



Biokemistri

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Editorial

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The Editorial Board is delighted to release the third issue of volume 25 of *Biokemistri*. In addition to the regular original research papers, this issue features an editorial commentary (pp. 98–100), from **Akhere Omonkhua** (University of Benin, Nigeria). In this article, Dr Omonkhua describes the potential advantage that a holistic investigation of the use of folkloric remedies can bring into the management of health issues in Africa. To achieve these goals, more rigorous scientific methods are needed to understand the mode of action of herbal remedies.

In our featured review article (pp. 140–145), **Chukwunonso Ejike** (Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Nigeria) draws attention to the factors that link cardio-metabolic and prostatic diseases. Despite this link, there is a disparity in the research effort invested in studying these conditions in Nigeria. He argues that more research funding should be devoted to prostatic diseases with a view to understanding its prevention and management. In turn, this could raise the public awareness of prostatic diseases to the same level as cardio-metabolic conditions in Nigeria.

There is a growing awareness of the need to use sound scientific methods in studies involving plant extracts of medicinal value. More efforts are being applied to 'isolate' active components that mediate observed pharmacological effects. These renewed efforts are well commended. Yet, there is need to refine the approach taken in designing these studies. Indeed, our editors believe that there is room for improvements in the way some of these studies are designed and reported.

Scientists working in these areas need a more rigorous practice in interpreting data and drawing conclusions. A common pattern is to directly link the presence of a class of organic compounds in a plant extract with observed pharmacological or physiological response. This is not always valid. In some cases, the extracts studied are too heterogeneous to ascribe activity to any specific component.

A second issue is the balance between quantity and quality of data presented in some manuscripts. Editors and reviewers generally find it easier to understand the main message of a manuscript when the authors present data that are *relevant* to the conclusions of their work. Inclusion of data that have little or no bearing to the main points of a manuscript leave the editors confused, and the reviewers irritated.

Quarterly issues of Biokemistri in 2014

Starting from 2014, *Biokemistri* will be published as a quarterly journal. The Editorial Board have made arrangements to publish the four 2014 issues, 26(1), 26(2), 26(3), and 23(4) on 31 March, 30 June, 30 September, and 31 December respectively. This move to four issues per year is aimed at speeding up the dissemination of papers that have been approved for publication.

The Board of Trustees of the Nigerian Society of Experimental Biology (NISEB) and the Editorial Board of *Biokemistri* express deep appreciation for the excellent reviews and suggestions provided by our expert referees.