

EDITORIAL

Golden Jubilee of the Ghana Medical Journal

The Ghana Medical Journal (GNJ), published by the Ghana Medical Association (GMA), was first released in September 1962. The Patron of the GMA at the time, Osagyefo Dr Kwame Nkrumah, the first President of the Republic of Ghana in congratulating the GMA wrote, “ The Ghana Medical Journal will afford the means of disseminating medical knowledge among yourselves and your colleagues throughout Africa and beyond. Your observations, analysis, management and discoveries in the problems of Health in Africa, and in Ghana in particular, will be making important contributions to man’s quest for good health. I am sure your journal will reflect the path Ghana has trodden in its vigorous attempt to ensure positive health for her people.”¹

These words remain, in large part, the objectives of the journal today. The journal itself is an accelerated progression from a “Newsletter” to a “Bulletin”. The GMJ was established in a period when other significant events in the health sector were emerging in Ghana. These events included the start of the Medical School and the creation of the National Institute of Health and Medical Research as the medical section of the National Research Council.¹

The journal has served its purpose of communicating medical knowledge and practice to health practitioners through the publication of local and international research findings. The contents of the journal have covered many relevant health issues and reflected the epidemiological transition seen in the public health landscape currently manifested in the double burden of disease.

Many of these publications have influenced health policies and medical education. The journal also contributed to the academic career development of many young medical professionals. Some of the key articles published in the last fifty years in the journal will be reprinted in the journal. In this issue we re-publish an article on mental health in the premier issue of the journal.²

The journal was fully indexed in *Index Medicus* and Medline from 1971. In the course of the last fifty years of the journal’s existence things have not always been smooth. Between 1981 and 1987 the journal was not in production. An editorial in the first issue after this lull period outlined some of the difficulties faced by the journal.³

Members of succeeding editorial committees and editors have worked voluntarily and assiduously to keep the journal alive. The Editors responsible for the journal’s achievements are listed in Table 1. The GMA itself has been very supportive of the journal through funding for print issues and the provision of office space.

Table 1 List of Editors of the Ghana Medical Journal

Editor/Editor-in-Chief	Period
S. R. A Dodu	1962-1966
H. H Philips	1967-1968
F. I. D Konotey Ahulu	1969-1972
E. Q Archampong	1973-1979
J. B Quartey Papafio	1980-1981
S. K Owusu	1987
S. K Arthur	1987 - 1990
D. A Ampofo	1991
J. H Addy	1992-1998
D. Ofori-Adjei	1999-Present

The GMJ is currently listed in PubMed central (2005), Medline/Pubmed since 2011 and also in African Journals Online and African Index Medicus. The editorial committee continues to make efforts to increase the visibility of the journal and also improve the quality of articles as well as build capacity for scientific publication. The major support for the development of the journal has come from the technical and financial contribution from the African Journals Partnership Project (<http://www.ajpp-online.org/>). Through this support the journal has organised regular workshops for authors and reviewers; and acquired computers and accessories as well as Internet access to the journal office. The ensuing years hold great potential for the journal especially with its continued involvement with the AJPP.

We congratulate the GMJ for perseverance and striving for excellence and visibility as a leading medical journal.

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Conflict of interest: None declared

1. Editorial *Ghana Medical J* 1962;1(1):2
2. Foster E. B A historical survey of psychiatric practice in Ghana *Ghana Med J* 1962;1(1):25-29
3. Owusu S. K. May it never happen again *Ghana Med J* 1987;21(1):1