



Editorial

Welcome message from the Editor-in-chief

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I am pleased to welcome you to volume 3 issue 2 of the Health Sciences Investigations (HSI) Journal. The Journal is poised to influence the biomedical and clinical communities worldwide. Currently, the Journal is indexed in the African Journals OnLine (AJOL), the world's largest and preeminent platform for African-published scholarly journals. The Journal is working on further indexing in other prominent online repositories such as PubMed and Scopus. Since its inception, the HSI Journal's Editorial team has worked assiduously to maintain the quality of research articles that the Editorial office publishes. Eight out of the ten articles in the current issue of the Journal focused on child and maternal health. Non-communicable diseases that affect children include sickle cell disease, hypertension and cancer. Sickle cell disease belongs to a group of autosomal recessive haemoglobin disorders due to the inheritance of the sickle β -globin gene and the production of largely sickle haemoglobin. Sickle cell anaemia causes several acute and chronic complications, which significantly account for morbidity and mortality due to the disease. A study on the relationship between adherence to hydroxyurea (HU) therapy and health-related quality of life (HRQOL) scores in children with sickle cell anaemia and identification of barriers to HU adherence conducted at

Korle Bu Teaching Hospital (KBTH) found that the children with high adherence to HU had the highest HRQOL scores. Routine assessment of barriers to HU adherence was recommended for good quality of life for the children. The research on childhood hypertension sought to determine the prevalence of overweight, obesity and associated hypertension in healthy school children. Hypertension was found to be common among the school children studied and was significantly associated with overweight and obesity. Thus, health education and physical activities are strongly recommended to curb hypertension in children. Cancer is increasingly becoming a public health challenge in Ghana. A study was conducted to assess the prevalence of malnutrition at the diagnosis of childhood cancer, compare weight-based measurements with arm anthropometry in the determination of acute malnutrition (wasting) and assess the association between malnutrition and selected cancer characteristics. Mid-upper arm circumference and upper arm muscle area identified more children with wasting than weight-for-height z-score and body mass index-for-age score at cancer diagnosis. On maternal health, a study was carried out on patterns of presentation of ectopic pregnancy in the KBTH of Ghana and the outcomes for patients presenting with the condition. The findings revealed that the incidence of ruptured ectopic pregnancy in the KBTH was high. It was recommended that there should be continuous education of women and their partners to report early to health facilities when the women miss their periods for early localisation of the pregnancies. I deeply appreciate the hardworking Technical Team, Editorial Board Members and Reviewers covering all related topics. I am also grateful to the Advisory Board, Authors and Publishers. I welcome suggestions, complaints, discussions and thoughts from Authors and Readers to help us improve and maintain high standards.

Thank you

Acknowledgements

The University of Ghana College of Health Sciences, the copyright owner, patron, and sponsor of HSI Journal has always shown a deep interest in the affairs of its constituent institutions. The Journal is indeed grateful to Professor Julius Fobil, the Provost of the University of Ghana College of Health Sciences, for his immense support and leadership.

About the Editor-in-chief

Professor Andrew Anthony Adjei is a Professor of Immunology with over thirty years of biomedical and allied health sciences training and research experience. He is a Fellow of the following: Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences (FGA), African Academy of Sciences (AAS), Ghana Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists (GAMLS) and African Sciences Institute (ASI). Professor Adjei has been Head of Department, University of Ghana (UG) School of Biomedical and Allied Health Sciences; Deputy Provost, College of Health Sciences (CHS); Director of Research, Innovation and Development, UG; Acting Director, Institutional Research and Planning Office, UG; Coordinator of Research, University of Ghana Medical School (UGMS); Editor-in-Chief, Ghana Journal of Allied Health Sciences; President of Ghana Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists; Project Coordinator, Transdisciplinary Training for Resource Efficiency and Climate Change Adaptation in Africa; Project Coordinator, Building Stronger Universities (Partnership between UG and Universities in Denmark); Project Coordinator, Fogarty Global Health Fellows Training Programme (Partnership between UGMS and University of Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia, USA); and Project Coordinator, Minority in Health Research Training (Partnership between UGMS and University of Morehouse School of Medicine). Professor Adjei is also past Coordinator of the Worldwide Universities Network and the Australia-Africa Universities Network. Currently, he is the Chairman of the following: Ethics and Protocol Review Committee, UG CHS; CHS Public Lecture Series and Scientific Conference Planning Committee; UG CHS Newsletter (In Focus); UG CHS Library Refurbishment Committee; Member of Korle Bu Teaching Hospital Institutional Review Board; and the Coordinator, MPhil programme in Immunology, at the Department of Pathology, UGMS. Professor Adjei is a reviewer of several clinical and biomedical Journals globally. He has served on various UGMS and UG committees and currently serves on both the UG and CHS Academic Boards.