EAST AFRICAN JOURNAL OF HEALTH SCIENCES (EAJHS)

Enhancing the status of East African journal of Health Sciences The way forward

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Editorial

The East African Journal of Health Sciences (*East Afr J Health Sci*) has been a recent existence and has already begun to be the main avenue for sharing information generated by health professionals on health care in the region and in the country including abroad. As part of a celebration for the resumption of the journal, the contribution by diverse biomedical, clinical, pharmaceutical, environmental and public health disciplines is encouraging. Many journals focusing on health have similar missions which resolve around publishing and disseminating scientifically rigorous health information of regional/national or international significance that enables policy makers, researchers and practitioners to be more effective and efficient or, expressed in simple and clear terms, delivering science / knowledge / for better health needs.

In keeping with the aim and objectives, the *East Afr J Health Sci* hopefully will be the official organ of health professionals in the region and already has started publishing papers based on original research and other observation of relevance to biomedical, clinical, pharmaceutical, environmental and public health in the region and beyond. Indeed, it is gratifying to see that this new journal has started playing a key role in disseminating timely and relevant clinical and public health information in the region and beyond.

The journal has become among the old several other journals that existed in the country with a focus on various sub-specialties of medicine and public health, which this new journal has to follow, at the same time the quality of information disseminated through has now ever continue. Although, there are still many remaining challenges in research development and health care solutions, owing to inadequate research capacity prevailing in the country, which remains a future threat to ascertaining quality of information published in the *East Afr J Health Sci*. In this regard, the need for more health system research linkage between various clinical and public health disciplines and creating partnership between academic and non- academic professionals on research, between the young and senior researchers is imperative. Geographic diversification is also crucial to taking this journal to the desired scale and quality.

The expansion of local post-graduate trainings focused on local priorities is a given opportunity for the rapid expansion of high-quality health research in the region and in the country. The aim being young scientists, involved in health research, will act as catalysts to fostering an overall development of health system and finding practical solutions to local health.

KEY WORDS: Disease burden, General surgical emergency, magnitude, outcomes

In this regard, research articles belonging to all categories, descriptive and analytic studies will increase (boost) the status and quality of the journal which addresses the shortcoming primarily at health training centers and research institutions. Adequate financing of research work remains a challenge and health training institutions have a key role in dealing with such vital issues.

Systems to support the engagement of young physicians and public health professionals and early career scientists to use *East Afr J Health Sci* as their forum for reporting their research outcomes need to be established so that the impact of the journal will be strengthened. While strengthening and optimizing its recent initiatives on electronic publishing, *East Afr J Health Sci* will still need to push more systematically to reach a high quality.

Continuous updates and improvement in relevant guidelines would be needed to support authors, editors and reviewers to keep up with rapidly changing global situations. The *East Afr J Health Sci* members and affiliates should extra ordinarily contribute to research capacity building through peer–review process, submission of good quality articles and training. However, building research capacity is primarily responsibilities of health training and research institutions.

Building and cultivating a research culture in training and research institutions, initiated early and continued throughout the training period ought to be strengthened. In current situations, the *East Afr J Health Sci* is well positioned to take all advantages and build its experience from the start to sustain itself as one of the leading sources of quality health research information in the region and beyond. Finally, *East Afr J Health Sci* calls for a closer and stronger engagement of health researchers and encourages them to use the journal as their outlet for disseminating research information to stakeholders in the region, in the country and abroad.