

Editorial for Nigerian Journal of Health Sciences: January–June 2017 Issue

This issue of *Nigerian Journal of Health Sciences* highlights publications that cut across both basic and clinical research in the different specialties in health sciences.

Hydrocephalus occurs with excessive production and/or impaired drainage of cerebrospinal fluid, ultimately resulting in ventriculomegaly and other protean clinical manifestations. Ayannuga OA studied the histomorphometry of the lateral ventricle (LV) and cerebral cortex of Wistar rats following kaolin-induced hydrocephalus as well as the associated clinical manifestations. He found that clinical symptoms predated the morphological changes observed in the LV and cerebral cortex and concluded that cortical changes and ventriculomegaly were acute-phase features, while the detachment of the choroid plexus and reversal of cortical manifestations were features of chronicity.

Improvement in health indices is a reflection of improvement in care and health-seeking behaviour in any community. In this issue of our journal, we present original publications that report on some health indices in microcosms. Preeclampsia remains a major contributor to maternal morbidity, mortality and adverse foetal outcomes; Olowookere *et al.* assessed the prevalence, risk factors and foetomaternal outcomes in women with preeclampsia and found that unbooked patients had higher blood pressures and worse outcomes. Consequently, they recommended early booking and prompt identification of women at risk for appropriate management and follow-up.

Infant and child mortality had remained unacceptably high in Sub-Saharan Africa and strategies aimed at reducing the trend are always encouraged. Owoyemi *et al.* assessed the health-seeking behaviours for infants by caregivers in a community in Lagos and found that less than half of caregivers sought treatment from a health facility and the most common barriers to seeking health care were financial constraints and poor services.

Kidney transplantation (KT) is globally adjudged the best treatment modality for patients with end-stage renal disease; Amira *et al.* assessed the major impediments to KT in patients who have been on regular dialysis for at least 3 months. The major challenges found included lack of donors and paucity of funds, while a few, were not psychologically prepared for it.

The prevalence of childhood asthma has been increasing globally, but data from developing countries are sparse. In a bid to study asthma in children, Kuti *et al.* assessed the prevalence of exercise-induced bronchospasm (EIB) in poor rural and affluent urban school children. They found a significantly higher prevalence of EIB in urban school children observed in about 20% and therefore recommended exercise testing as part

of routine pre-entry school evaluation for children particularly in urban centres.

Salako *et al.* evaluated the role of direct vision internal urethrotomy (DVIU) in the management of bulbar urethral strictures and found that success rate was 66.7% after first DVIU and increased to 75.0% after the second. They concluded that DVIU is a practicable and safe option for successful treatment of bulbar urethral strictures.

Furthermore, in this issue, Adewumi EA reviewed the financing of the treatment of infertility in Nigeria with a view to reducing the cost of *in vitro* fertilisation (IVF) and therefore increasing access to treatment. The review found high cost of IVF to be the greatest barrier to assisted reproductive technology access globally and that this is worse in low-resource settings like Nigeria. It therefore recommended ways of increasing access to assisted reproductive technology.

The *Nigerian Journal of Health Sciences* now have a new editorial board which is poised to ensure regular publications and introduce new features that would cut across different specialties in health sciences with anticipated improvement in our acceptability, visibility and readership. Please join us as we build a journal of our dream.

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