



EDITORIAL

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Looking for the Silver Lining

There's an English saying about the silver lining. Or is it an idiomatic expression? The Cambridge dictionary defines it as "an advantage that comes from a difficult or unpleasant situation". The saying is that every cloud has a silver lining. This means that even though a situation is dire, there are still some positive attributes or outcomes that present themselves within it. In other words, giving a sign of hope in an unfortunate or gloomy situation. As a researcher, we are always looking for (or rather, we should always be on the lookout for) the silver lining in situations we may find ourselves. As you move in your research journey, situations or scenarios may line up to discourage or demotivate you. As we look forward to a new year, we should shift our focus to those advantages you have in the gloomy situation you may find yourself in. You need to be able to find the silver lining. In the past couple of months, I have been challenged by one disappointing news or the other and all of them combined to keep me reeling and out of sorts. But at the end of the day, I came out on top. I was able to find the silver lining and achieve most of the plans I set out to achieve. And the beauty of it is that tomorrow is always another day to do it over. So don't give up, don't throw in the towel. Look for the silver lining, encourage yourself and move on.

The life of a researcher must be geared towards achieving results. Through all that may confront you, from epileptic power supply to inadequate water to substandard reagents and equipment, you need to learn to pivot to the silver lining, find the plan B and move on. As researchers, we must be committed to the goal of getting our research output out there so that we can keep contributing to our quota in providing good quality data that is so paramount for policy decisions to be taken. Just as it has been documented that children are not just small adults and dosing for them must be individualized to achieve optimal outcomes, in the same way, it has been documented that importing data from the developed world to take decisions in the developing world is a recipe for disaster as there are many points of differences between here and there. Until we have sufficient good quality data, however, policy makers are often constrained to importing and assuming. The days of research for the sake of research or for promotion should be a thing of the past. Research should be aimed at solving real world problems and the output of research should be well

publicized through publications in peer reviewed journals and via communication with relevant stakeholders including patient/consumer groups. JBSPR offers itself as a veritable source for publication of your important research work and look forward to receiving more articles for publication as we move along.

All articles published from inception have been assigned the digital object identifiers (DOI) and from the next edition, we will be editing the instruction to authors to require DOI's to be captured for all referenced articles that have DOI's assigned already. Up till now, DOI's have only been requested for online journals. In addition, we will be expanding our editorial team to enable the Journal to function more efficiently. You are sincerely welcome to this edition of our journal and cannot thank you enough for contributing to our growth and development.

As a reminder we are still open to receiving letters to the editor or editorial pieces which can be sent to the journal emails for appropriate processing. We also welcome responses or comments to any of the issues raised in any of the editorials which can help us to initiate a blog post. These can also be sent via email. Unfortunately, we have been unable to generate sufficient articles to warrant a second supplement, so we are resting the call for the Traditional Medicines Supplement for now. We hope to initiate a call for a supplement sometime in the future.

Thank you and have a great day.

SIGNED

Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Arinola Joda MCPAN, FPCPharm, FPSN

Associate Professor

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

Tel.: +2348099157854

ORCID ID: 0000-0002-6991-763X

