

EDITOR'S COMMENT

A jaundiced view



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A jaundiced view – jaded, cynical, pessimistic, sceptical, unenthusiastic – the liver has long been seen as the seat of emotions. Novels of the nineteenth century refer to a person as feeling ‘liverish’ – unwell, nauseous, fatigued – often as a result of overindulgence in rich foods or alcohol or both. Choleric, another word that arises from an association with the liver, meaning irascible, angry, comes from the root cholera, one of the 4 ‘humours of bile’. All these literary allusions emphasise that there has always been an understanding of the central role of the liver in the maintenance of health. Certainly the wide variety of conditions that are covered in this issue of *CME* attests to that fact. Diseases of the liver are important and the biochemistry and physiology of the liver is complex, making its study all the more interesting. This edition of *CME* has been put together by Professor Wendy Spearman and a team of specialists, many of them guided through their clinical and research careers by Professor Ralph Kirsch, widely regarded as South Africa's expert in liver pathology.

As always, this edition of *CME* will provide a welcome addition to any GP's stock of reference texts, with up-to-date and pertinent information on all forms of liver disease, and including a very useful update on liver transplantation, now becoming as routine as kidney transplantation.

The rest of the journal continues to bring you as varied a mix of content as space allows. Can I repeat my request for interesting case studies from readers? Although searching the literature is fun, I would far rather have case reports from local clinical practice, sent in by readers. We may all learn a lot more. I am also still looking for artistic doctors to offer art work for *CME*'s covers. We have a long tradition of using doctors' art for the covers and would like to continue this if at all possible. Please get in touch with me directly on ugqirha@iafrica.com.

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