

EDITORIAL

This is a special issue of the journal consisting of papers contributed mostly by young faculty members in the University of Ibadan. Some of the authors had some financial support for their research projects from Medical Education Partnership Initiative in Nigeria (MEPIN); others had training on publications during workshops organized by MEPIN. Eighteen papers are included in this issue and they come from diverse areas of the discipline of science. All papers have some public health importance. Fifteen papers are in medicine and health sciences, 9 of which are directly clinical or laboratory studies or a combination of both. Six papers are in community/public health areas. Three papers are from science faculties; they include 1. Mycological evaluation and nutritional composition of dried smoked fish; 2. Isolation, characterization and identification of plant growth promoting Rhizobacteria from Cauliflower (*Brassica oleracea*) and 3. Assessment of cytotoxicity of leaf extract of *Andrographis paniculata* and *Aspilia Africana* on murine cells in vitro

The following are the six papers that are directly in public health; 1. Knowledge of HIV, intention to engage in risky sexual behavior and sexual practices among senior school adolescence in Ibadan, Nigeria, 2. Teachers' training and involvement in school health programme in Oyo state, Southwest Nigeria and 3. Perception of mothers and selected informal maternity caregivers regarding maternal depression in two communities in Ibadan. Others are: 4. Needs assessment for education service provision on maternal depression among primary health care service providers; 5. The factor structure of the Adapted Quality of Life BREF questionnaire in a sample of adolescents in Nigeria and 6. Validation and reliability of the 12 item Zarit Burden Interview among informal caregivers of elderly persons in Nigeria.

The nine papers that are clinical or laboratory based are: 1. Treatment satisfaction and medication adherence among hypertensive patients, 2. Human Respiratory Syncytial Virus (HRSV) A and B among children attending primary and secondary health care facilities, 3. Genetic diversity of Hepatitis C Virus among Blood donors and patients with clinical hepatitis in Ibadan, 4. Occult HBV Infection among volunteer blood donors in Ilorin and 5. Patients' perception of quality of diabetic care received in Ibadan.

Others are: 6. Awareness and vaccination history in relation to the presence of patients attending STI clinics in Lagos and Ibadan, 7. Prevalence and Genotypes of Parovirus B19 among HIV positive children, 8. Pattern of oral health among a population of pregnant women in Southwest, Nigeria and 9. Prevalence and risk factors of genital Human Papilloma Virus Infection among women in Southwest Nigeria.

Aside from the diversity of these papers, a good number of them draw our attention to gaps in our public health programs or inadequacies in our health delivery services. Many of these health issues should be of concern to any nation and they also raise important research questions that require answers either now or in the near future. It is important to build a culture of research among young faculty, as solutions to many national health problems, can be obtained through well conducted research. Although many studies in this group are more concerned with identifying or isolating the problems; it is hoped that solutions will come eventually. It would be helpful to point out a few of these papers. Akintunde *et al.* reported screened blood from volunteer donors contained occult hepatitis B virus (HBV). Detection of HBV is mostly performed through estimation of hepatitis B surface antigen, (HBsAG) by Micropoint rapid technique. An important observation from their study was that when retested by ELISA method 3.9% of the sample was still positive for the surface antigen; more importantly Polymerase Chain Reaction technic identified another 18.7% as positive for HBVDNA. In other words patients transfused with these screened blood still have some chance of infection indicating the poor reliability of the usual screening method. Nejo et al also reported that risk factors for Genital Human Papillomavirus infection include lack of formal education, low income, unemployment, divorce, polygamy and sexual debut before age 18 years; these are modifiable risk factors that should be of public health concern bearing in mind the relationship between papillomavirus to cervical cancer. In another study on Sexually Transmitted Infection Clinics in Lagos and Ibadan, Faneye et al

reported that 29.4% of patients were positive Human Papillomavirus, 17.6% females and 11.7% males. Only 35% of females were aware of the availability of HPV vaccine, but none had taken the vaccine pointing out the risk of developing cervical cancer in situation where it is possible to prevent it. Ajayi et al reported that only 35.1% of patients on treatment from hypertension from various hospitals in Ibadan reported medication adherence and adherence was associated with treatment satisfaction. Ajide et al reported that in secondary school student with mean age 16.3 years; only 34.3% had good knowledge about HIV and 32.9% were sexually active. Ninety five percent stated that they could engage in risk sexual behavior with people known to them. It would appear that a vulnerable group in the society has poor knowledge of HIV infection transmission and it is necessary to continue adequate public enlightenment.

The selected articles referred to above, give insight into the nature and quality of the papers in this edition of the journal, they no doubt highlight the long and winding road to the Nigeria nation's attainment of quality health care for all its citizens; more important they point to the huge gap between research and attainment of quality health care for all citizens. It is my hope that these authors will continue with the type of excellent work reported in this issue.

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