

Editorial

Academic Publishing and Pathology in the Tropics: We Stand at the Threshold of Change

Obviously, the knowledge and practice of the Pathological and the Basic Medical Sciences in the Tropics have grown to the point where the output of the workers in these fields is deserving of the birth of a dedicated Journal of Pathology that is native to the tropics. Indeed, in these parts, there are many medical schools, teaching hospitals and medical research institutes where good research and training in the basic medical and allied sciences is going on. Yet many a researcher has had to suffer rejections of his manuscripts because of issues of focus and subject matter and not quality, when attempts have been made to publish in Pathology Journals elsewhere or in tropical journals where Laboratory Medicine is not the focus.

Increasingly, the materials and methods in the Pathological Sciences are getting more advanced and sophisticated. The distance between the research laboratory and the bedside is ever narrowing. At the same time, the peculiarities of tropical medical problems are getting more distinct. Many of the novel laboratory methodologies are being applied to elucidating and characterising the issues and problems that attend living in the tropical areas of the world.

Tropical Pathology Practice and Research face daunting challenges, no doubt. There are issues of bad policies or an outright lack of them, poverty and lack of resources. Severe adverse economic stress has induced a debilitating brain drain, taking many of our best and brightest away to other lands. Still there is an incontrovertible evidence of growth and development...and an ever-present challenge of human disease and suffering in the tropics.

The *Annals of Tropical Pathology* (ATP) debuts on the scene as a pioneer in this field -the publication of many Journals that would doubtless soon appear with the sole aim of satisfying the yearning to publish the medical scientist in tropical laboratory practice and research. In addition to hosting top-rate publications of scientific inquiry into tropical diseases and conditions, ATP hopes to serve as a market place of ideas for the contemporary Clinical Pathologist and his students, undergraduate and Postgraduate, and assist in elevating academic standards and promoting clinical excellence in all the Pathological Sciences.

In serving as a midwife for ATP, The Faculty Board of Pathology is blazing the trail of change in academic tropical pathology. As a full-term baby, the Journal shall seek to be truly independent in all her Editorial deliberations and decisions. We would only be guided by the idealism and tenets of academic excellence that has been handed down from the founding fathers of the Faculty as well as depend on the vibrancy of the young scientists among us, to take us to the heights and to keep the flag flying all of the time.

Professor Olusegun Ojo

Editor-in-Chief

Goodwill Message

The concept of Journal publication in the Western World came with Henry Oldenburg (1619-1677), the German-Born British Philosopher, who in 1665 founded the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, which has survived till today thus becoming the longest running peer-reviewed scientific journal in the world. The main reason then, as it is now was to encourage researchers to share new knowledge. Journal publications have come to be recognized as a tool for providing intellectual credit for new ideas and knowledge. From 1665 till date, millions of journals in different field of human knowledge have been released into circulation, and the number continues to grow.

The addition of the Annals of Tropical Pathology (ATP) to the list at this time in the history of Faculty of Pathology of the National Postgraduate Medical College is therefore not an aberration.

If truth be told, it is inevitable. Of over 100 medical journals in this country, there is no single one devoted to all aspects of laboratory medicine. The principal aim of this journal therefore is to address a target audience, the Pathologists, in particular pathologists practicing in tropical regions. The Journal will highlight our peculiar perspectives that are hardly ever mentioned in the non-pathology journals. The Journal will publish only peer-reviewed articles on original research works, review articles and reports of rare clinical cases of interest to pathology. Occasionally, letters on break through researches will be published.

The ultimate goal of Annals of Tropical Pathology is to maintain a quality journal with high impact factor, but more importantly, ability to provide subjective academic and professional satisfaction to its readers.

With over 50 medical schools/teaching hospital in Nigeria, scores of Federal Medical centres and specialists hospitals, all of which need at least four Laboratory Physicians; I have no doubt that ATP will survive. ATP Editorial Board will facilitate patronage by making ONLINE ACCESS of the publications affordable to most readers, including medical students.

I congratulate the Editorial Board of ATP, the Faculty of Pathology for taking this giant stride; I wish the journal a very successful and enduring outing.

Professor Muheez A Durosinmi, FMCPath
*Chairman, Faculty Board of Pathology,
National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria*