

BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS AND IMPACT FACTOR OF ANNALS OF IBADAN POSTGRADUATE MEDICINE JOURNAL BETWEEN 2003-2023: THE PIVOTAL ROLES OF THE FRONTIERSMAN

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Bibliometric appraisal of a research publication outfit of this nature serves as a tool to evaluate the direction of research activities of Annals of Ibadan Postgraduate Medicine Journal as it pertains to article publication between 2003 and 2023, and to determine the research impacts on the body of knowledge. The essence of this review is to determine the quantum volume of research output, nature of publication, regional distribution, and citations.

Methodology: Information was transcribed on the cataloguing cards for the generation of data bank. Subject analysis was carried out using Medical Subject Headings of 2023 edition. Excel spreadsheet was used to analyze the data. Univariate analysis was done and presented in frequency and proportions. Descriptive statistics were presented in charts, line graphs, and tables.

Results: Five hundred and fifty-two research articles were submitted during this period (2003 - 2023) while 21 out of this are still in the peer review cycle and has been carried forward to year 2024. Of the 531 reviewed, 441 was published with a manuscript acceptance rate of 83%. The highest number of articles, 45 (8.2%) was published in 2023, followed by 2021 with 39 articles (7.1%) and the least published year was 2003 with eight. AIPM has contributed significantly to the body of knowledge with a total of 441 research output over this period, out of which we had 309 publications between 2008 - 2021 with 2,869 citations. Oyo State recorded the maximum number of publications in terms of geographical distribution with most of the authorship from Ibadan.

Conclusion: AIPM has contributed significantly to the body of knowledge with a total of 441 research output, and manuscript acceptance rate of 83%. Also, a 2,869 citations were recorded over a 13-year period. There was a gradual increase in research output during the period.

INTRODUCTION.

Annals of Ibadan Postgraduate Medicine (AIPM) is a peer-reviewed, open access, PubMed-indexed international biomedical journal registered with PubMed since June 2013 with full approval in April 2014, and now publishes tri-annually (April, August, and December) by the Association of Resident Doctors, University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan. The Journal identifier- ISSN Print is 1597-1627 with a Creative Common License by Non-Commercial 3.0 (CC BY-NC 3.0). The journal has had 11 generations of editorial board members with each waxing stronger as the year comes by.

It is not over until it is over. Just like Dr. Williams O. Balogun (Maiden edition of AIPM, 2003)¹ once said at the inception of this journal, there is always room for improvement and indeed a lot has been achieved in these past decades as AIPM has established itself as a leading biomedical journal in Nigeria.

In the maiden editorial of the journal in 2003, Dr. Williams O. Balogun described the aims and objectives behind the establishment of the journal, when he wrote¹: 'The desire to own and publish a journal of this type by the Association of Resident Doctors, University College Hospital, Ibadan has been on for some years now. This arose out of realization that today's specialist doctors must not only be adept in clinical practice but also be scholarly. Moreover, we envisaged a journal that would be a tool for postgraduate training and education, not only featuring articles on diseases but also publish topical issues that help in adequately preparing doctors of the 21st century'. The journal has a vision to regularly publish first class and widely cited articles in different specialties of medical sciences and related subjects.

In the last 20 years of the journal, it has achieved the conceived visions through the birth pangs of the founding Editor-in-Chief; Dr. Williams O. Balogun –

who navigated the journal through the early years with the help of the Editorial Consultant, Professor S. Kadiri and the foreign editorial adviser, Professor A.O. Akanji, through adequate nurturing, breastfeeding and a balance of the needed nutrients through the teething years, and toddler stage till it became a full-fledged standing journal of international repute.² This year, as we celebrate the journal's 20th anniversary, we are adults by all standards. For the relentless labour and sacrifices of our great pioneers, the entire body of residents in UCH, Ibadan (past and present), researchers and trainers within the UCH community, and our esteemed authors and reviewers from within Nigeria and across the continent, we are extremely grateful for the seed sown years ago that is already bearing fruits.

Bibliometric appraisal of a research publication outfit of this nature serves as a tool to evaluate the direction of research activities of *Annals of Ibadan Postgraduate Medicine Journal* as it pertains to article publication between 2003 and 2023, and to determine the research impacts on the body of knowledge. The essence of this review is to determine the quantum volume of research output, nature of publication, regional distribution, and citations. The editorial team is proud of the achievements the journal has made over this decade. It is a time for congratulations, but more importantly, it is a time for circumspection and critical planning for the future and next decade.

By the PubMed indexing over a decade ago, the AIPM has joined the prestigious global league of medical journals, and this is a big developmental milestone especially in the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan and UCH.

The AIPM was launched on 12th December 2003.³ Its inclusion in high-profile bibliographic indexes started with, African Index Medicus in 2005, then African Journal Online (AJOL) in 2006, leading to the publication of abstracts on PubMed from June 2007 till date. The recent re-assessment of the AIPM journal in 2023 by AJOL showed the journal had 1 star Journal Publishing Practices and Standard (tier 4) rating. AIPM is yet to be indexed by Scopus, Scimago Journal Ranking, Web of Science, Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), and Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), however, we patiently wait for approval from Asian Science Citation Index (ASCI). Consistent good performance, year in, year out, is an important prerequisite for journal success. Poor performance in any season or year may lead to expulsion or relegation to a lower journal league. Self-assessments, adjustments⁴ and maintenance of balance on the conveyor belt of

progress are useful tactics of the AIPM for survival hence this appraisal.

METHODOLOGY

Information was transcribed on the cataloguing cards for the generation of a data bank. Subject analysis was carried out using Medical Subject Headings of 2023 edition. Medical Tree Structure was consulted to know the broad spectrum down to the specifics of each concept and excel spreadsheet was used to analyze the data.

Univariate analysis was done and presented in frequency and proportions. Descriptive statistics were presented in charts, line graphs, and tables.

Definition of Terms:

- 1. Impact factor** is a measure of the frequency with which the average article in a journal has been cited in a particular year. Here, the number of times articles were cited on a two-year period (e.g., citations for 2021, 2022) divided by the total number of articles published/number of articles that are citable.
- 2. Acceptance rate** is a measurement of how many manuscripts are accepted for publication, compared to how many are submitted; = Number of accepted manuscripts/Total number of submitted manuscripts.
- 3. Rejection rate** is a measurement of the proportion of manuscripts rejected for publication, compared to how many are submitted; = Number of rejected manuscripts/Total number of submitted manuscripts.
- 4. Journal citation index** is an acknowledgement of intellectual debt (Table 1). The citation analysis which is a measure of the impact and usage of the cited work will reveal the citation count (number of times an article is cited by other articles), H-index, i10-index et cetera.
- 5. Hirsch-index** is an index to quantify an individual's scientific research output.
- 6. The h5-index** is the h-index for articles published in the last five complete years. For AIPM between (2018 – 2022) it is 10.
- 7. The h5-median** is the median of the h-core, or the number of articles with more citations than the h-index and for AIPM Journal it is 19.

RESULTS.

Four hundred and forty-one research articles were published within the period of study. The highest 45 (8.2%) number of articles was published in 2023, followed by 2021 with 39 articles (7.1%) and the least published year was 2003 with eight (Figure 1). AIPM has contributed significantly to the body of knowledge from a total of 552 manuscripts submitted over this period, out of which we had 309 publications between 2008 - 2021 with 2,869 citations. Of this research

Table 1: AIPM journal citation in the past five years (2018 – 2022).

S/No	Year	No of Articles	Citations
1.	So far in 2023 (June & August editions)	30	255
2.	2022	24	679
3.	2021	39	303
4.	2020	19	382
5.	2019	31	263
6.	2018	25	186
Total in 2021/2022		63	982

Table 2: Nature and number of articles received, published, suspended, withdrawn, and rejected per year

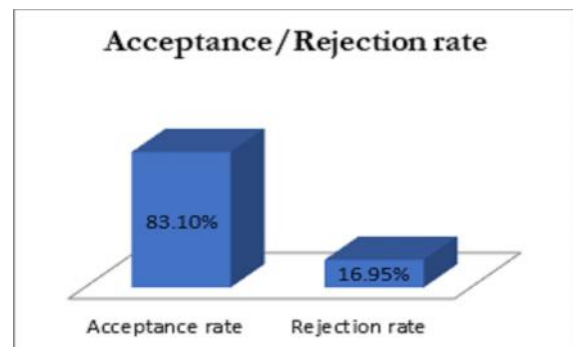
Year	No. of Articles	B/F			Original Articles	Case Report/ Case Series	Review	Letter to Editor	Short Commentary, Interviews, Technical reports, Book reviews	Medical History and Chronicles
		Accepted/ Published	Rejected							
2003	10	1	8	1	1	-	3	-	4	-
2004	15	2	14	-	-	-	9	-	3	-
2005	21	-	23	-	2	1	10	-	10	-
2006	16	2	14	-	5	3	4	-	2	-
2007	12	-	12	2	4	4	2	-	2	-
2008	25	6	17	2	6	2	4	-	3	2
2009	22	6	16	6	7	-	1	1	5	2
2010	19	8	15	2	8	-	2	-	3	2
2011	25	10	16	4 (3 Suspended)	10	2	1	-	1	2
2012	26	12	17	1 (6 withdrawn)	11	2	2	-	-	2
2013	15	5	17	2 (3 Suspended)	8	3	3	-	1	2
2014	20	5	16	3 (1 withdrawn)	11	-	2	-	1	2
2015	31	12	20	2 (2 withdrawn)	12	4	-	-	2	2
2016	32	24	17	3	13	2	-	-	-	2
2017	38	32	22	6 (2 withdrawn)	14	5	-	22	1	2
2018	28	29	25	4 (2 withdrawn)	19	4	-	-	-	2
2019	45	30	30	13 (1 withdrawn)	20	5	2	-	1	2
2020s	30	21	34	5	19	7	4	-	2	2
2021s	31	6	39	7	19	4	9	1	4	2
2022	26	7	24	1	18	1	-	1	2	2
2023s	65	21	45	4 (2 withdrawn)	16	11	-	-	8	2

S = *Special editions in the form of three editions produced per year in 2020, 2021 and 2023.*

output, the manuscript acceptance rate is 83 % (Figure 2).

1. Number of accepted manuscripts over this 20-year period = 441
2. Number of rejected/withdrawn/suspended manuscripts over this 20-year period = 90
3. Total number of submitted manuscripts over this period = 552 - 21 (In the review cycle) = 531

Oyo State recorded the maximum number of publications in terms of geographical distribution with

**Figure 1:** Acceptance and rejection rate

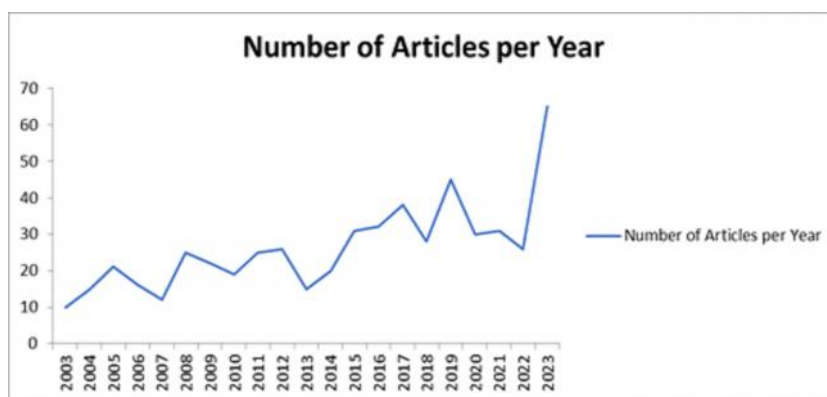


Figure 2: Case load of articles published per year

majority of authorship from Ibadan. Table 2., shows the nature and number of publications per year. 2021 and 2023 had a special edition produced hence the higher publication rates. 2020 also had a third edition but was lower likely due to disruptions following the Covid-19 pandemic.

DISCUSSION.

The main aim of the AIPM, the official publication of the ARD, UCH, is to provide a medium for recording and dissemination of the results of clinical and scientific medical research, particularly in the University College Hospital and other allied institutions in Nigeria and the rest of the World.⁴ We reject or accept and publish submitted manuscripts received now in a tri-annual fashion. The journal publish regularly, utilizing a fast, consistent, rigorous, and effective review and editorial process that allows the precise selection of good quality research works for publication.⁴ We have updated our information for authors including plagiarism check statement, to enable authors to submit high-quality manuscripts in line with the committee on publication ethics (COPE) guideline.³ In same vain, we have updated the handbook, editorial policies, operational guidelines, and instructions to authors.⁴

The Journal Impact Factor (JIF) of the Web of Science, the world's largest publisher-neutral global citation database, is an indication of a journal's high quality, trustworthiness, and impact.^{5,6}

The primary change in the Clarivate Analytics in the 2023 version of the Journal Citation Report (JCR) of 28th June is the extension of JIF to more than 9,000 additional journals in the Arts and Humanities Citation Index (AHCI) and ESCI. However, the AHCI and ESCI journals will not be ranked or receive a quartile or percentile until 2024.⁵

The second change is that the JIF now displays only one decimal place instead of three, which has introduced more ties and reduced precision.⁵ This change is expected to encourage users to consider other indicators and descriptive data in the JCR when comparing journals.^{5,6} It is known that AIPM is yet to

receive any JCR from Clarivate and such JIFs that would round down to 0.0 with the new one-decimal structure will be displayed as < 0.1 which is our present categorization based on JCR however by our citation and research output in the last two years (2021 and 2022), our IF is over 15.6.

Common reasons for rejections include insufficient originality, serious scientific and technical flaws, lack of a significant message, failure to provide copy of the institutional ethics committee approval letter, wrong or no sample size calculation, failure to provide on-request research data spreadsheets or records, similarity index above cutoff, intentional plagiarism, and other unethical authorship practices such as fabrication and falsification.⁷ Post-publication services such as XML conversion for PubMed Central is provided by an Online Data Conversion, Graphic Designing and Marketing Solutions at Karachi, Pakistan and our Administrative staff transmit the publications in form of article abstracts to PubMed and provision of free full-text links. The publication of your article in the AIPM indicates our endorsement of the intrinsic integrity of your research work. The AIPM provides the necessary visibility, discoverability⁸ and availability for your research findings nationally and internationally. We shall continue to strive hard to maintain high quality through adherence to editorial standards and best practices.⁴ The Editor-in-Chief, hereby solicit that you regularly submit excellent original research articles, review articles, systematic reviews, and meta-analysis articles in the field of biomedicine to the AIPM for publication.

The journal board are working towards upgrading the AIPM website and hopefully migrate to the Lippincott Williams and Wilkins e-journals platform which utilizes Altmetric, that measures the impact and popularity of scholarly publications beyond traditional citation metrics. It is believed that Altmetric can quickly collate records of relevant online attention, positive and negative sentiments, measure tangible effects of research on the field of study, benchmark the researcher influence against peers, help researcher to manage reputation and help publishers to see the bigger

picture.⁶ It may take months for a full picture of the articles' impact to emerge on the website.

We are also keeping an eye on the rapidly evolving field of the use of artificial intelligence (AI) writing software to write and generate scholarly publications.⁹ A high-ranking journal, permit the use of AI authoring tools provided that authors disclose in the article exactly how AI was used and which AI tool was used.⁵ The AIPM is pre-occupied with the aforementioned challenges while preparing for other challenges of the new era.

CONCLUSION

In 1960, John F Kennedy^{10,11} described his aims and policies of government while giving his acceptance speech and he stated that the United States was on 'the edge of a new frontier', and asked Americans to join for new achievements in space, science, education, and social conditions. In the same vein, I call on all our esteemed editorial board members and Alumni to keep up the good work and their continuous support as we take AIPM to its zenith. The standard must be maintained or improved upon as we consolidate on our IF of 15.6 and manuscript acceptance rate of 83.1%.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We will not fail to appreciate the efforts put in by all past editors, and alumni body in general for establishing this monument and jewel of inestimable value which has now become a force to be reckoned with both within and outside this domain of ours. For the selfless services, commitment to excellence and persistent passion, we are grateful and hope to lean on the experiences they have all pulled together to give traction to the journal as we soar through the next decade.

Having steered the affairs of the journal for over four years during which he took the journal through undulating waves of uncertainty occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, the immediate past Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Francis O. Fagbule handed the baton over to me about a year ago with huge shoes to fill. Dr. Francis O. Fagbule is an astute researcher, a workaholic with pristine work ethics, and a surgeon in the community dentistry dynasty with unusual dexterity. All these qualities coupled with a humble disposition of a reverend father and a disarming figure-of-eight smile earned him the name "Fr Francis" way back in his undergraduate years. As part of his many achievements, Dr. Francis O. Fagbule was able to put together two special editions since the inception of the journal: Cleft lip and palate and a Covid-19 special edition against all odds. We intend to photocopy his footsteps and that of others who have come before him to continually pave the way for the flagship journal of the premier teaching hospital in Nigeria, the University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan, southwestern Nigeria.

As we mark our 20th anniversary as a journal on the 12th of December 2023, we have extended our congratulations to the Journal Owner and publisher, the Association of Resident Doctors (ARD), University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan, our colleagues, readers, authors, reviewers, editorial advisory board members, associate editors, board Alumni, friends, benefactors, members of the AIPM Editorial Board, and College Press printing house, Ibadan. Thank you all for contributing to the progress of AIPM. Consistent good performance to stay in the prestigious league is our priority. Many thanks.

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