

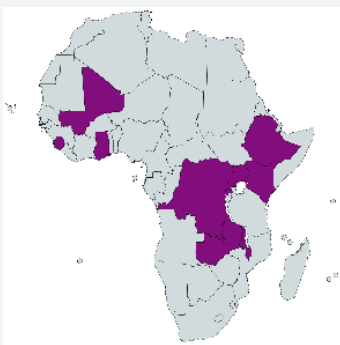
# African Journal Partnership Program

## RESEARCH WITHOUT BORDERS

One of the great challenges faced by African research is the lack of effective dissemination both within the African research community and internationally. To boost African health research impact and discoverability, the Elsevier Foundation founded “Research without Borders”, a skills-based volunteering partnership with the African Journal Partnership Program (AJPP), a high-profile mentoring program supported by the US National Library of Medicine and NIH’s Fogarty International Center and administered by the Council of Science Editors. Research without Borders collaborates with AJPP by providing Elsevier volunteer expertise in publishing, marketing, operations, technology and strategic guidance.

AJPP pairs 10 African health journals with leading US and UK health journals including, *The Lancet*, *The Annals of Internal Medicine*, *BMJ*, and *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

Elsevier volunteers provide supplementary training to the African journals for up to 4 weeks in country. The journals include: *African Health Sciences*, *Annals of African Surgery*, *Ethiopian Journal of Health Sciences*, *Ghana Medical Journal*, *Malawi Medical Journal*, *Rwanda Journal of Health Sciences*, *Annales Africaines de Medecine*, *Mali Medical* and *The Health Press Zambia*.



### Beneficiary group

10 African scientific and health journals

### Location

Ghana, Malawi, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, DRC, Uganda, Mali, Kenya, Rwanda, Zambia

### Budget

\$50,000

### In-kind resources

Provide AJPP editors with access to ScienceDirect, Scopus and SciVal.

### Primary outcome

Provide skills-based volunteering offering strategic, editorial, communication and operational guidance — to boost the impact and discoverability of African health research.

### Goals

- Strengthening the impact of African journals by improving quality and discoverability through targeted mentoring teams
- Improving the discoverability of African research by assisting journal editors with applications to Scopus, MEDLINE and other scholarly indexes
- Facilitating the collaboration and knowledge exchange between African editors and their counterparts
- Supporting the training of authors, reviewers and journalists in Africa
- Building journal websites, evolving editorial board practices and improving the pool of authors and reviewers
- Developing strategic business plans, usually with a sustainable open access business model

### Milestones

13 Elsevier volunteers contributed a total of 22 weeks of time to share expertise with journals across 6 African countries in 2019. Since 2017, 34 volunteers have contributed a total of 97 weeks.

- A Francophone workshop for the DRC’s *Annales Africaines de Medecine* journal team was held during the African Health Agenda International Conference (AHAIC) in Kigali, Rwanda, March 2019.
- Volunteers Anne Roca (*The Lancet Global Health*), Christine Sempe and Yasmina Ouharzoune (Elsevier) joined AHAIC delivering research capacity building workshops and panel discussions on moving research to policy and African health tech solutions — along with Dr. Piu Kabututu (*Annales Africaines de Medecine*).
- Volunteers Connie Villalba and Christine Sempe attended the AJPP Annual Meeting in Columbus, OH, May 2019, to provide additional editorial training.

### Level of evidence

Level 1	Quasi-experimental
Level 2	Pre-post or cross-sectional
Level 3	Point-in-time study
Level 4	Performance metrics/stats
Level 5	Anecdotal evidence

### Future plans

- In 2020, conduct an evaluation of journal needs and continue support of AJPP with a reduced scope.
- Expand volunteer opportunities to a range of Elsevier Foundation partnerships, such as Amref, OWSD and Epicentre.



Above: while in Ghana to attend the Water First! workshop, we had the opportunity to visit Dr. Margaret Lartey, Dean of School of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Ghana, and Executive Editor of the Ghana Medical Journal. Thanks to the work of Elsevier volunteers, in June the Ghana Medical Journal was accepted for full inclusion in Scopus.



Left: the AJPP team at the 2019 Annual Meeting in Columbus, OH. The two-day meeting serves as an important venue to review the partnerships’ impact and way forward — and features reports from both the journals and the partners. In 2019 it also included a workshop on Journal Business Models co-led by Elsevier volunteer Christine Sempe.

“The progress of the AJPP journals has been substantial, with the journals all having raised their visibility online for readers and authors in Africa and worldwide, and the editors taking leadership positions in international organizations.”

— ANNETTE FLANAGIN, Co-Director, African Journal Partnership Program

