



### **Moving health records and information management practice to the next level in Nigeria: The roles of academic excellence and professional regulations**

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The Editorial Board warmly welcomes readers and contributors to the world of the International Journal of Health Records & Information Management. In this 2<sup>nd</sup> year of scholarly publishing, the Journal celebrates the forerunners of doctoral attainment with bias in health information management in Nigeria. Over the years, there have been struggles, lobbying, aborted efforts, politicking and quests to take the professional practice and training in health information management (HIM) to the next level of academic excellence in Nigeria.

The joy of HIM professionals in Nigeria knows no bound today as we profile and celebrate our first set of scholars, who have not just added the PhD feather but have demonstrated academic excellence to sit as highest authorities in our profession in the nation. They include Dr Adebowale I. Ojo of School of Management, IT and Governance, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa, Dr Kayode S. Osundina and Dr Eunice O. Omidoyin of Lead City University, Nigeria, Dr Tajudeen T. Adebayo of Federal Medical Centre, Owo, Nigeria, Dr Segun M. Omole of Osun State College of Health Technology Ilesa, Nigeria and Dr Kayode I. Adepoju formerly of Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital Complex, Ile-Ife, Nigeria and now with the Department of Information Resources Management, Babcock University, Ilishan-Remo Ogun State, Nigeria.

Three of these scholars serve on our Editorial Board and the three others are our responsive reviewers. In the same vein, few others are at various levels of their PhD pursuits not

forgetting numerous other colleagues, who have obtained PhD in related and diverse areas to elevate health records and information management practice in Nigeria and sub-Saharan Africa.

Furthermore, the Journal wishes to congratulate the Management of University of Ibadan through her Department of Epidemiology and Medical Statistics, Faculty of Public Health on the uncommon feat for pioneering a higher degree program in Public Health with specialization in Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), the first of its kind in Nigeria. With this new development, the University has quenched an age long thirst of HIM professionals in Nigeria. M&E, as frankly referred, has been a traditional responsibility of HIM professionals, but there was no formal training in the country such that will equip the human resource for effective monitoring and evaluation of health programs.

These recent developments are good for the practice and generally, for the management of healthcare data in Nigeria. This is especially now that health projects, programs and services graciously identify with HIM professionals in the country for an improved healthcare data management. Such programs include HIV/AIDS control programs, malaria control programs, maternal health programs, and cancer control programs among others. The onus is on all HIM professionals in the country to double up and embrace these emerging challenges for healthcare data quality assurance and in effect, improved healthcare services. On this note, the Journal wishes to acknowledge the efforts of Health

Records Officers' Registration Board of Nigeria – the professional regulatory agency of the Federal Government and Association of Health Records and Information Management Practitioners of Nigeria - the professional association, for the recent collaborative effort on continuing mandatory professional development education for all professionals as well as in strengthening regulation processes.

Major highlights in this edition include calls for good health records practice, health ITs and their roles in clinical governance; research ethics, nosology and disease classification; effective healthcare communication and hospital readmission rates in an oil rich Southern Nigerian city<sup>1-8</sup>.

Finally, the Journal is happy to announce that it has resolved to be indexed with African Journal Online, which is the world's largest online library of peer-reviewed, African-published scholarly journals<sup>9</sup>. In line with this, the Journal now has two ISSN numbers, first the *Print-ISSN: 2645-2464 and Online-ISSN: 2695-1770*.

Related to this, the Editorial Office of the Journal currently located at Federal Medical Centre, Bida, Nigeria has got a push from the Management of the hospital through provision of basic electronic research gadgets. This will further enhance our editorial work.

On behalf of the Publishers, the Editorial Board appreciates the Management of Federal Medical Centre, Bida for this auspicious and extraordinary support. The Editorial Board of the Journal graciously wishes to congratulate and welcome on board, the Chairman and all members of the newly constituted Health Records Officers' Registration Board of Nigeria (HRORBN) – co-Publishers of the Journal.

Sustaining issue of the journal is the product of collaboration among the stakeholders, which is expected to continue in order to quickly grow the journal into one of the foremost in Africa. The Editorial Board therefore appreciates readers and contributors to the Journal.

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