



FOREWORD

The development of an HIV vaccine or the use of passive immunization to prevent HIV infection remains the best hope for an AIDS-free future. In this issue the potential of a modified RV144 HIV vaccine is discussed in the light of a Phase 1-2 trial currently underway in South Africa.

Cases of Acanthamoebic keratitis are rare in South Africa. Nevertheless, given the severity of infection, accurate and rapid diagnostic test results are expected to contribute significantly to potentially sight-saving clinical outcomes. The usefulness of a ribosomal DNA PCR assay for rapid diagnostic turnaround time is discussed in this issue.

Surveillance reports for this issue include the results of an investigation into an increase in pertussis cases in South Africa during the period July to September 2014. This report concludes that the increase in cases in this period is possibly related to disease periodicity. A comparison of mortalities among HIV positive MDR-TB patients on ARVs treated with regimens containing either moxifloxacin or ofloxacin in Gauteng Province, South Africa, during the period 2007 to 2012 concludes that mortality was similar in the moxifloxacin and ofloxacin treatment regimens although there was a delayed time-to-death in the moxifloxacin group.

This is the final issue for 2015 and we wish all our readers and contributors a safe and joyous holiday season.

Basil Brooke, Editor

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