

## EDITORIALS

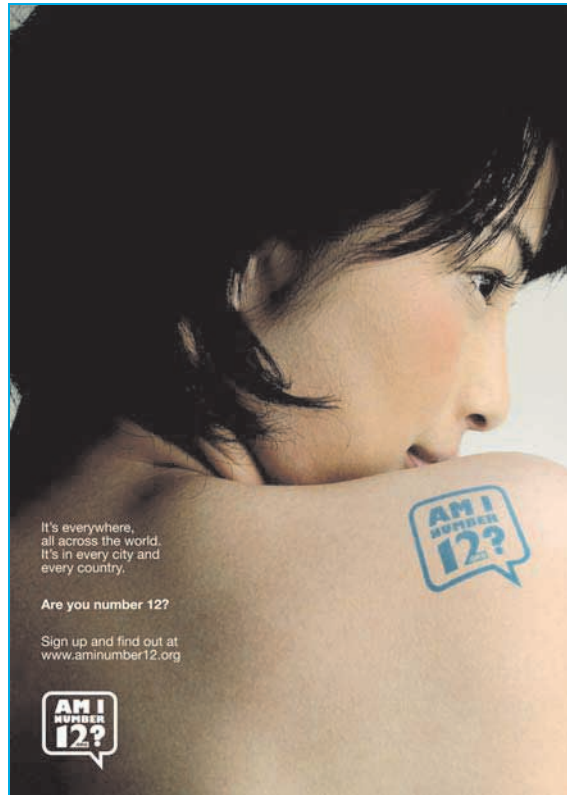
- 659 Duration of anticoagulant therapy for venous thromboembolism  
Nina C Raju, Jack Hirsh, John W Eikelboom
- 661 Is *Clostridium difficile* a threat to Australia's biosecurity?  
Thomas V Riley
- 662 National alcohol policy after "alcopops": what next?  
 Steven J Skov, on behalf of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians Alcohol Advisory Group

## RESEARCH

- 665 Pathology processes and emergency department length of stay: the impact of change  
Andrew J Francis, Michael J Ray, Mary C Marshall
- 670 Chronic hepatitis B and C infection in children in New South Wales  
Scott Nightingale, Michael O Stormon, Andrew S Day, Murray T Webber, Kate A Ward, Edward V O'Loughlin

## HEALTH CARE

- 674 Who is responsible for the care of patients treated with warfarin therapy?  
Judy A Lowthian, Basia O Diug, Sue M Evans, Ellen L Maxwell, Alison M Street, Leon Piterman, John J McNeil
- 678 Stroke prevention and stroke thrombolysis: quantifying the potential benefits of best practice therapies  
Timothy J Kleinig, Thomas E Kimber, Philip D Thompson
- 683 An integrated and coordinated approach to preventing recurrent coronary heart disease events in Australia  
Tom G Briffa, Leigh Kinsman, Andrew J Maiorana, Robert Zecchin, Julie Redfern, Patricia M Davidson, Glenn Paull, Amanda Nagle, A Robert Dennis



## HEALTH CARE REFORM

- 687 Are we ready for the next big thing?  
Stephen J Duckett
- 689 Health care workforce crisis in Australia: too few or too disabled?  
Ian A Scott

## CLINICAL UPDATE

- 693 Anti-citrullinated peptide antibody: death of the rheumatoid factor?  
Simon M Chatfield, Ian P Wicks, Allan D Sturgess, Lynden J Roberts

## FOR DEBATE

- 696 Infection control, ethics and accountability  
Gwendolyn L Gilbert, Paul Y Cheung, Ian B Kerridge

## VIEWPOINT

- 700 Paired kidney donations to expand the living donor pool: the Western Australian experience

Paolo Ferrari, Claudia Woodroffe, Frank T Christiansen

## PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

- 704 Stop taking warfarin? No way!  
Peter D Brukner

## NOTABLE CASES

- 706 First Australian isolation of epidemic *Clostridium difficile* PCR ribotype 027  
Thomas V Riley, Sarah Thean, Graham Hool, Clayton L Golledge

## LESSONS FROM PRACTICE

- 709 Life-threatening pelvic osteomyelitis: pelvic destruction in an 8-year-old boy  
Craig D Hughes, Matthias W Axt

- 713 **LETTERS** (contents overleaf)

## MODERN MEDICAL RORTS

The medical profession's standing recently took a beating when the mainstream media ran banner headlines such as "Crackdown on doctor rorts".\* Records from 2008 showed that the top 10 per cent of in-vitro fertilisation specialists had each been paid up to \$4.5 million through Medicare, including \$2.2 million through the Medicare Safety Net, and a corresponding proportion of obstetricians had been paid \$1.1 million each, including \$612 000 via the Medicare Safety Net, prompting accusations of excessive increases in some specialists' fees.

This unsavoury matter of doctors' earnings echoes a 1908 *JAMA* editorial titled "Two kinds of wealth",† which stated:

*A few days ago a famous American surgeon told a friend that it was a constant mortification to him that for his life-work he had not chosen business rather than medicine; and yet the annual income of this particular surgeon from practice is perhaps \$100 000. Also a few days ago at [a] testimonial dinner ... Andrew Carnegie, who has gathered, who has given away, and who still has left more money than any other one individual, said that he would give all his worldly wealth for the immaterial wealth of many of the physicians there before him ... Why does the surgeon with the income of a prince, but not of a Carnegie, hunger for the millions, while the industrial Croesus would gladly give all his many millions for the medical man's mind and vocation? ...*

*The answer to the riddle is really not hard to find. On the surgeon's part, it comes to view at once. He practices medicine for any and every reason but the right one. He values money at more than its worth.*

Sadly, it is this facile judgement that is implicit in the current media accusations of medical rorting. In the absence of all the complexities of context, such pronouncements remain trite. Where is any accompanying analysis of the very real cost of providing high-quality care? It is time these materialise, otherwise sensationalism reigns supreme.



Martin B Van Der Weyden

\* Schubert M, Grattan M. Crackdown on doctor rorts. *The Age* (Melbourne) 2009; 7 May.

† Two kinds of wealth [editorial]. *JAMA* 100 years ago: April 25, 1908. *JAMA* 2008; 299: 1964.

## LETTERS



### Health experts reject industry-backed funding for alcohol research

713 Peter G Miller, Kypros Kypri, Tanya N Chikritzhs, Steven J Skov, George Rubin  
714 Trish M Worth



### Alcohol taxation policy in Australia: public health imperatives for action

714 Gavin H Mooney  
715 Helena J Teede  
715 Niyi Awofeso

### Septic shock from penetrating leg injury with *Vibrio vulnificus* infection

716 Tamara C Preda, Veronica A Preda, Allan P Mekisic

### Schistosomal appendicitis in a Sudanese immigrant

716 Jordan K Webb, Graeme Thompson

### A maggoty scalp

717 John S Whitehall, Richard Speare, Heidi E Best, Philippa J Price, Deborah J Mills

### Avoiding common problems associated with intravenous fluid therapy

718 Alexander D Franke  
718 Carlos D Scheinkestel, Andrew K Hilton, Vincent A Pellegrino

### Telemedicine across the ages

719 Sabe S Sabesan, Pieter Nel, Suresh C Varma

### Mandating sustainability in Australian hospitals

719 Forbes McGain, Grant A Blashki, Kevin P Moon, Fiona M Armstrong

## BOOK REVIEW

692 **Mojon's manual of medicine. A cartoon book for daily clinical life**  
reviewed by Ann T Gregory

## CORRECTION

715 **Are common childhood or adolescent infections risk factors for schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders?**  
(*Med J Aust* 2009; 190 [4 Suppl]: S17-S21)

## 658 IN THIS ISSUE

## 712 IN OTHER JOURNALS

## 720 READ ON THE WEB



*MJA Rapid Online Publication: denotes an article fast tracked for online publication.*

**Cover image:** "Am I number 12?". Logo for World Hepatitis Day 2009.  
Courtesy: World Hepatitis Alliance <<http://www.aminumber12.org>>.



## April MJA BookClub Winner

Congratulations to Dr David Mark, from Sydney, NSW. Dr Mark wins a copy of *Critical Care Medicine: Principles of Diagnosis and Management in the Adult* (RRP \$420.00).

Thanks to everyone who purchased books from the April *MJA BookClub*. Pictured right holding the prize is Kendall Utz, AMPCo's Accounts and Subscriptions Coordinator, who drew April's winner. To see this month's *MJA BookClub's* great offers, see page 688 and the inside back cover of this issue or visit our online bookshop at <http://shop.mja.com.au>.

