



November 2010, Volume 100, No. 11

- FROM THE EDITOR**
- 689 Millennium Development Goals: How are we doing?
- 691 **EDITOR'S CHOICE**
- CORRESPONDENCE**
- 692 HPCSA disciplinary action – ‘custodian of professional morals’?  
*L London*
- 692 Accreditation of training courses in good clinical practice  
*Raymond P Abratt, Alistair J Hunter*
- 694 Ethical challenges in an age of overpopulation  
*Sergei V Jargin*
- 694 ERRATUM
- IZINDABA**
- 696 Clumsy patient-friendly regulations could strip 25 000 of MPS cover
- 700 Possible MPS eviction ‘an unmitigated disaster’ – patient litigator
- 702 The most accurate spear at Hlabisa – a Goko doctor
- 706 FASD – De Aar mums get beyond the ‘tipping point’
- SAMJ FORUM**
- ISSUES IN RESEARCH**
- 710 Protection of human participants in health research – a comparison of some US federal regulations and South African research ethics guidelines  
*P Cleaton-Jones, D Wassenaar*
- ISSUES IN MEDICINE**
- 717 Maternal deaths associated with eclampsia in South Africa: Lessons to learn from the Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths, 2005 - 2007  
*J Moodley, for the National Committee on Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths, National Department of Health, South Africa*
- CLINICAL IMAGES**
- 719 Cytomegalovirus duodenitis, pseudotumour and cholangiopathy in advanced HIV  
*Bradley Yudelowitz, Adam Mahomed*
- IN MEMORIAM**
- 721 Bryan Williams
- BOOK REVIEW**
- 721 Davey’s Companion to Surgery in Africa. 3rd ed.
- EDITORIAL**
- 722 The human genome and molecular medicine – promises and pitfalls  
*Michael S Pepper*
- SCIENTIFIC LETTER**
- 726 Rotational conjunctival flap surgery reduces recurrence of pterygium  
*Johan Eksteen, Andries A Stulting, Mariette Nel*



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## ORIGINAL ARTICLES

- 728 **Heliotherapy: A South African perspective**  
Y Moosa, D J Esterhuysen
- 734 **Helicobacter pylori prevalence in dyspeptic patients in the Eastern Cape province – race and disease status**  
N F Tanih, B I Okeleye, L M Ndip, A M Clarke, N Naidoo, N Mkwetshana, E Green, R N Ndip
- 738 **Pharmacological testing in Horner's syndrome – a new paradigm**  
Derrick P Smit
- 741 **Genetic variations in androgen metabolism genes and associations with prostate cancer in South African men**  
P Fernandez, P M de Beer, L van der Merwe, C F Heyns

## PART 2

- 747-778 **South African guideline for management of ischaemic stroke and transient ischaemic attack 2010: A guideline from the South African Stroke Society (SASS) and the SASS Writing Committee**

## 9 CPD QUESTIONS

- 1 **PULSE – NEWS FROM THE MARKETPLACE**
- 1 **PROFESSIONAL ADVERTISING – FOREIGN OPPORTUNITIES**
- 4 **PROFESSIONAL ADVERTISING – LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES**



Once described as 'the owl with the lovely voice', the African Wood-Owl *Strix woodfordii* is more often heard than seen. During the day it roosts immobile in thick cover and is easily overlooked. After dark, the presence of a pair is revealed by a series of melodious hoo-hoo, hu-hu, hu-hu notes, usually in duet. This species is the only southern African owl found in forest, but it also inhabits thick riverine woodland. Insects comprise a large part of its diet, but it also preys on small rodents, frogs and birds. The nest is a hole in a tree, and usually two chicks are reared who remain with their parents for several months after leaving the nest.

Photo and text: Peter Steyn  
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### Contents listed in

INDEX MEDICUS (MEDLINE).  
EXCERPTA MEDICA (EM BASE).  
BIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS (BIOSIS).  
SCIENCE CITATION INDEX  
(SCISEARCH). CURRENT  
CONTENTS/CLINICAL MEDICINE

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