan

**Lessons from a nuclear crisis**
A Sugino et al. (629–630) hear from elderly people displaced by the Daiichi nuclear disaster.

China

**Access to safe water**
Elizabeth J Carhoy et al. (578–587) estimate the disease burden caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation and hygiene.

**Who lives longest?**
Ahmad Reza Hosseinpoor et al. (588–594) assess international shortfalls in life expectancy from 1950 to 2010.

**Health surveys**
Madeleine Short Fabic et al. (604–612) review the research linked to 236 demographic and health surveys.

**How to market condoms?**
Michael D Sweat et al. (613–622) review the evidence for social marketing programmes on condom use.

**Fixing things after natural disasters**
Andrea Fernandes & Muhammad H Zaman (631–632) argue that more biomedical engineers are needed in the response phase.