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Research without Borders

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Rwanda Journal of Medicine and Health Sciences



Rwanda Journal of Medicine and Health Sciences

14 May – 8 June 2018, Kigali, Rwanda

Jasmin Bakker

Background

In 2018, the series of Rwanda Journal split into independent Journals. It is in this context the Rwanda Journal Series F: Medicine and Health Sciences has become **Rwanda Journal of Medicine and Health Sciences** (RJMHS).

The Rwanda Journal Series F: Medicine and Health Sciences had resulted from the merger of the former Rwanda Journal of Health Sciences and Rwanda Journal Series F: Health Sciences, when public higher education institutions in Rwanda were merged to form the University of Rwanda in 2013.

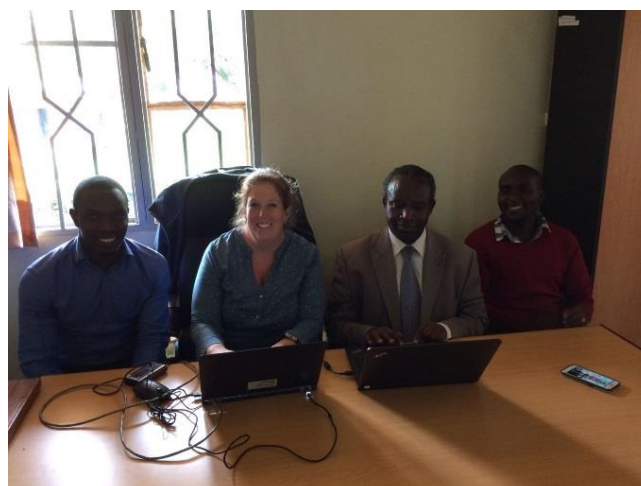
The change of name is intended to raise the visibility of the journal, by ensuring that it is displayed separately on the African Journals Online (AJOL), and other sites where it will be hosted. The journal can now be more easily accessed with possibility of increased submissions. The new name comes with a commitment of regularity in order that more papers can be published promptly without the need for long waits. The journal aims at publishing three issues per year.

RJMHS was added to the [AJPP](#) in 2016 and I was the fourth volunteer to work with this journal.

Journal Organisation

Editor-in-Chief: 1 (local)
Deputy Editor: 1 (International)
Managing Editor: 1 (local)
Editorial Board Members: 15 (6 Local, 9 International)
International Advisors: 6

Prof. Dr. Jean Bosco Gahutu: Editor-in-Chief
jbgahutu@yahoo.com
Prof. Dr. Kim Mi Ja: Deputy Editor
mikuic@uic.edu
Emile Nisingizwe: Managing Editor
neas0077@gmail.com



Malachie, myself, Prof. Gahutu, Emile

The Journal has a good Editorial Board and they recently all confirmed their commitment to the journal. The journal should start utilizing them as up and until now they have never been used as reviewers. As the journal struggle's with finding reviewers, I proposed that all EBM's should do 1-3 reviews per year. The EiC was fully on board with this. An online board meeting took place on 10 July, see Appendix I for the minutes of meeting. See Appendix II for an overview of the Editorial Board.

During my time in Rwanda it was confirmed that Prof. Dr. Jean Bosco Gahutu is now the Editor-in-Chief and that Prof. Dr. Kato Njunwa has handed over all the EiC duties and has become an Editorial Board Member.

The current Deputy Editor plans to step down at the end of this year; but a successor has not yet been confirmed.

Emile Nisingizwe is the Managing Editor. Malachie Tuyiziere doesn't have an official role in the journal anymore. He only advises on practical things as he has a lot of knowledge, having worked on the journal for 5 years.

Objectives and Accomplishments

Objectives

Before going to Rwanda and after meeting with previous volunteers and by phone with Prof. Gahutu, I had the idea that a lot of head way could be made by focusing on the workflow during my time in Kigali.

After meeting with Prof. Gahutu on the first day, the focus switched a little and we decided on the following objectives for my time in Rwanda.

- Publish the first issue of 2018. This would be the first issue as independent journal and not as part of the Rwanda Journals series
- Have the second issue well on its way, so that a publication in August could be achieved
- Have the design and content for a journal homepage in place
- ScholarOne / Scopus training
- Author and Reviewer workshops in the last week

Accomplishments

- Publication 1st issue under the new journal name and the first issue in 14 months.
- Special Issue with articles from Nursing Master students due for publication in August 2018
- 2nd Special Issue in the pipeline - Invited Articles from [Neonatal conference](#)
- New journal homepage for the journal <http://www.rwoj.ur.ac.rw/sites/journal/>
- New ISSN's requested and received for both print and online
- 4 Workshops
- Updated forms and Templates in ScholarOne
- Wrote several ScholarOne help guides
- Scopus session with EiC

Issues

During my time as volunteer we published the first issue in 14 months, containing 7 articles.

It was decided that the second issue of the year will be a Special Issue containing articles from Nursing Masters students that graduated in 2017. The aim is to make this a reoccurring issue. This issue will be guest edited by Pamela Meharry and is due for submission 30 June 2018. Several international reviewers are already lined up, to avoid too much delay with the review process.

The third issue of the year, will contain articles that are currently under review. Quite a few of them are already in advances stages and it shouldn't be a problem to have enough articles for an issue at the end of 2018.

A second special issue was discussed. This issue will contain invited articles from the Neonatal conference and will be guest edited by Pamela Meharry and 1 or 2 co-guest editors. The papers are due for submission in November 2018 and planned for publication early 2019.

Special Issues are a great way to grow content. Growing the content and more visibility should result in an increase in submissions. The EiC decided that currently an issue will be published if 7 articles are ready. This should grow to 12-15 articles per issue, in 2019.

Journal Homepage

The journal finally has a homepage again <http://www.rwoj.ur.ac.rw/sites/journal/> (The UR website takes sometimes a bit of time to load)

It includes the complete archive of the Journal, the articles link to the pdfs on the AJOL platform. The current issue was not yet visible on AJOL when I left and therefore there are no links to the pdf's yet. It is up to the Editorial Office, to get these links added to the journal homepage as soon as they are available on AJOL. An Articles in Press section was added so that articles can visible online as soon as they are accepted, and the journal is not dependent on AJOL to decide on publishing Articles in Press.

The Guide for Authors links to the pdf on the ScholarOne platform. This means that when a change needs to be made, only the pdf on that platform needs to be changed.

I created submission checklists for each article type, as all of them have different requirements. These are now also on ScholarOne and the journal homepage links to them.

As finding reviewers is an issue, a section was added where people can volunteer to be added to the reviewer database. Hopefully this will result in a bigger reviewer database and from experience we know that if people volunteer, they tend to put a lot of effort in the review.

I wrote a short bio of all the Editorial Board members and included a picture. This was send to the board for approval. Most of them came back with some comments, a new picture or approved as it was. About 4 or 5 didn't get back to us. When they see the website, they might want to make changes in their profile.

There is some fine tuning to do, as I was leaving Rwanda before I could review the final site. I encourage future volunteers to spend some time on this.

One of the things that I hope for, is that when the other University journals see the website, they will follow suit. All journals then should link to each other, to create maximum awareness.

The journal is currently not visible via the drop-down menus on the University website, the EiC promised to get this fixed. It would also be good to have all the old pages removed from the UR website so that there can be no confusion, pages like:

<http://www.ur.ac.rw/?q=node/413>

<http://ur.ac.rw/?q=node/110>

I created the website together with the webmaster from the University, it therefore shouldn't be too hard to make changes when needed. The managing editor of the journal will need to be trained and given access, so that the can make changes (update AJOL links, add articles in press, change EMB profiles when needed, etc)

ISSN

As the journal became independent early 2018, this also required new ISSN's. The ISSN request procedure has changed quite a bit as of the beginning of 2018 and it took a bit of time to navigate the new procedure. On my last day in Rwanda, I received the news that ISSN's were assigned to the journal for both print and online

Print: 2616-9819

Online: 2616-9827

To receive a Print ISSN, it is mandatory to submit a cover, title and editorial board page. This meant that the first issue was printed without the new ISSN as we could only submit these pages after the issue was printed. From the 2nd issue onwards, the ISSN should feature on the print copy as well.

Workshops

Unfortunately, the invites for the workshops were only sent out on a Sunday afternoon for the Tuesday (Reviewer – 5 June) and Thursday (Author – 7 June) workshops. The invite was sent to +/- 80 people, in both workshops only 4 people attended. (no pictures)

If the invite had been sent out earlier, I am sure more people would have been able to attend. Especially as a lot of people are at a campus +/- 3 hours away. I received several emails from people, saying they would have loved to come but had already other commitments.

The people who did attend, found it extremely useful and informed me that they learned a lot of new things.

I also gave a workshop for Nursing Master students (1 June), who graduated last year. They have been attending a writing retreat hosted by Pamela Meharry in the last couple of months. 10 people attended, and it was a big success with lots of interaction.

I did another session with students who are planning to submit to special issue (7 June) 5 people attended.

Pictures from the workshop with the writing retreat nursing students.



ScholarOne

ScholarOne use keeps being an issue, as both the EiC and managing editor don't feel comfortable using it. As long as they don't work in ScholarOne on a regular basis and commit to using the system for the whole process, this will not change.

Besides the submission, most of the work is done outside the system by email. In the system it might look like authors haven't even received reviewer comments. But then it turns out that they have been sent by email and that the authors returned the revision by email as well. It is hard to get an exact read on who is doing what, as manuscripts are kept on a "journal" computer in separate folders.

Upon reviewing ScholarOne, it turned out the Guide for Authors had not been visible for authors. It was visible in the Admin menu, but not for anybody else. This was rectified. A guide was written on how to upload forms/templates and make sure they are visible. Both the EiC and Managing Editor were provided with additional ScholarOne help guides.

There are 8 different article types in the journal and all of them have different requirements, I created manuscript checklists for each of them. From experience, I know these checklists are extremely valued by authors. As sometimes a GfA can be a bit overwhelming with the amount of text it contains.

Workflow

The workflow is currently quite complicated. When an article is submitted, it is looked at by 3 Editors in all stages (before review, after review comments, after revision). The EiC doesn't make a final decision until all 3 Editors agree. The managing editor is responsible for sharing the different versions, comments between author, reviewer, editors and does this mainly by email. Confusion about the stage of an article is not uncommon and articles seem to get unnecessary delayed.

With Prof. Kato Njunwa having handed over all EiC duties to Prof. Gahutu and the current Deputy Editor planning to step down at the end of the year, it is time to review this workflow. This should be done as soon as the new Deputy Editor is known.

Although the Rwanda Series journals have now become independent, I think a lot can be gained from them working more closely together. Knowledge and resources can then be shared. One of the things that could really benefit from sharing, is the typeset process. It turns out that there is a new typesetter every year. For the issue that was published during my stay, I sat with the typesetter for 5 hours and they clearly had no experience with typesetting scientific articles.

Reviewer Database

As finding reviewers is one of the main challenges of RJMHS, I proposed starting a proper reviewer database, with the aim to have it contain at least 100 names by the end of the year. We agreed on the following actions

- Editorial Board members should do 1-3 reviews per year
- Ask all board members to provide 3-5 names of colleagues, who would be willing to review for the journal
- All former authors should be send an email asking them to consider being a reviewer for the journal – email has been drafted
- Add a section to the journal homepage where people can volunteer as reviewer
 - Highlighted when the journal homepage is announced by the University
- We discussed the option of having Master/PhD students doing a review together with their advisor and get credits for this

Other Contacts

Dr. Phil Cotton (vc@ur.ac.rw)

Vice-Chancellor of the University. His office is on the Gikondo campus

I recommend having a meeting with him at the beginning of your stay. He is very supportive of the journal but wants to see results from the RWB volunteers visits as well.

Dr. Pamela Meharry (pamelameharry@gmail.com)

Midwifery and Neonatal Educator at the University of Rwanda. She is at the Remera campus

Pamela strongly believes in the journal, she had an article in the issue that was published during my stay. She really wants the students and faculty of the University to publish in the journal. She will Guest-Edit 2 future issues. One with articles from the nursing students who attended the writing retreat. The other based on invited articles from the [Neonatal conference](#) that will be hosted in Kigali later this year (she will have co guest editors for that one).

She is already preparing the Nursing students who graduate in 2019, to make sure that they start thinking about getting their research published. The plan is to make that another special issue.

She is very happy to host RWB volunteers at her house. I stayed with her for the last 2 weeks of my stay. She has a lovely house with a big garden and multiple guest rooms.

Both live very close to Urban hotel and have been a great source of information during my stay.

Conclusion

The Editorial team is extremely grateful for all the support that has been given by AJPP and the Elsevier Foundations volunteers. The current managing editor has only recently started and is not yet familiar with many of the procedures and still needs a lot of support.

Ideally the managing editor will take care of most of the journal administration so that the EiC can focus on inviting reviewers and making decisions. In the near future the managing editor should play a vital role in making the journal more visible, by updating the website, social media posts, news alerts, working with potential guest editors on idea for special issues, etc.

The first steps towards making RJMHS the leading African journal in Medicine and Health Science have been made, but it will take dedication and effort from all parties involved to achieve this.

Action Points

Short-term – completed by 1 October 2018

- Marketing
 - University wide announcement about the new journal homepage / recently published issue / upcoming issues / get it on the UR social media channels (twitter/facebook etc)
 - Target marketing to former authors about the change in title, homepage etc
 - Call for Papers
- Editorial Board meeting – communicate all recent changes
- Journal Homepage
 - Emile should be trained so that he can update the journal homepage
 - Review the website and make changes where necessary
- ScholarOne
 - new journal title should be reflected – enquiry has been sent
 - All information about an article, reviews, editor's comments etc, that are currently stored outside the system should be entered in ScholarOne
- Follow up with AJOL to make sure they reflect the Rwanda Series Journals now as independent Journals
- Make sure the new ISSN's are reflected on the journal homepage, AJOL and any other platform that mentions the journal

Medium-term - completed by 31 December 2018

- Set up Social Media accounts
- Sign up EiC for membership of several organisations (as recommend by AJPP)
- Decide on the new workflow
- Expand Reviewer database

Long-term – completed by 31 December 2019

- Apply to be indexed in DOAJ, Scopus, PubMed – A few more issues under the new name should be published before the applications can be made.

Travel and Practical Information

Vaccinations: Follow the advice your travel clinic gives you.

Malaria:

I took Malarone. I didn't have any side-effects. I did have nightmares in the first week and thought this was because of the Malarone, after talking to some MD's they informed me this was probably more due to not being used to altitude than the malarone.

Altitude

Kigali lays at 1700m and I hadn't anticipated that I would react as much to the altitude at I did. Just running up the stairs was suddenly a very different experience. And as Kigali is extremely hilly a 900m walk up the hill, took a lot longer than I am normally used to. If you don't live somewhere that is 5m below sea level, this might be less of an issue.

Visa

As of 1 January 2018, everybody can get a 30-day visa [upon arrival](#).

If you need more than 30 days (I needed 32) or also want to visit Uganda/Kenya, you can request an East African Visa online. It is 100 USD and is multiple entry.

You can request it at <https://irembo.gov.rw/rolportal/en/web/dgie/newhome>

When you request the visa, you only have 2 options for Purpose of Visit, Tourism or Visiting Friends or Relatives. I used Friends or Relatives and in the more details about visit (required field), I put visiting colleagues. At the end when you must submit documents, I uploaded my flight details and tickets. As I didn't have enough time for an invite letter.

I didn't get a confirmation email after I paid and finalized the form. You do receive a number at the end of the process. Make sure to write this down, as you can login online and check the status of request. You do get an email once you are approved and you must print the approval and give it to the immigration guys.

Hotel

I stayed in [Urban Hotel](#) on the recommendation of Marc (80-100 USD). This was perfect as the location is very nice, the rooms are spacious, especially the bathroom and hey have a nice restaurant with an extensive menu. The internet is very good as well, I was even able to stream with only a minimum of buffer (a bit slower on the weekend). The room has a safe (without instructions, ask for them beforehand or look it up on the internet, not very logical!) and a small fridge.

The Sky Lounge (above the restaurant) is a nice place to sit and work. Especially if you don't want to eat or sit in your room. I would often sit here in the afternoon to work. They also have a small but nice garden. Remera campus is +/- 20 min drive away.



Transport

I used Emmanuel (+250 788 526 879 whatsapp) as my driver, he was extremely reliable and always there exactly on time. If I wanted to be picked up at the Remera campus at the end of the day, I made sure I let him know at least an hour in advance, so that he would have enough time to get there and not get stuck in traffic.

Leaving the Remera campus, I would advise to not leave later than 5:30. Otherwise traffic can take forever. Usually it is a 20min ride from Remera to Urban. If you leave any later than 5:30, it can take anywhere from 45 min to 1,5 hours. I would pay 12000 RWF for getting there and back at the end of the day.

Moto taxi's.

You see them everywhere, they are cheap, and you can't go 10sec without seeing one. But they are not the safest option. All local and expat people that I spoke to about it, warned me not to use them, because of the sheer amount of very serious accidents. As taxi's/drivers are cheap for our standards, I didn't think it worth the risk. I didn't take public transport and diver to Marc's report for that.

I arranged an airport pick up from the hotel (25 USD) by email.

Internet

The internet at the Urban hotel is very good.

At the Remera Campus there is no Wi-Fi and the wired internet is quite unstable as well. This resulted in my VPN cutting out every few minutes and having to enter your password every few minutes for outlook and skype. I had a local sim card and used my phone as hotspot. (go to an MTN service centre for the sim card, you need to take your passport with you)

This was a lot faster and more stable. I wished I had used my phone as hotspot all the time and not only towards the end of my stay. I had 10GB data, but in 4 weeks I had not even used 1GB. So that was a bit overkill.

Money

On my first day, I had quite a bit of trouble finding a working ATM. They were either empty (probably, due to the fact that it had just been pay day) or didn't take my card. Only after trying 5 or 6 I was able to get some money.

I later found out that the big hotels all have an ATM as well. In Milles Collines you can only take out 25 000 though. The Marriot has an ATM where you can take out the maximum amount (200 000) Opposite the Remera campus there is an ATM that took my card as well.

Visa is more acceptable than Mastercard or Maestro. But the bigger hotels and even the bigger supermarkets take all credit cards and apparently you can even use your debit card. I paid everything cash, except the hotel.

Food

[Baso](#) is great for a late breakfast or lunch, they do nice sandwiches and have great pastries

[Khana Khazana](#) is a very nice Indian restaurant

[New Cactus](#) extensive menu with nice pizza's

Real local food is not very common in restaurants

Most big hotels do a buffet on a Sunday for 15000 – 18000 RWF, this includes access to the swimming pool.

Access to the swimming pool alone in Hôtel Des Mille Collines is 7000 – If you want to go for a proper swim, I recommend going on Saturday. The Sunday is really busy due to the Buffet. They do have the best pool, if you want to do laps. For just lounging around, the Marriot or Serena have nice pools as well and good food.

Remera Campus

The College of Medicine and Health of Kigali relocated here last year. In the part where the journal office is located, it was extremely quiet when I was there. Often the only people I encountered were gardeners, cleaners and guards.

Make sure to tell the taxi/driver that you need to be at Remera Campus, if you mention College of Health and Medicine, they take you to the old location (very close to Urban)



The Journal Office



The office of Prof. Gahutu that is available for the Volunteer to use.



Outside of the Research office – where the journal is located



The campus where the Research office is located. I hardly saw more people in this part of the campus, than on this picture.

Power

They use the same plug as in the Netherlands. At the hotel or with Pamela I never experienced a power outage. At the University only once for a short period.

Tourism

Kigali doesn't have an awful lot to offer in regards of tourism. There are the memorials dedicated to the Genocide, the local markets and you can hike Mount Kigali.

If you have the time you can visit one of the national parks – but these are easily 3 hours' drive away. Doing these in one day, is therefore a bit of a challenge and the entrance fees are quite expensive.

In 2017 the gorilla permit went up to 1500 USD. As the permit in Uganda is 600 USD, I opted to go to Uganda. The drive takes roughly the same amount of time.



I visited the [Sorwathe](#) Tea Plantation and stayed in their guest house. This was a nice weekend break after a hectic work week. It is a really peaceful place, with clean air. From Mon-Sat, they offer a guided tour through the factor. Around the plantation you can do a 2-3-hour hike. It is about a 1,5 hour drive.



Appendix I – Minutes Editorial Board Meeting 10 July 2018

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD OF THE RWANDA JOURNAL OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES HELD ON 10th JULY 2018 BY SKYPE

Attendance

1. Prof. Jean Bosco Gahutu, University of Rwanda, Editor-in-Chief, Chair of the meeting
2. Prof. Mi Ja Kim, University of Illinois at Chicago, USA, Deputy Editor, Rapporteur
3. Prof. Kato Njunwa, University of Rwanda, Member
4. Prof. Deborah Ann Chyun, University of Connecticut, USA, Member
5. Prof. Hugh McKenna, Ulster University, UK, Member
6. Prof. Kevin Krane, Tulane University, USA, Member
7. Prof. Egide Kayitare, University of Rwanda, Member
8. Dr. David Tumusiime, University of Rwanda, Member
9. Dr. Brenda Asiimwe-Kateera, University of Rwanda, Member
10. Dr. Tom Lissauer, Imperial College London, UK, International Advisor
11. Prof. Timothy B. Erickson, Harvard University, USA, International Advisor
12. Dr. Leonard Mboera, National Institute for Medical Research, Tanzania, International Advisor
13. Prof. George Karani, Cardiff Metropolitan University, UK, International Advisor
14. Ms. Jasmin Bakker, Elsevier Volunteer, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Agenda

1. Updates about the journal (African Journals OnLine, ScholarOne Manuscripts, Journal website)
2. Strategies to increase manuscript submissions
3. Strategies for timely review of manuscripts
4. Prospects for the journal to be indexed in PMC, DOAJ, PubMed, Scopus

Discussions and recommendations

1. Introduction

The Editorial Board of Rwanda Journal of Medicine and Health Sciences held its first online meeting (by Skype) on 10th July in the afternoon, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Kigali time. Discussions aimed at upgrading the journal with increased contribution of the editorial board members in terms of submitting editorials or perspective articles and reviewing submitted manuscripts.

The meeting started with the editorial board members introducing themselves to colleagues. Professor Jean Bosco Gahutu, Editor-in-Chief briefly presented the background journal since the establishment of the University of Rwanda in 2013, when two journals, Rwanda Journal Series F: Health Sciences and Rwanda Journal of Health Sciences merged into Rwanda Journal Series F: Medicine and Health Sciences. In 2018, the series of Rwanda Journal were split into independent journals and Rwanda Journal Series F: Medicine and Health Sciences became “Rwanda Journal of Medicine and Health Sciences”. The proposed agenda was approved.

2. Updates about the Journal

Prof. Jean Bosco Gahutu, Editor-in-Chief, summarized achievements of the journal: use of ScholarOne Manuscripts since February 2017; establishment of a journal website since June 2018. He also mentioned challenges in terms of scarcity of submitted manuscripts and slowness of the review process. He indicated the objectives of the journal to be indexed in PubMed Central (PMC), the Directory of Open Access Journal (DOAJ), Scopus, PubMed Medline in the near future. For that purpose, the editorial board meeting will discuss improvement strategies for increased number of manuscript submissions and rapid manuscript review process.

3. Strategies to increase manuscripts submissions

A. The Editorial Board members will:

1. write editorials for the journal as requested by the Editor-in-Chief. Every editorial board member can write an editorial every two years.
2. serve as contributing authors for the journal.
3. serve as ambassadors for the journal—spreading the news about the journal as much as they can including social media.
4. recruit manuscripts on original research studies along with review and methodological papers. International authors are WELCOME!
5. review current 8 categories of papers that journal invites and provide feedback in terms of types and content of the guidelines to the Editor-in-Chief

B. The Editor-in-Chief will:

1. regularly issue calls for manuscripts.
2. hold regular meetings with the academic staff of the College of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Rwanda and raise their interest in publishing their research in the journal.
3. ensure the presence of the journal on social media, e.g. Twitter, Facebook.

4. Strategies for timely review of manuscripts

A. The Editorial Board members will:

1. serve as reviewers for the journal.
2. help the journal staff to assign appropriate reviewers for manuscripts based on their expertise.

B. The Editor-in-Chief and the Deputy Editors will review the process of assigning reviewers, the expected response times from the authors, the process of accepting manuscripts, etc. to make the process more smooth and efficient.

C. The Editor-in-Chief will ensure the recruitment of an editorial assistant who can support the managing editor and devote time and attention to the process of manuscript submission and timely follow-ups of all inquiries.

July 10th, 2018

Prof. Mi Ja Kim, Deputy Editor
Rapporteur of the meeting

Prof. Jean Bosco Gahutu, Editor-in-Chief
Chair of the meeting

Appendix II – Editorial Board

Editors

Jean Bosco Gahutu - Editor-in-Chief
University of Rwanda, Rwanda

Professor Jean Bosco Gahutu, MD, PhD, FHEA (UK) is Professor in Physiology and Director of Research and Innovation at the College of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Rwanda. His research interests include physiology, nutrition and tropical medicine.



Mi Ja Kim, PhD, RN, FRCN, FAAN - Deputy Editor
University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, USA

Mi Ja Kim is Professor and Dean Emerita of the College of Nursing. She is the former Vice Chancellor for Research and Dean of the Graduate College, University of Illinois at Chicago. Her research interests include pulmonary physiology and nursing; cardiovascular nursing; global health; evaluation of the quality of nursing doctoral education.



Editorial Board Members

Brenda Asiimwe-Kateera
AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) Rwanda

Dr. Brenda Asiimwe-Kateera, MD, MPH, is Country Program Manager for AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) in Rwanda. She is passionate about research mentorship and supports research at the College of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Rwanda. Her research interests include infectious diseases especially HIV and co-morbidities, HPV and related cancers, adolescent health and implementation science research.



Paulin Basinga
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Nigeria

Dr. Paulin Basinga serves as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's country director for Nigeria, where he leads a growing team in the development and execution of the country plan, which fulfills the foundation's programmatic priorities in Nigeria. Dr Basinga research interests include Primary Health Care programs and systems and link between Human Capital Development and Economic Growth. He is also an Affiliate Associate Professor at the Department of Global Health - University of Washington in Seattle.



Deborah Chyun
University of Connecticut, USA

Dr. Deborah Chyun is Professor and Dean at the University of Connecticut School of Nursing. She recently retired from NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing where she served as Executive Associate Dean and as the former Director of the Florence S. Downs PhD Program in Nursing Research and Theory Development. Her research interests include the prevention and management of cardiovascular disease in adults with type 2 diabetes. Her background is in chronic disease epidemiology and intervention studies.



Jeanine Condo
Rwanda Biomedical Center, Rwanda

Professor Jeanine Condo, MD, is the Director General of the Rwanda Biomedical Center. Her research interests include impact evaluation, maternal and child health and more especially nutrition



Holli A. DeVon PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN
The University of Illinois at Chicago, USA

Professor Holli DeVon is a symptom scientist and head of the Department of Biobehavioral Health Science in the College of Nursing at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her research interests include ischemic heart disease, other non-communicable diseases, and individuals that are vulnerable to poor health outcomes as a result of age, race/ethnicity, and/or low social status.



Richard Hurrell
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich, Switzerland

Emeritus Professor Richard Hurrell was appointed Full Professor of Human Nutrition at the Institute of Food Science and Nutrition in April 1994. His research interests include stable isotope techniques to measure mineral and trace element absorption in man, food factors influencing trace element and mineral absorption, food fortification, influence of diet and health (diabetes) and micronutrient (iron, iodine) deficiencies in the developing countries.



Egide Kayitare
University of Rwanda, Rwanda

Egide Kayitare is an Associate Professor experienced in domain of Pharmaceuticals. He was born in 1967; he has completed Pharmacy Bachelor program in Rwanda, Masters program in Pharmacy Technology at University of Western Cape/RSA and PhD studies at the University of Ghent in Belgium from 2005 to 2010. He is a permanent academic staff of University of Rwanda since 1999, where has occupied two times the position of Head of Department.



N. Kevin Krane
Tulane University School of Medicine, USA

N. Kevin Krane, MD, is Professor of Medicine and Vice Dean for Academic Affairs at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans, Louisiana. His publications and research interests focus on renal disease in pregnancy and enhancement of medical student education.



Hugh P. McKenna CBE, PhD, B.Sc(Hons), RMN, RGN, RNT, DipN(Lond), AdvDipEd, FFN RCSI, FEANS, FRCN, FAAN
Ulster University

He is Professor and Dean at Ulster University. He has 250 publications and 11 books. He is Visiting Professor in Slovenia and Australia and chairs an accreditation panel in Hong Kong. He was adjunct professor at the University of Texas and Trinity College Dublin and Edinburgh Napier University awarded him an Honorary Doctorate. In 2017, he was appointed to chair Sub panel 3 for REF2021. In 2018 he chaired the Swedish Research Council's Clinical Research Review.



Kato Njunwa

University of Rwanda, Rwanda
Professor Kato Njunwa, PhD, is the Team Leader for Research at the University of Rwanda. His research interests include medical entomology.



Cyprien Munyanshongore

University of Rwanda, Rwanda

Professor at University of Rwanda, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, School of Public Health has been teaching since 1984 and responsible of some courses in the former Faculty of Medicine and Kigali Health Institute. I have also conducted several studies in qualitative and quantitative research approaches that have all be used. Number of papers published: over 20.

**Kadima Ntokamunda Justin**

University of Rwanda, Rwanda

Prof. Kadima Ntokamunda Justin is PharmD, Msc in Health Nuclear Science and Radioprotection, and PhD in Pharmacology. Now, He is Coordinator of a master degree in pharmaceutical sciences, Professor of pharmacology and therapeutic chemistry in the College of Medicine and Health Sciences/University of Rwanda and visiting professor in other Universities. His areas of interest in research are clinical pharmacology and phytotherapy for cardiovascular diseases, malaria, HIV/TB and cancer.

**Jan Philippé**

Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, UZ Gent, Belgium

Professor Jan Philippé, MD, specialises in laboratory medicine at the Ghent University and the free University of Brussels, supervising the laboratory of hematology. He has been teaching at Ghent University, and Rwanda National University. His research interests include exploration of the leukemic stem cell and its role in acute myeloid leukemia and multi drug resistance.

**David K Tumusiime**

University of Rwanda, Rwanda

I am a senior lecturer at the University of Rwanda. I have an experience in training and conducting scientific research for more than 15 years. I have worked a reviewer for various scientific journal and conferences. I served as the Director of Research, Ethics and Consultancy; 2011 – 2012, Dean School of Health Sciences and currently the Deputy Director of CEBE, at the University of Rwanda. I have published research papers related to health various journals.

**Calvin Wilson**

Center for Global Health of UC Denver, USA

Professor Calvin Wilson, MD, is the founder and past Director of the Center for Global Health of UC Denver, which is dedicated to promoting and coordinating a variety of global health-related activities. His research interests include the control of tropical illnesses such as malaria, the effectiveness of community health programs and medical training methodologies across cultures, and in the sustainability of health development interventions in the developing world.

**International Advisors****Timothy B Erickson**

Harvard University, USA

Dr. Timothy B. Erickson, MD is an emergency medicine physician at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston where he serves as the Chief of Medical Toxicology in the Department of Emergency Medicine. His research interests include environmental toxicology and crisis in climate change and health projects in conflict regions.



George Karani

Cardiff Metropolitan University, UK

Professor George Karani is a Professor of Environmental Health at the Centre for Occupational & Environmental Public Health. His research group work on PM10 & PM2.5 particulate matter, Poverty related diseases, Traffic accidents and Climate change.

**Tom Lissauer**

Centre for International Child Health, Imperial College London, UK

Dr. Tom Lissauer is Hon. Consultant Paediatrician and has developed several pediatric health partnership programs between Imperial College London and Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health and Rwanda in conjunction with the Rwanda Pediatric Association and Rwanda Ministry of Health. These included introduction of the ETAT+ (Emergency Triage, Assessment and Treatment plus Admission) course in the recognition of sick children for residents and hospital staff and improvement of neonatal care in hospitals. He is Hon. Professor of Pediatrics at University of Rwanda.

**Leonard Mboera**

Southern African Centre for Infectious Disease Surveillance, Tanzania

Leonard Mboera is the Leader of the Emerging and Vector-borne Disease Programme of the Southern African Centre for Infectious Disease-Centre of Excellence for Infectious Diseases of Humans and Animals. Between 1992 and 2017 he was Chief Research Scientist with the Tanzania National Institute for Medical Research. He has broad interest and experiences in research in mosquito-borne diseases, ecohealth and infectious disease surveillance.

**Wolfgang Richard Mukabana**

University of Nairobi, Kenya

Dr. Mukabana is an Associate Professor at the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Nairobi in Kenya. His training and professional experience covers the broad areas of applied medical entomology / parasitology. He has a strong track record in the area of tropical vector borne infectious diseases research.

**Terri E. Weaver**

University of Illinois at Chicago, USA

Professor Terri Weaver is the Dean of the College of Nursing at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her research interests include treatment adherence, analysis of treatment efficacy for obstructive sleep apnea, and mechanisms and outcomes of daytime sleepiness

