



EDITORIAL

Moving Forward

My opening charge to you dear researcher is that you need to do all you can to ensure that you are moving forward. No one else can make that decision for you and no matter what you are going through, the ultimate decision to rise or not to rise is yours. The situations and circumstances you face are really not peculiar to you. There's a popular saying that 'Life Happens'. This phrase covers a multitude of events, actions, situations both palatable and unpalatable that people face. If you agree (and believe me your agreement is needed) to stay down because of what you have gone through or what you are going through, then you will ultimately have yourself to blame at the end of the day. As healthcare professionals and researchers, we have a duty of care to go the extra mile. We need to take a decision to move, no matter what. COVID-19 has shown us that not too many things are actually in our control. But the need to meet people's health needs, to provide answers to burning issues, to do all we can to contribute to global knowledge is still a very present requirement. Calls for grant proposals did not stop because of COVID-19, the target of some of the calls shifted to meet the global need for answers to the many questions that COVID-19 posed all over the world, but the calls did not stop. The puzzle that the COVID-19 pandemic created in Africa is yet to be answered and indeed it is those researchers that have chosen to press on that will ultimately provide the rest of the world answers to what is actually going on.

One of the many things I am grateful for is that the global adoption of various technological innovations in order to ensure the world moves forward has closed the gap further between the developing and the developed world. Africa and all researchers in Africa must key into the various opportunities available to improve the lives of the communities they serve via the research they do. Assessing grants, publishing research findings and generally doing your bit to ensure the world is a bit better is possible and I challenge us to key into these opportunities.

The world needs to move forward and away from deliberately disseminating false claims, half-truths and outright lies about what it is yet to fully understand. I have fond memories of one of my pastors saying generally, in Africa, what we don't understand, we mystify. As Africans we create huge myths around what we do not understand. A classic example is the classifying of children as

‘abiku’ (literarily someone born to die) because there was no understanding of sickle cell anaemia and other genetic malformations that cause certain woman to miscarry often or loose their children at a very tender age. That is Africa. To now see the whole world engaged in various sophisticated acts of mystifying unresolved issues around COVID-19 was so baffling to me personally. I enjoin you as a researcher to refrain from quickly sharing that link or message. Put your head down (as we say) and consider the content you are about to share. Does it even make sense. When you see an imagery that says that because people have been vaccinated, their bodies are now repositories of electricity, think about your elementary science and how electricity works. If you have been vaccinated yourself, try it out on yourself first so you can even add to the message that you confirmed it and it is true. Fastest fingers first is good if you are in the gameshow, ‘Who Wants to be a Millionaire®’ but it is downright dangerous to simply share because you received and you assume that ‘if they did not confirm it they won’t have sent it’. But you did not confirm, and you are sending so why think someone else took that duty of care?

As is our tradition, we use the opportunity of the first edition of the Journal per year to acknowledge and celebrate all our reviewers for the preceding year. The list of 2020 reviewers can be seen immediately after this editorial. We recognize that all our reviewers are extremely busy people and we do not take it for granted that they are able to spare the time to assist us in reviewing the manuscripts sent to us. For some articles, we even have to go back a second time to be sure that all issues have been sorted out appropriately. Please accept this token shout out as our way of thanking you profusely from the bottom of our hearts for your support. Without you, as I always say, we cannot boast of doing it well because no editorial team can have competence in every field of study that their Journal covers. You contribute in no small measure to the journal moving forward and we are grateful.

E seun; Nagode; Daalu; You do well; Thank you.

Our website is still very much available to you to access information. You can reach us directly via email (info.jbspr@gmail.com or info.jbspr@unilag.edu.ng) if you have information or comments to share with us. I had informed us that we were pursuing Crossref registration in order to begin to assign digital object identifiers (DOI) to articles published in our Journal. At the time we started, we were informed by Crossref that our University, the University of First Choice and the Nations’ Pride had started the registration process and we were advised to key into that as with

the University's registration, all Journals floated by Departments and Units under it would qualify for DOIs under its umbrella. I am pleased to inform you that the University has completed the process and is in the process of registering and assigning numbers to all Journals. Be assured that by the time we produce the next edition, all articles published would already have been assigned DOIs.

As I have vowed to always do, I am calling out colleagues in patient-facing practice areas, community and hospital, to make time out to publish practice-oriented articles that will provide us with useful and useable data for future planning, forecasting and interventions. The pandemic is still before us and has given us several research areas in addition to the usual issues we had before. Medical personnel in patient-facing areas and especially those working in the isolation centres can collaborate with each other and with those in academia to produce relevant, homegrown data on screening, prevention practices, management options, etc for use by policy makers. We look forward to receiving such manuscripts for consideration in the future.

Thank you and have a great day.

SIGNED

Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Arinola Joda FPSN, FPCPharm, MCPAN

Associate Professor

E-mail: info.jbspr@gmail.com; info.jbspr@unilag.edu.ng

Tel.: +2348099157854

ORCID ID: 0000-0002-6991-763X