

From comprehensive health service provision to publisher of scholarly journal: The journey of St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical college towards center of excellence

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This year, St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College (SPHMMC) celebrates its 75th anniversary under the motto "A proud past, an amazing future". The hospital was established by Emperor Haile Selassie as a public hospital in 1947 (1). Over the years, St. Paul's Hospital went through different reforms and expansions that helped the hospital to be branded by the public for its compassionate health care service in the country. St. Paul's Hospital is currently one of the few tertiary referral hospitals and the only renal transplant center in Ethiopia (1).

In 2008, St. Paul's Hospital has opened medical school and enrolled the first batch of students. Three years later, St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College was approved through a decree of the Council of Ministers Proclamation No. 691/2010 and Article 5(1) of the Higher Education Proclamation No.650/2009 of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia with regulation number of 200/2011(2). The Medical College has implemented the first integrated modular and hybrid problem-based curriculum for undergraduate medical students in Ethiopia. In the past decade, the college has expanded its capacity to provide different trainings, mainly clinical specialty and subspecialty as well as masters and doctoral level educations. SPHMMC aspires to be a center of excellence in specialized healthcare, postgraduate education, and high level evidence generating research undertakings (1). As part of this effort, the college is introducing new organizational structures which enable it to create new offices that facilitate the

journey towards excellence. Opening research and quality assurance directorates are among these endeavours. Thus, the college has been offering competitive research grants for its academic staffs and has been striving to improve the quality of health care provision for better patient outcome and satisfaction.

Recently, SPHMMC established a new scholarly journal as part of its vision for center of excellence. The goal of the office is to document and share new and/ or add-up knowledge generated from researches and routine service experiences. The journal would also facilitate the translation of evidence to practice and vice versa. The establishment of this journal expands the limited health research publication platform in the country and creates another opportunity for local and international scientific communities engaged in health research. The SPHMMC scholarly Journal editorial office was established in 1st of April, 2021 with 6 committee members. The composition of the committee was one editor –in-chief, four associate editors and one managing editor with enough experience in clinical medicine, public health, nursing and biomedical science researches. The committee has started its first job by adopting and newly developing journal editorial policies, guidelines, and different templates.

In June 2021, the editorial office conducted a one-day consultative workshop by inviting senior editor in-chiefs and associate editors of Ethiopian Journal of Health Development (EJHD), Ethiopian Journal of Health Sciences (EJHS), Ethiopian Journal of Health and Bio-Medical

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Sciences (EJHBS), East Africa Journal of Health and Biomedical Science (EAJHBS), and Ethiopian Medical Journal (EMJ) to share their experiences and find our own niche in health journal publication platform in Ethiopia. The output from this consultative workshop forced us to replace the previously proposed name of the journal “Ethiopian Journal of Health and Medical Sciences (EJHMS)” with “Millennium Journal of Health (MJH)” to reflect the locally branded SPHMMC. This consultative workshop also gave a chance to expand our editorial members from 6 to 15 including consultants and senior editors from different countries.

Between July-August, 2021, MJH created its own website and officially opened ScholarOne journal management system online. On the first week of September, 2021, Millennium Journal of Health officially inaugurated at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in the presence of SPHMMC higher leadership, invited guests and SPHMMC community. In the occasion of inauguration, the website and the ScholarOne journal management system were activated and opened for submission. In the first week of December 2021, MJH has requested eISSN record number from International Standard Serial Number International Center (ISSN). Later, MJH has secured provisional record number as eISSN: 2790-1370.

MJH aspires to be one of the most citable and reputable journals in Africa and beyond. Its mission is to contribute for the advancement of health sciences knowledge by publishing high quality multi-disciplinary research findings. Today, MJH takes its first step to fulfill its pre-set mission and to support SPHMMC effort towards center of excellence by releasing the very first volume and issue. In this special 75th anniversary of SPHMMC, publishing the first volume of scholarly journal is a remarkable milestone. It is another

piece of evidence that shows SPHMMC is striding towards excellence.

In the current issue, six original articles and one case report are published. These articles focused on pertinent problems of the country and beyond. The articles have tried to determine the disease burden, identify determinants in service utilization, diseases complications, and mobile phone technology tool for COVID 19 self-easelements (3-9).

With this short introduction, I kindly invite the scientific community to read through, share and translate the findings of the articles included in this issue as appropriate. Should you have any reflections on this issue please use your convenient communication means indicated in our website.

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