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EDITORIAL

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During the past four decades, the Department of Health Promotion & Education, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Nigeria has established a high reputation for training professional health educators and conducting research that have increased knowledge and understanding of the prevention of many public health problems in the country. The bulk of the researches conducted by the postgraduate students of the Department have adopted rigorous methodology that had produced results with potential for improving health promotion programming. The findings also have the potential to influence policies at local, state and national levels. Unfortunately only few of these results are widely disseminated because the bulk of students' dissertations are kept on book shelves. As a consequence, many of the researches have had limited impact on health programming and policy formulation. This special edition of the African Journal of Biomedical Research (AJBR) is part of efforts to address this problem.

The edition consists of eight peer-reviewed papers derived from completed Master of Public Health dissertations and research conducted by members of the faculty from the Department. There are two categories of papers: The first consists of six descriptive surveys that focus on six public health issues namely, *sexual behaviour and disclosure of HIV status among persons living with HIV/AIDS, women's experience of menopause, knowledge of reproductive health rights among postgraduate students, police records of sexual offences, experience of intimate partner contraceptive knowledge and compliance with guidelines for sale of contraceptives by patent medicine vendors and women's experience of intimate partner violence*. The second category of papers present data on *outcome of a training program for primary school teachers on prevention of lead poisoning and effects of peer education intervention on use of HIV counselling and testing services among adolescents and young persons*.

The articles included in this issue of AJBR address topical issues and the findings have important policy implications for health promotion programming and practice. The manuscripts were derived from research projects approved by Ethics Review Committees indicating that the researches were implemented using the highest scientific and ethical standards. Experts have peer-reviewed all the manuscripts ensuring that they are of high quality. None of the manuscripts in this edition have been previously published or under consideration for publication.

The authors are grateful to all the peer reviewers who made valuable contributions towards improving the scientific and editorial quality of the papers. Appreciation is also extended to Mr. Oladipo Olaleye for his assistance in developing charts and graphs in some of the papers.

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