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Surprising unknown *H. pylori* epidemic in Democratic Republic of Congo (Hp-EDRC)

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Since a few decades, numerous suspicions of massive criminal poisonings do exist within the population, in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The poison in concern, named “Karuho poison”, is supposed from vegetal or animal origin, located principally in the East region of the country, where the poisoners are also supposed from. According to popular belief, the “Karuho poison” cannot be managed by the modern medicine. Traditional practitioners are recognized as the only specialists of Karuho poisoning. Our research work on “Karuho poisoning” in DR Congo started in 1990. After 20 years of trying, we surprisingly observed in 2010 that, blood specimens from “Karuho poisoning” patients were positive to *H. pylori*. A poster has been presented at Jackson University, in USA in 2012, on 65 collected blood samples. Since 2012, the number of blood samples has increased significantly with the same positive result concerning the presence of *H. pylori*. Symptoms presented by the patients, were much diversified, not only digestive but also general and even nervous, indicating a free and massive passage of *H. pylori* toxin to the blood. About the origin of the *H. pylori* contamination, we suppose the existence of a natural primary reservoir of the bacterium in the East region of the DR Congo, principally, at or around the Kivu Lake. The *H. pylori* epidemic disease in concern looks like a large opened book, providing to the international scientific community an interesting opportunity to learn more about *H. pylori* infection. Strong international collaboration and suitable financial means are needed for that.

Biography

Josaphat Ndelo-di-Phanzu is a Congolese Toxicologist. After completing his graduation as Pharmacist at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Kinshasa in 1975, he moved to Belgium at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven and obtained Master's degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences followed by a Doctorate degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences, Branch Toxicology in 1984. He became an Associate Professor in 1986, Professor in 1998 and Ordinary Professor in 2005. Considering the administrative level, he was the Head of the Laboratory of Food and Drug Control of the University of Kinshasa, Head of the Department of Biopharmaceutical Sciences, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Kinshasa, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Rector of the University of Kinshasa and the Head of the Laboratory of Toxicology. He is the President of the Ethics Committee of Central Africa and Vice President of National ethics Committee of DR Congo in the field of ethics of biomedical research.

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