

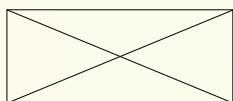
## Editorial

The practice of Gastroenterology and Hepatology has evolved over the years as distinct specialties with ever widening horizon. These specialties now include the basic and clinical sciences including pharmacology and physiology among others. A lot of switching of roles has taken place with management of many aspects of bowel care that have hitherto been the exclusive preserve of the surgeon being now managed by the medical gastroenterologist and endoscopists. It is therefore imperative for a dedicated Journal of this nature to advance the course of Gastroenterologist and Hepatology in Nigeria and beyond to be established. If we are not to be left behind in the scheme of events. The main focus of the Nigerian Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology (NJG&H) shall be to chronicle the pattern and peculiarities of Gastroenterology in Nigeria, Africa and the Tropics. It is my dream that, in no distant future, the NJG&H will be among the most sought after for current frontiers in Gastroenterology and Hepatology in Nigeria, Tropics and the World at large. We however, have to play our roles as major stakeholders in patronising the Journal for publication of scientifically sound research works and elegant studies, in order not to make this dream a piped dream.

We are debuting with a modest menu as our bottom start, convinced that the only way to get to the top is to start from the bottom. This issue is addressing germane and interesting areas of our clinical practice. The challenges of managing hepatocellular carcinoma are a sore point and prevention of causality appears to be the way out. Gastrointestinal symptoms often result from diabetic autonomic neuropathy (DAN), but go unrecognised in practice, the article on Gastrointestinal symptoms in patients with diabetes mellitus, highlighted that these symptoms were similar in both diabetics and non-diabetics except for early satiety. Viral hepatitis is known to be associated with occasional haematologic changes; these changes in Nigerian patients with acute viral hepatitis are shown in the article on Haematological parameters in viral hepatitis. A relatively cheap approach to treatment of oesophageal varices was explored by the article titled "Controlling oesophageal variceal bleeding by reloading inexpensive hemorrhoidal o-rings for band ligation at evangel hospital, Nigeria". Duodenal diverticuli could usually be found around the papilla, the case report on duodenal diverticulum co-existing with a bleeding duodenal ulcer is the first report in Nigeria.

It is heart warming, that our Journal, the first of its kind in Nigeria, having gone through a healthy gestation has finally been born bouncing. It is my fervent hope that as we hit the ground running, we will not look back. I feel most fulfilled and excited to have this maiden edition of our Journal hit the stables to join others in moving science forward and enriching the practice of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. I pray that the Journal grows to lofty heights.

Importantly, I wish to congratulate all the authors who dared to publish their works in this maiden edition, not minding our humble beginnings. May I also thank our seasoned reviewers, members of the Editorial Board and the Pharmaceutical companies for their efforts and contributions in making this edition see the light of day.



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*Editor-in-Chief*