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## Future Plans for African Journal of Medicine and Medical Sciences

This journal which came into existence in 1970 has continued to grow in popularity. It has been favourably accepted in medical and scientific circles as a journal of high standard. This accolade is due to the efforts of previous editors and their assistants since inception.

The new editorial board is determined to maintain the standard and improve on it. The journal has managed to weather the financial storm which confronted it in the last decade, due to the dwindling resources of the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan. The editorial staff commends the determination and noble role of the management of the College to keep the journal afloat.

The increasing difficulty of the College authorities to procure scarce foreign currency to meet the financial obligations of the journal has led to a change of publisher. A Nigeria-based reputable publishing house has been appointed to handle the publication of the journal, so that the high quality of the journal which the readers are accustomed to will be maintained. This change in baton inevitably leads the new editorial board to introduce some innovations into this new issue and subsequent issues.

The overall number of papers for publication per issue has been increased, due to increasing number of good quality articles being received. The journal, for now, however will still be published quarterly. The contents of the journal has been completely revised. The contents of each issue will from now on reflect an Editorial View. This will be based on an article or interest which appears in the issue. The editorial will be written by reputable scholars, whose research interests are similar to that of the author of the article.

A new column of Review Articles will appear in each edition of the journal. Contributions, largely solicited, will come from eminent scholars writing on a particular subject or topic. This column will be followed by a column of Original Articles. Short Reports, which will be limited to 2 pages and not containing more than 1 or 2 tables and/or figures will now feature. The aim is to use this column to publish case reports of special interest and reports of original work describing observations, new methods and results of clinical trials.

A column designated as View Point may appear in any edition, when necessary. This column

will be devoted to articles describing new techniques and also articles of general nature. Previous editions of this journal made no provision for readers to record their views on some manuscripts published in the journal. The editorial board has now introduced a column for correspondence/letters to the editor to allow for views of readers. The length of such correspondence will be restricted to a quarter of a page of the journal.

Finally, the contents will also have a miscellaneous column which will incorporate book notice and reviews; announcement of dates of important National and International conferences and symposia etc. Abstracts or proceedings of important conferences and symposia will also be included as supplement to any issue whenever sponsors are available.

Another important departure from previous practice in this journal is the decision to restrict the length of all articles for publications to a maximum of eighteen quarto-size sheets. Additional number of pages will now be surcharged due to increasing cost of printing. Furthermore, reprints will no longer be issued free. The cost of reprints will depend on the number requested for. Further details concerning reprints will be given under "Notes for Contributors".

A new list of reviewers consisting of reputable scholars, both local and international, has been compiled. The aim is to ensure that only articles of high scientific quality are accepted and published. We are confident that invited reviewers will respond to our call and provide a quick assessment of the manuscripts.

Each article appearing in the journal in subsequent editions, will now bear at the bottom left corner of the first page, the date the article was received and the date of acceptance. The purpose is to indicate the reviewing time and the duration between acceptance and publication.

This journal will now welcome advertisement from various sources, more especially from pharmaceutical and scientific equipments companies and also publishing houses.

The continuing success of this journal will depend on the quality of papers submitted, the prompt and careful reviewing of manuscripts and a close rapport with its readers. The editorial staff looks forward to a challenging and stimulating time ahead.

B. O. Onadoko.