

## *Publications and Academia in Sudan*

The Ministry of Higher Education in Sudan has taken recent steps to revise the procedures and criteria for academic promotion. These steps included new criteria for obtaining professorship in different universities. During the recent years, several concerns were raised about the quality of academic promotion in Sudan. These concerns relate to the quality aspects of the process in terms of academic competency and publications. In a country like Sudan, with deep educational culture and huge number of higher education institutions, one expects the academic promotion to be rigorous and based on quality of work. The importance of this is not just for satisfying the individual aspiration for promotion, which is legitimate, but also for the quality of research which is directly linked to the quality of services.

We are in the evidence-based era where rapid knowledge and technological changes are shaping every aspect of life. Practice and service provision every where is currently highly sensitive to evidence and incorporation of new approaches, tools and technologies. Research is the only means that can provide for generation of solid evidence and new developments. Therefore, it is of paramount importance to promote and improve the quality of research in different disciplines.

However, this puts a huge challenge on publishing industry and scientific journalism. Good research needs to be published in good journals. In developing countries including our own, establishing and maintaining a quality journal is a daunting challenge due to issues of resources and lack of submissions. Steps emphasizing the role of publications, such as those taken by the Ministry of Higher Education, are expected to improve the quantity and quality of manuscripts submitted for publication. It will remain the challenge of local scientific journals to attract authors looking for quality platforms to publish their research. This again, needs the local journals to consider competition in this highly interconnected world where authors can choose from a wide menu of journals.

The SJPH is one such local journal that is aiming for quality and continuous improvement. The journal is maintaining regular print and online full text publication since its inception in January

2006. The SJPH is indexed in sound regional and continental indexing services and is planning to access international services such as PubMed. The journal is ready to provide the relevant platform for Sudanese academics and researchers to publish their work in the spirit of academic promotion, service delivery improvement and welfare of population

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