

Outgoing Editor-in-Chief Message

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It has been an honor and privilege to serve the public health community for more than a decade in my capacity as Editor-in-Chief of the Ethiopian Journal of Health Development. I now realize that ten years is a long time to remember everything that mattered for the growth of the journal so I wouldn't try to list all those who made substantial contributions as Editor Board member, Editorial consultant, author, reviewer, and critical reader of the Journal. Thank you very much- we couldn't have brought the standards of the Journal to the present level without your invaluable contributions.

The Journal has consistently and regularly published without a single interruption since I took over the position; a tradition passed from my predecessor. The number of articles published has increased substantially because of increased submission; although the rejection rate has also increased from about 20% to about 45%. The average turnaround time for rejected articles is about six weeks. The average time between submission and publishing a manuscript has been about six months. The relevance of articles to the Ethiopian and to the larger developing country public health setting has improved. A number of large scale and national surveys were first published by the Journal as special issues to encourage their timely dissemination and application in decision making. The overall structure of the journal was also changed to meet the contemporary standards for library archiving.

Availability of the Journal to a larger reader was accentuated by the open access policy that allowed readers in Ethiopia and outside to have access anytime and anywhere without restriction. Special thanks to the University of Bergen is due for hosting the Journal in an academic and well maintained environment. Prof. Bernt Lindtjørn was the key person in successfully launching the website and regularly updating it.

The Journal is currently indexed in the African Index Medicus and Index Copernicus (with an impact factor of 5.41). It is a member of the open access databases such as African Journal Online (AJOL) and Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). These show the increasing quality of the Journal and the efforts made to expand the readability of the Journal. The increasing number of external subscriptions is also testimony for increasing demand for the Journal; presumably because of its quality and informativeness. The Journal is a founding member of the Forum for African Medical Editors (FAME). As a member of FAME it has contributed to the growth of scientific publications in the African continent.

Although the Journal has established itself well in the public health scene for many years the need for continuous support is critical to continuously improve the quality, regularity and readability of the Journal in the future. The running of the Journal is a very meticulous process that should not be interrupted. The appearance of the Journal to the readers as scheduled is most important to continuously attract authors to submit their manuscripts and the readers to enjoy quality articles. I hope both the School of Public Health and the Ethiopian Public Health association would strengthen their commitments and support to the Journal, as in the past. I take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt gratitude to both for fully supporting me during my tenure as editor-in-chief. My colleagues at the School of Public Health deserve special recognition for their tireless contributions since the inception of the Journal; and especially in the last ten years.

The Editorial Office staff members have remained loyal to the Journal for many years and made substantial efforts to the timely publication of the Journal. I thank them for creating such wonderful working conditions over many years. The Associate Editors are specially acknowledged for their closer supervision and more than usual contributions to the Journal activities.

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The support we received from Sida/SAREC through Ethiopian Science and Technology Agency and from Canadian Public Health Association through and CDC the Ethiopian Public Health Association were instrumental to the continuous publication of the Journal. The Addis Ababa University Press deserves special thanks for timely printing the Journal since its commencement.

Finally, I would like to express my best wishes for the Journal to flourish and continue serving the public health interest of the nation and professionals. I also wish my successor a very fruitful time with the Journal.