

EDITORIAL

The Nigerian Health Journal Editorial Board expresses deep appreciation to our Immediate Past Editor, Professor A.U. Ekere for his efforts and achievements in advancing the growth of the Journal in the course of his tenure.

We are also happy that he has accepted to continue his service to the journal and our association as an Editorial consultant to the journal. A new Editorial Board has thus been appointed, with Dr Datonye Dennis Alasia of the department of Internal Medicine, University of Port Harcourt as its new Editor-in-Chief.

The journal has witnessed a lot of restructuring recently, with the redesign of its cover and presentation format. The journals reviewer base has also been expanded with the appointment of new editorial advisers and peer reviewers from within and outside Nigeria. The Journal has also shifted its operations especially in terms of manuscript submission and processing to an online platform, following the launch of its website www.tnhjph.org, which is still under development.

In this issue of the journal a range of interesting review and original research articles are published.

User fees and social health insurance (SHI) have been key strategies to the funding of health care services since the 1980s. However the success of these strategies has been very minimal. L.O.Onotai in this review paper, examines the appropriateness of user fees and SHI by critically appraising their strengths and weaknesses in terms of funding the healthcare systems and meeting the health needs of the population, it also draws the attention of the government to better alternatives of healthcare funding.

Ojule et al, evaluate the knowledge, attitude and practice of emergency contraception among undergraduate university students. The study rationale stems from the fact that the awareness and utilization of contraceptives especially emergency contraceptives (EC) among youths and others in the reproductive age group is an important step in preventing unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions.

Water and sanitation projects are synergistic in producing beneficial health effects in communities. Ordinioha and Ow'honda; examine the state of sanitation facilities and hygiene behaviour in an oil rich community in the Niger delta region of Nigeria.

Episiotomy, a commonly performed obstetric operation is associated with complications following its administration and care. Nyengidiki and Nyeche identified the morbidities associated with episiotomies and factors associated with such morbidities, in Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

Akani et al, present the outcome of a retrospective analysis of Hysterectomy in adolescents in Port Harcourt. The study highlights the consequence of this clinical decision which is difficult due the loss of future reproductive potential associated with it as well as the related social determinants.

One of the strategies for tackling alcohol-related problems, is education and persuasion on how to drink alcohol in moderation. This is often facilitated by the introduction of a standard alcoholic drink measure, and a recommended daily alcohol consumption limit. Ordinioha in this study evaluates the volume and alcohol concentration of alcoholic beverages offered for sale in Port Harcourt, with a view to establishing their suitability in the growing effort to achieve moderation in alcohol intake.

Adequate blood pressure control is a major strategy, in the attempt to reduce the morbidity and mortality of hypertension related cardiovascular disease. Akpa et al evaluated the level of blood pressure control among patients receiving treatment for hypertension in a specialist medical outpatient clinic (MOPD) of the University of Port Harcourt teaching hospital (UPTH).

We look forward to better days as we strive to improve the quality, visibility and impact of our journal.

Datonye Dennis Alasia