

Editorial

AJCEM - Celebrating 25 years of uninterrupted publication!

It has been 25 years since the first edition of the *African Journal of Clinical and Experimental Microbiology* (AJCEM) was published in January 2000, after being rebranded from the *African Journal of Clinical Microbiology* that published only one edition in 1985. The AJCEM's founding Editor-in-Chief, Prof Boaz Adegboro, along with the pioneer members of the Editorial Board such as Prof Rasheed Bakare (now the Chairman of the Board), Prof Oni Idigbe (the then Director General of Nigerian Institute of Medical Research), Prof Clement Bewaji, Dr Samuel Omotainse and others, identified the need for a journal platform that will identify and critically appraise research findings in clinical, veterinary, environmental and public health microbiology, with the aim of disseminating such findings to the scientific community within and outside Africa.

From the first edition in 2000 (Vol 1, No 1), AJCEM has been published consistently, with twice a year publication frequency from 2000 to 2004, thrice a year from 2005 to 2015, and four times a year since 2016. AJCEM has and still fulfilling her mandate of publishing quality original research articles, review papers, case reports and case series, short communications and letters to the editors, in all aspects of medical microbiology including bacteriology, virology, rickettsiology and chlamydiology, mycology, mycobacteriology and actinomycetes, parasitology, microbial genetics and molecular microbiology, clinical microbiology, clinical veterinary microbiology, environmental microbiology and public health microbiology across the 'One Health' space.

The readership and reach of AJCEM was greatly enhanced after indexing with the African Journals Online (AJOL) in 2004. With the commencement of the AJOL Journal Publishing Practice and Standards (JPPS) framework (<https://www.journalquality.info>) assessment in 2019, AJCEM was rated 'Two Star' out of a possible three. Through AJOL, AJCEM articles are read and downloaded in over 140 countries worldwide (<https://www.ajol.info/stats/7693fab3cf5b06b32673570fb58464ed09f8e617>).

AJCEM consistency has been largely attributed to the continuous patronage by our research scientists and numerous authors from within and outside Africa, timely and rigorous peer review process, and publication of high-quality research works. The Journal is determined to continue to improve as a credible journal platform through rigorous peer review processes, transparency, adherence to good publication ethics and practice standards, publication of scientifically sound research findings, and leveraging on the new information technology age and artificial intelligence. The Editorial Board is also striving hard towards indexing in top indexing bodies to increase AJCEM visibility and impact. The next 25 years promises to be more exciting.

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