



Editorial

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Welcome message from the Editor-in-chief

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It is with much pleasure that I welcome you to Volume 7 Issue 1 of the Health Sciences Investigations Journal (HSI Journal). The Journal remains committed to reaching the global community with open-access publications from basic and clinical health sciences. HSI Journal therefore places a high premium on the quality of research articles published and the impact of outcomes on health (complete physical, mental and social well-being) and thus consistently provides an avenue for communication of research findings in health, the science of well-being. During the 2023-2024 calendar year, HSI Journal experienced a substantial increase in manuscripts submitted for consideration in publishing and a corresponding rise in requests for indexing from Medical and Health-related Websites. As I reflect on the HSI Journal's accomplishments in 2024, I am encouraged by the fortitude, passion, dedication and commitment of our Editors, Editorial and Administrative Teams who persevered through economic times for the University of Ghana and The College of Health Sciences. The current issue of the HSI Journal we have featured 22 manuscripts, comprising 20 original articles, and two case-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. The current issue of the Journal contains a case study on the atypical intestinal serosal granulomatous lesions of *Schistosoma haematobium* and *Schistosoma mansoni* coinfection presenting in a surgical unit in an obstructed hernia. The intraoperative findings pose a clinical dilemma and difficult management decision. This presentation of extensive serosal and

mental granulomatous lesions is uncommon. This is a rare condition that surgeons must know in cases of parasitic infestations with schistosomiasis. In this issue, we also present a case of unilateral fused kidney (inferior ectopia). The incidence is said to be 1 in 2000 births and more common in males compared to females. A left-to-right positioning is about three times more common compared to right-to-left. This case of a right-to-left is therefore rarer, and clinically most cases present in the paediatric age group. There is also an interesting article on lessons for future pandemics following the recent COVID-19 episode. The COVID-19 pandemic had overwhelming effects on global health, with a complex interaction between socioeconomic factors and mental health outcomes. The pandemic introduced new stressors, including economic instability, job loss, and social isolation, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations. Future pandemic preparedness therefore depends on successful interventions that incorporate socioeconomic policy with mental health considerations. This paper indicated that addressing these socioeconomic determinants is essential for improving mental health and resilience after the pandemic. I am grateful to the hardworking Editorial Team, the Reviewers and the Proofreaders for their effort in ensuring that the Journal publishes good articles for our cherished readers. The Advisory Board, Authors and Publishers are also acknowledged for their contributions. I welcome suggestions, complaints, discussions, and thoughts from authors and readers to help us maintain high standards. I look forward to receiving your high-quality manuscripts for publication.

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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 and 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.

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.