



## Editorial

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### Welcome message from the Editor-in-chief

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As we come to the end of 2024, I extend my profound appreciation to our numerous Authors and Members of the Clinical and Scientific Communities for their resolute dedication, loyalty and support for the Health Sciences Investigations Journal since 2020. Amidst the challenges and difficulties, we face as a Journal, the Editorial Team, Technical Team and the Secretariat have demonstrated unwavering commitment to improving the quality of manuscripts submitted for publication. Collectively as a Team, we have made tremendous progress attracting manuscripts from several Authors across the globe. It is with much pleasure that I welcome you to volume 6 issue 2 of the Health Sciences Investigations [HSI] Journal.

The HSI Journal remains committed to reaching the global community with open-access publications from basic and clinical health sciences. Reflecting on our journey together since the inception of the Journal, I am elated of what we have achieved as a Journal. Our dedication, commitment and discipline have enhanced our reputation as one of the leading Journals locally and internationally. In the current issue of the HSI Journal we have featured 22 manuscripts, comprising 20 original articles, a case-control study and a mini-review of 2 randomized control studies. The substantial increase in the number of articles published in this issue indicates the level of visibility attained and acceptance of the HSI Journal by the scientific and clinical communities.

In this issue of the HSI Journal, we present an article on the efficacy of herbal medicines in the management of sickle cell disease [SCD]. In Ghana and across countries, plants are crucial to the health of individuals and the community because they have been used in the treatment of several diseases including jaundice, neurodegenerative diseases and inflammation. The WHO recommends the integration of ethnomedicines into primary healthcare because about 70 to 95 percent of people especially in developing countries rely on them. SCD is a chronic illness with catastrophic psychological and clinical implications, prompting many affected patients to seek treatment outside of conventional medicine. In this review article, the authors highlighted the potential benefits of using phytomedicines [Niprisan® and Ciklavit®] for the management of SCD and suggested that Niprisan® and Ciklavit® may be used as adjunctive therapies to mitigate the painful episodes that characterize SCD thus improving patients' quality of life. Another interesting article is the use of D-Limonene as a solvent in the softening and removal of gutta-percha during re-endodontic treatment as compared to Eucalyptol and Chloroform in the chemomechanical removal of Root Canal Treatment (RCT). The most commonly used solvents for softening gutta-percha are Chloroform and Eucalyptol.

There is also a special feature on oesophageal strictures in children. Oesophageal strictures are either acquired or congenital. The common acquired causes include ingestion of corrosive agents (caustic soda or sodium hydroxide), gastroesophageal reflux disease, infections, long-term retention of a foreign body, eosinophilic esophagitis and secondary surgical causes. In Ghana, caustic ingestion is a common type of childhood poisoning as a result of improper storage practices. This could lead to devastating complications or death if not diagnosed and treated early enough. The strictures result from a series of events that follow the injury to the oesophageal wall. For the first time in Ghana, the Authors successfully performed 480 endoscopy oesophageal dilations in 57 patients who qualified for the procedure. The outcome of the study was excellent with low complication rates.

There are other peer-reviewed articles that cover a myriad of topical health sciences with a wide spread over several cross-cutting topics in Volume 6 issue 2 of the Journal. As another year comes to a close, may I take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all authors for their contributions. I am grateful to the hardworking Editorial Team, Reviewers and Proof-readers (whose names are published in this Issue on page v) for their effort in ensuring that the Journal publishes good articles for our cherished readers. The Advisory Board, Authors and Publishers

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...are also acknowledged for their contributions. To our cherished authors and readers, we look forward to receiving more quality manuscripts from you. As the Editor-in-Chief, I welcome suggestions, complaints, discussions, and thoughts from authors and readers to help us maintain high standards. I look forward to receiving your manuscripts for publication. I would be honoured if you would consider the HSI Journal as a preferred place for publishing and reading scientific works.

*Thank you*

#### Acknowledgements

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

#### 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 was the immediate 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, CHS Public Lecture Series and Scientific Conference Planning Committee, CHS Newsletter (In Focus), 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.

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