

Dear readers,

It is with pleasure to welcome you to the latest issue of the Rwanda Public Health Bulletin, dedicated to the critical topic of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). NCDs are a global health crisis, and Rwanda is no exception. These diseases, which include cervical cancer, obesity, and chronic kidney diseases, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and others are responsible for a significant burden of morbidity and mortality worldwide. NCDs have a profound impact on the lives of our citizens and necessitate dedicated efforts in prevention, early detection, and management.

Cervical cancer is a poignant example of the disparities that exist in healthcare access and outcomes between developed and developing nations. While it remains a leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women in many low-resource settings, this issue of the RPHB sheds light on the feasibility of cervical cancer screening programs tailored to developing countries' specific contexts. The issue provides valuable insights into screening challenges and innovative strategies and approaches to expanding cervical cancer screening and prevention programs, ultimately contributing to a reduction in the burden of this devastating cancer in developing countries.

The alarming rise of obesity, particularly among our high school students, is a concerning trend with far-reaching health implications. Lifestyle choices, dietary habits, and sedentary behaviors have contributed to the surge in obesity rates. This issue explores the epidemiology of obesity among high school students to inform the comprehensive strategies dedicated to promoting healthier lifestyles, improved nutrition, and increased physical activity within schools.

Apart from NCDs highlighted in this issue, you will also learn about factors associated with non-adherence to medications among schizophrenia patients and fertility return among women who discontinue contraception.

The fight against NCDs is a complex and ongoing challenge, but it is one that Rwanda is committed to winning. The knowledge, research, and experiences shared within this issue of the RPHB exemplify the dedication and collaboration of healthcare professionals, researchers, educators, policymakers, and the entire Rwandan community in building a healthier, more resilient Rwanda. Therefore, I sincerely appreciate all the contributors, authors, and the editorial team for their tireless efforts in producing this informative and enlightening issue. May the insights shared here inspire further innovation, research, and action to combat NCDs and enhance the health and well-being of all Rwandans.

Thank you for your continued support in our journey as we strive to create a brighter and healthier future.

Sincerely,

Prof. Claude Mambo Muvunyi, MD, PhD

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