

Babcock University Medical Journal's new Editor-in-Chief (Olumide Abiodun) and the responsibilities of the role

The editor-in-chief of BUMJ (2024-2028)

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Submitted: 27th December 2024

Accepted: 28th December 2024

Published: 31st December 2024

[ID](#): Orcid ID

Abstract

An editor-in-chief is the highest-ranking editorial leader overseeing all aspects of the publication's operations, content, and editorial policies. Babcock University Medical Journal, founded in 2017, is a multidisciplinary journal published by the Babcock Medical Society that provides rapid publication of peer-reviewed new human research findings in all the specialities of basic health sciences, basic clinical sciences, and clinical sciences with a strong emphasis on community health. On the 1st of May 2024, Professor Olumide Abiodun, who had served as the journal's managing editor since 2019, was appointed editor-in-chief for four years. Professor Abiodun took over from Professor Franklin Ani. This write-up introduces the new editor-in-chief and highlights the core duties of the role.

Keywords: Babcock University Medical Journal, Editor-in-Chief, Olumide Abiodun

Introduction

At the Babcock University Medical Journal (BUMJ), the editor-in-chief (EIC) is the highest-ranking editorial leader overseeing all aspects of the publication's operations, content, and editorial policies. The editor-in-chief plays a central role in shaping the journal's identity, fostering trust among authors and readers, and contributing to advancing knowledge in the field. The role is pivotal in maintaining the journal's quality, reputation, and alignment with its mission.

Responsibilities of BUMJ's EIC

The key responsibilities include

Content Management

The EIC ensures that all published articles meet the journal's standards of quality and relevance. The role also entails reviewing and approving content for final publication.

Editorial Oversight

BUMJ's EIC supervises the editorial team, including associate editors, section editors, and reviewers; and develops and implements editorial policies and strategies.

Peer Review Process

The EIC oversees the peer review process to ensure fairness, objectivity, and integrity. The EIC's role also resolves disputes or conflicts arising during the review process.

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Journal Strategy

The EIC at BUMJ sets the vision and goals for the journal's growth and direction; and ensures the journal remains competitive and impactful in its field.

Ethics and Compliance

The EIC has to uphold ethical standards in publishing, including issues related to plagiarism,

Olumide Abiodun, the Editor-in-Chief

On the 1st of May 2024, Professor Olumide Abiodun was appointed editor-in-chief of the Babcock University Medical Journal. Before then, Olumide had served for five years (2019-2024) as the Managing Editor. In that period, Olumide was responsible for transforming the journal from print

conflicts of interest, and research misconduct. The EIC also ensures compliance with publishing guidelines (e.g., COPE standards).

Outreach and Promotion

The EIC represents the journal in the academic and professional community. The role includes engaging in activities to enhance the journal's visibility, readership, and citation impact.

to online presence. He led the indexing of the journal with notable organizations, including SCOPUS, Google Scholar, AJOL, Crossref, African Index Medicus, DOAJ, JGate, ScienceOpen, and Scilit. The transformation led to an expansion from local to regional and international authorship and readership.



Professor Olumide Abiodun, Editor-in-Chief of BUMJ (2024-2028)

Olumide is a Nigeria-based Public Health Physician with over 20 years of experience in adolescent health, reproductive health, epidemiology of cancer and infectious disease, cancer control, research, education, management, and consultancy.

Olumide has planned, implemented, and evaluated projects at community, district, regional, and national levels in sub-Saharan Africa while working with UN agencies, bilateral agencies, global health partnerships, research institutions, consultancy agencies, and NGOs. He was a consultant/investigator to the CLIP-Nigeria trial, a multi-million-dollar project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Saving Lives at Birth (through Grand Challenges Canada). The project aimed to address the excess maternal and perinatal mortality that derives from the failure to identify and rapidly manage pre-eclampsia and eclampsia at the community level in LMICs. I have been a member of several professional and management groups, especially in the areas of Reproductive health, HIV, cervical cancer, and malaria. I am involved in capacity development,

bespoke training, critical review, and overall project management.

Professor Abiodun's research and consultancy have culminated in several publications, including sub-national and national strategy documents, policy briefs, training manuals, and journal articles. Olumide (2500+ Google Scholar (citations) has over 100 peer-reviewed publications in notable journals (1-100). He is passionate about research dissemination and excellent publishing and sits on the editorial board of some reputable journals. Olumide has actively participated in critical reviews at regional, national, and global levels for academic and grant purposes. He has considerable experience in capacity development, training consultancy, and curriculum development. Olumide is a Global Burden of Diseases Senior Collaborator and has authored more than 15 publications within the consortium (1, 2, 4-6, 9-11, 15-18, 20, 22, 24).

Professor Abiodun developed the curriculum and delivered the first session of the Olabisi Onabanjo University flagship basic and applied epidemiology course for senior health managers. He coordinates

undergraduate and postgraduate training in Community Medicine. Olumide also developed the flagship MPH curricula for the Benjamin Carson School of Medicine of Babcock University in Public Health and Reproductive Health.

Olumide mentors undergraduate and postgraduate students and have supervised Master, PhD and Fellowship candidates at Olabisi Onabanjo University, the University of Port-Harcourt School of Public Health, the University of Edinburg, and the West African College of Physicians. He was also a mentor on the Emory-Nigeria HIV Research Training Program, an Emory University School of Medicine initiative.

Professor Abiodun is a summer fellow of the US National Cancer Institute's Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program and a graduate of the Global Clinical Scholar Research Training Program at the Harvard Medical School. He was the principal investigator for an investigator-sponsored RCT funded by Merck Sharp and Dohme Corporation to seek innovative methods of improving ART adherence among adolescents living with HIV in Nigeria.

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