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NIGERIAN JOURNAL OF DERMATOLOGY

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Nigerian Journal of DERMATOLOGY

INFORMATION TO CONTRIBUTORS AND READERS



Nigerian Journal of Dermatologists, NJD, is a forum for communication of research results and policy issues in the health sciences especially as related to dermatology and allied sciences, Plastic Surgery, Venereology, Pathology, Anatomy, Physiology and Biochemistry.

The journal is dedicated to serving primarily scientists in Africa and other developing countries outside the continent who seek a medium for publishing their research findings. Since science is global, articles would be welcome from every geographical location across the world.

There are pressing and specific problems related to Africa and to people of coloured skin. Ainhum, acne keloidalis are examples of two of a long list of cutaneous diseases peculiar to the sub region and waiting for research by the basic sciences; gratifying modalities of treatment are equally awaited.

The editorial board will therefore give priority to the development and promotion of such cutaneous health issues.

Frequency of publication: Quarterly.

Content format: Each issue will contain essentially the following sections, with variants where necessary:

- i. A short editorial statement on policy issues not more than two thousand words, placed not necessarily on the first page.
- ii. A short review (not more than five thousand words) titled "Perspective" on a current topical issue in Dermatology.
- iii. One or two review articles by invitation or on application.
- iv. Peer reviewed articles by invitation or on application.
- v. Letters to the editor.
- vi. News about, and on, African health and related matters.

Research papers should be composed of the following in that order, clearly typed in double space:

- i. Title, which should be short and specific.
- ii. Full names of all the authors, qualifications and affiliations of each, and full address of each author. (Qualifications of authors are only required for purposes of Editor's use and not for publication).
- iii. Name and address of the corresponding author and his/her phone/fax numbers (home & office).
- iv. Sources of financial support, if any.
- v. Summary of not more than 200 words as well as three to four key words.
- vi. Introduction.
- vii. Materials and methods.
- viii. Results.
- ix. Discussion
- x. Conclusion
- xi. Acknowledgments — placed immediately after the next, and before the references
- xii. Citations and references will be arranged according to the Vancouver Style:

A. Citation of Periodicals

Kofi-Tsekpo WM and Karekezi CW. Detectability and measurability of amoscanate in plasma by TLC and HPLC. *Drugs under Experimental and Clinical Research*. 1988; 14: 31-37.

Watkins WM, Howells RE, Brandling-Bennet AD and Koech DK. In vitro susceptibility of Plasmodium falciparum isolates from Jilore, Kenya to antimalarial drugs. *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*. 1987; 37: 445-451.

B. Citation of Books

Ole Fijerskov, Firoze Manji and Vibeke Baellum, eds. Dental fluorosis Handbook for health workers. Copenhagen: Munksgaard, 1988 p.

C. Citation of Chapters in books

Same as (B) above.

D. References

in the body of text should be in chronological order and identified by roman numerals in brackets: e.g. Specific point mutations in naturally resistant laboratory isolates of P. Falciparum [4, 5]

E. Figures, Charts & Pictures

Figure legends and tables should be professionally done. Tables/charts should be in black and white - 100 mm (minimum) and 175 mm (maximum). Coloured pictures may be submitted. Such pictures should be very clear and in size 5 x 7 inches. Where digital pictures are submitted, they should be in jpeg or bitmap format and not less than 300dpi resolution. Unclear and blurred pictures will be rejected. The publisher also reserves the right to convert coloured plates to grayscale where necessary.

F. Short Communications

This should possess all the elements of scientific communication as research papers, but without abstracts and subheadings and with not more than 500 words and 5 references.

G. Submission of paper to the Journal

Anyone who submits a paper for publication must provide the following:

- i. A letter of submission electronically.
- ii. Manuscript created using a word-processing program in PC format is encouraged. This is submitted electronically. Two hard copies of the peer reviewed, corrected manuscript will be sent over by the corresponding author to the editorial assistant, Regina Faleye MS, at the editorial office in the Department of Medicine, University College Hospital, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria
- iii. Written permission from authors whose copyright material has been used in the manuscript.
- iv. Informed consent from authors whose photographs have been used.
- v. Copyright statement as follows:

I/We..... The undersigned, who is/are the author(s) of the manuscript titled.....transfer all copyright ownership of this manuscript to the Nigerian Journal of Dermatologists, in the event that the manuscript is published in the Journal. I/We give guarantee that the content of the manuscript is original, and is not currently being considered for publication by another Journal.

- vi. A letter of acceptance will be sent once the above stages have been complied with.

Team Science in Multicenter Research Efforts

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Africa is found to lag behind in research and development compared to Europe, America, and Asia. Apart from the low financial resources from underfunding and poor governmental commitment, lack of collaboration fostered by teamwork has been identified to be one of the factors responsible for this.⁽¹⁾

Team Science refers to a collaborative effort to address a scientific challenge that leverages the strengths and expertise of professionals trained in different fields.⁽²⁾ This is the integration of knowledge and skills in a single research effort to maximize outcomes.⁽²⁾ In research, it is the multidisciplinary approach to every aspect from conception, hypothesis, proposal writing, and funding to execution and translation.⁽²⁾

Team science engages multiple stakeholders such as scientists, community members, and policymakers, and requires coordination to ensure efficiency, productivity, and overall effectiveness.⁽²⁾ Team effectiveness involves the capacity to achieve goals and objectives for desired and improved outcomes. For science or research teams, the outcomes may include new research findings or methods and translational applications of the research.⁽³⁾

Some strategies found to be important in teamwork include establishing clear goals and roles, open communication amongst team members, emphasizing diversity and inclusion, encouraging activities that foster a sense of oneness which may be either work-related or non-work-related, celebrating achievements, and providing opportunities for skills development and conflict resolution. Others include supportive leadership and promoting positive work-life balance.⁽⁴⁾

A multicentre study uses a single protocol or instrument at different locations either in a country, across communities, or research centres. In medicine, this is an integration of basic medical sciences or biological sciences with clinical sciences, public health, global health, industrial sciences, pharmaceutical sciences, laboratory sciences, and

translational studies.⁽⁵⁾ This affords the involvement of many researchers at different locations, in various aspects of science; and conducted by many researchers. The advantages of multi over single-center studies include quicker recruitment, large data or participants, diverse population coverage, and increased generalizability. However, these studies suffer from methodological, implementation, and statistical challenges that can compromise the validity of the study.^(5,6)

Principles of teamwork are particularly important in multicentre studies. At the heart of multicentre studies is teamwork fostered by meticulous oversight and coordination, with the assignment of roles and responsibilities, along with guidelines and policies.

Collaborative efforts within Africa and with other climes across disciplines will improve by teamwork, giving improved and more generalizable outcomes in research.

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