

EDITORIAL



The Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons was inaugurated in 2003 with the express vision to oversee the training and certification of Ghanaian medical doctors in various specialties. In addition to ensuring accreditation of various institutions for residency training programmes, it had the responsibility of organising examinations and other forms of assessment as methods of evaluating the competence of the Specialists trained under its auspices. While these key functions have been satisfactorily carried out over the years by the College since its inauguration, other related areas within the College's mandate need to be stressed in order to raise awareness of both members of the Medical Profession and the general public. These include organising Continuing Professional Development activities for the benefit of all Medical and Dental practitioners, and the College's contribution towards influencing policies on health care delivery.

It is obvious that by the very nature of its membership, the College will hopefully capture all actively practising as well as retired medical and dental personnel of the country. That being so, it is potentially the repository of the country's best assets in terms of Medical and Dental personnel. Even the best trained professionals in the most advanced countries require periodic self-assessment and opportunities for update in their respective fields. This is more so these days of rapidly advancing technological developments. It is for this reason that Continuous Professional Development (CPD) is essential in all professions, the Medical and Dental professions included. There are many ways of assisting professionals in continuous professional development. One important medium is the availability of a high quality journal that can transmit to professionals, update information in their areas of specialisation. It was for this reason that the idea of setting up the College's own journal was conceived even at the time of the College's inauguration. And here, credit must be given to the Inaugural Rector, Professor P.K. Nyame, together with the first President, Professor S. Ofose-Amaah and the first College Editor, Professor A.A. Bruce-Tagoe who took the executive decision to establish the College's journal.

As a follow-up to this decision, a Management Committee for the Journal was formed when I took over as Editor. The Management Committee then constituted the Editorial Committee to oversee the establishment and running of the journal. The necessary foundations for a scientific and professionally sound journal were laid over the months, with the active assistance of the current Rector of the College, Professor D. Ofori-Adjei, culminating in the publication of this inaugural issue of *Postgraduate Medical Journal of Ghana*. As with all new ventures, the Journal has had

its fair share of teething problems, including delays in the review process for several manuscripts, difficulties in e-communication with some authors and reviewers and a few other technical issues. In spite of all these the first issue is finally out and the editorial staff can say with pride that it is a job well done. I wish to thank my Editorial Manager, members of the Management Committee, as well as members of the Editorial Committee for their commitment and assistance in ensuring the establishment of the Journal. It is our prayer that the initial biennial publication of the Journal will soon graduate through quarterly to monthly publication. This, obviously, would depend on copious availability of high quality manuscripts as well as readily available and dedicated reviewers that will ensure regular and timely publication of subsequent issues.

In this inaugural issue of the journal, the President and the Rector have been invited to offer short comments on unveiling of the Journal. The issue has several sections designed to cover as many areas of interest to Fellows and Members, as well as other personnel involved in planning and delivery of health care in Ghana and abroad. Naturally, the extent of variety will be determined by the types of manuscripts submitted. In line with the College's role in participating in discussions regarding policies on health care delivery in Ghana, attention of readers is drawn to a paper by Abantanga et al which appears later in this issue. These authors have made policy suggestions on aspects of training and empowerment of a certain category of health care personnel which in the opinion of reviewers of the manuscript, as well as the Editor-in Chief merit thorough discussion. The Journal encourages such discussions and undertakes to publish viewpoints and rejoinders on issues raised by authors in the journal, in subsequent issues. This, hopefully, will ensure that the entire body of the College, together with other readers, are given the opportunity to participate in the discussion of issues that may become national policies guiding health care delivery. Also in this and subsequent issues the Journal will serialise important events and personalities in the History of Medical Practice in Ghana. The material for these publications have been provided by Professor Stephen Addae, a Ghanaian institutional historian whose brief profile is published in this inaugural issue of the Journal. He acknowledges Professor P.K. Nyame and Dr. Laura McGough for the material.

Finally, I wish all readers of the Journal a good read and hope that its birth will stimulate more researchers and prospective authors to submit manuscripts for publication. Manuscripts are the lifeline of any scientific journal and to sustain it, the PMJG is calling for manuscripts, manuscripts and more manuscripts!

*Professor JT Anim, FRCPATH, FGCP
Editor-in-Chief*