

Preface

Addressing heart failure in Africa

Heart failure is a common medical condition that is seen by general practitioners and physicians on a daily basis at all levels of care. The guidelines for the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of heart failure are produced largely in industrialised countries where heart failure is caused overwhelmingly by coronary artery disease in older people. By contrast, heart failure in sub-Saharan Africa is largely due to non-ischaemic causes (i.e. hypertension, rheumatic valve disease, and cardiomyopathy) in young and middle-aged people. The unique epidemiology of heart failure in Africa calls for a different approach to the evaluation and management of the condition.

I congratulate the *Cardiovascular Journal of Africa* and Prof James Ker for the timely production of the *Pocket Guide to Chronic Heart Failure in a Multicultural, Developing Society*. The on-line publication of this book is designed to provide an opportunity for users to give feedback on the content and quality of the book. The intention is to make the book a 'living document' that will be updated regularly to meet the needs of practitioners and patients with heart failure in Africa.

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