

Editorial

Another horizon and breakthrough for the Sudanese Journal of Paediatrics

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The current issue of the Sudanese Journal of Pediatrics (SJP), an open-access peer-reviewed medical journal, witnesses the acceptance for inclusion by PubMed Central (PMC). Acting as the repository for peer-reviewed primary research reports in the life sciences, PMC is sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a part of USA Department of Health and Human Sciences which traces its roots to 1887 [1]. Articles archived in PMC are indexed in PubMed, which includes more than 22 million citations in its database for biomedical literature. Indexing SJP in PubMed confirms its prestige in providing an international platform for pediatrics and child health, and will allow greater visibility and impact of its published articles.

Since SJP was launched in 1977, it focused attention on the major health problems facing Sudanese children, as well as other children of the less developed countries. The articles reflected on community approach in delivery of health services in rural areas [2], profile of pediatric emergency admissions in Khartoum [3], childhood bacterial meningitis [4], diarrheal diseases [5] and childhood immunization [6]. An editorial in 2011 [7] celebrated the new horizon of SJP when

its website was launched (<http://www.sudanjp.org>), containing the scanned past issues of SJP, and original papers on child health, published in proceedings of local conferences. The website maintained the inclusion of recent conferences and proceedings, added guidelines and protocols, announced upcoming conferences and courses, and also featured children historic booklets. The latter were written and published for Sudanese children by the Publishing Office of the Sudan Ministry of Education. Some of these booklets were published more than 60 years ago. A special supplement summarized the educational meeting conducted by the International Pediatric Neurology Association in Khartoum (January 2015) [8,9]. The Journal website has been visited more than 7,900 times since December 2012 and has been viewed in all inhabited continents of the world.

One of the unique sections of SJP is “Historical Perspectives” which documented together with “Editorials” the pioneering work of Sudanese pediatricians, other physicians, and international scientists who built, since the dawn of the 20th century, the foundation of health services in Sudan and internationally [10-20]. Novel treatments emerging

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from Sudan, such as tartar emetic for schistosomiasis [21] and fluid therapy for heat stroke [22] were highlighted, together with the role of the first doctors worldwide who offered their lives fighting Ebola virus epidemic in 1976 [23]. Several articles dealt with professionalism and the development of skills in paediatrics [24-27]. Another SJP issue reflected on the engraved old heritage of the Sudanese to help the needy by highlighting the role of Sudanese Youth in building and maintaining health services for children [28]. It also narrated what looks like a fairy tale by depicting the story of building Gaafar Ibauf Children's Hospital, one of the pioneering children's hospitals in Africa and Arab countries. Prof. Gaafar

Ibauf, one of the Sudanese pioneer pediatricians, managed with commendable efforts spanning 27 years and graceful national and international contributions, to transform a 30-bed pediatric emergency unit into an impressive six storey building [29].

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