

## Editorial Commentary

### SAYING THANK YOU

In this issue, the first for 2007, we wish to acknowledge the contribution of our reviewers, editors and supporters. The peer-review status of the journal depends very much on the contribution of our reviewers and editors. Our reviewers and editors make available to the journal an independent expert opinion on the scientific merit and practice value of submissions; and they do this as volunteers.

We also recognize the authors who submit their works for consideration by the journal. Of course, not all have been successful in being accepted for publication. Rejection of manuscripts is inevitable as we must maintain and improve on our standards. We believe that our process of constructive review only adds to the value of submissions including those that are finally not accepted.

The subject of the availability and quality of health journals in Africa has attracted attention in recent times. There is the recognition that research done in Africa needs to be published in African journals. At the same time these findings must be accessible to the global scientific community. Electronic databases and archives require journals to be of a certain quality before accepting them just as the journals expect manuscripts to meet certain standards. This emphasizes the need for a good peer review mechanism.

This journal has benefited from some of the current international initiatives that seek to improve the quality, visibility and sustainability of African health journals. The African Health Journals Partnership (AHJP) project partners four African medical journals with established 'northern' journals. The partnership project also provides technical, infrastructural and mentorship opportunities. The AHJP project is funded by the

United States National Institutes of Health (through the National Library of Medicine and the Fogarty International Center) and is facilitated by the Council of Science Editors. The World Health Organisation through its Tropical Disease Research programme has nurtured the formation of the Forum for African Medical Editors (FAME). FAME has developed editorial guidelines and tools for editors and instituted training activities directed at journal management as well as scientific writing and publishing. In this regard the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) has been an ally.

Already, indications are that African journals are becoming more visible in international databases. While this is a good sign, it is important for these journals to pursue a strategy that ensure maintenance of scientific quality and their survival.

It is through the efforts of our reviewers (and authors) that the journal has reached its present status. Currently, the journal is available full text at website. In addition the journal is available at African Journals Online and PubMed Central. We are therefore contributing to making African health information and knowledge available to the international health community and the community in Africa in particular. We therefore extend our sincere thanks to all our reviewers and hope that they will continue to support us maintain the new standards of the journal.

***Professor David Ofori-Adjei***  
***Editor-in-Chief***  
***Ghana Medical Journal***