

**African Journal Partnership Project**  
**Mini-Workshops, Annual Review, and Planning Meeting**  
**18-19 May 2010**  
**Atlanta, GA, USA**

NIH sponsors:

National Library of Medicine and Fogarty International Center, US NIH

Objective:

Conduct review of partnership activities including successes and areas of concern, and develop plans for future activities.

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DAY ONE (Cairo Room)  
Mini-workshops

1:30 PM Journal Sustainability – Ione Auston, Julia Royall, and James Tumwine

2:15 PM XML Conversions by SPi Services – Carrie Parker

3:00 PM Implementation and Support for ScholarOne Manuscripts – Lisande Bissonette

4:00 PM Discussion of Forum for African Medical Editors (FAME) – Siaka Sidibe, David Ofori-Adjei, James Tumwine

5:00 PM Adjourn

6:30 PM Group Dinner Meeting

DAY TWO (Woodruff Room)

8:30 AM Welcome from CSE – Diane Lang and Christine Laine

8:35 AM Welcome from Sponsors – Julia Royall, Ione Auston,

8:40 AM Meeting Objectives and Operational Issues – Tom Goehl

9:00 AM Sponsor Expectations from Workshops – Annette Flanagin

9:15 AM Librarian Involvement – Julia Royall

9:30 AM Brief Reports on Status of African Journals and Partnerships

Session One – Siaka Sidibe (Moderator)

African Health Sciences/BMJ - James K. Tumwine

Ethiopian Journal of Health Sciences/Annals of Internal Medicine -

Abraham Haileamlak

Ghana Medical Journal/The Lancet - David Ofori-Adjei

11:00 AM Break

11:15 AM Session Two – James Tumwine (Moderator)

Malawi Medical Journal/JAMA – Chiwoza Bandawe

Mali Medical/EHP/AJPH – Siaka Sidibe

Medical Journal of Zambia/NEJM - John S. Kachimba

12:45 PM Group Lunch

1:30 PM Plans for 2010 - 2011 Workshops and Follow-up – Chiwoza Bandawe  
(Moderator)

2:15 PM AJPP Discussion of AJPP Evaluation Report – David Ofori-Adjei  
(Moderator)

2:45 PM Break

3:00 PM Major challenges for Journal Partners in 2010 – John S. Kachimba  
(Moderator)

4:00 PM Future Directions and Recommendations for 2010 – Abraham Haileamlak  
(Moderator)

4:20 PM Summary – Julia Royall

4:30 PM Adjourn

## **Mini-workshops**

All attendees introduced themselves. CSE officers, committee chairs, and staff could not attend the afternoon session because of a Council of Science Editors (CSE) Board meeting.

Four mini-workshops were held to address major issues facing the Partnership. The topic of the fourth session, which was originally electronic publishing (Internet connectivity, website hosting, open access, journal website design, DOI training, digital version of journals), was changed because the main speaker, Mike Lotz, had a work schedule conflict. Lotz offered to hold another training session in the near future. In place of the electronic publishing session, the African editors decided to address the status and future of the Forum for African Medical Editors (FAME).

## **Journal Sustainability and Business Development** – Ione Auston, Julia Royall, and James Tumwine

Royall introduced the topic by reiterating the major goal of the partnership, which is to foster the development of African medical journals so that basic and clinical research conducted on the continent could become more widely available in MEDLINE.

Although the progress of the partner journals has been exceptional, long-term sustainability is an issue that needs to receive increased attention. Flexibility has been a hallmark of the project since the beginning, which is important because of the varying needs of each of the partners.

Auston noted that she needed to know the specific requirements of the African journals. With such knowledge the NLM can then determine what funding is needed for the AJPP in the future. She distributed a simple form requesting that the editors itemize their projected needs for this upcoming year. She will follow-up with additional directions for the AJPP editors to complete the forms. Goehl said he would provide the cost estimates for next year's CSE and AJPP annual meetings.

Various ideas for reaching sustainability were discussed including using the principal of economies of scale with regard to obtaining the services of a printing company. Could several journals agree to use the same company? Another idea was for the editors to jointly approach one funder such as foundations, African Development Bank, DFID. Loder and Kleinert offered to help to identify potential funders but the editors would write the proposal. There was also a discussion of how best to use interns in running the journals.

The role of the managing editor/business manager/desk editor was discussed. Each editor agreed to provide names and job descriptions for this position to Goehl and Royall for posting on AJPP site.

Surveys were again discussed as important for the journals to best learn how to meet the needs of the journal users. Schroter will be asked to provide survey templates for authors and readers, and Royall will post on AJPP site.

### **XML Conversions by SPi Services – Carrie Parker**

Parker commented that her organization is very happy to be part of such a beneficial project by continuing to provide to the established partners XML conversions that are suitable for submission to PubMed Central and beginning support for the two new journals.

She summarized the workflow steps for XML conversion. She discussed with the editors their delivery methods for files and metadata to/from SPi and journals. She also noted that SPi delivers the XML files to PubMedCentral. She will explore whether SPi could deliver XML files African Journals on Line (AJOL). For the journals that have been accepted for PubMed, Ione confirmed that PMC would send the appropriate files to PubMed.

Siaka noted that currently EHP has been editing the XML files, prepared by SPi for PubMed Central, into acceptable files for PubMed. EHP then forwards those files to PubMed.

Parker was asked to provide contact information for new contact person (Virgil Sangalang) for SPi to editors and confirm contact information for relevant staff for each journal.

To expedite the transfer, Auston will provide contact information for PubMed Central to Parker.

Kachimba and Parker will investigate what is needed to send SPi's XML files to AJOL.

AJPP would like to give appropriate credit to SPi for the support rendered to AJPP. Parker was asked to provide estimates to Goehl of in-kind costs of services provided by SPi.

**Implementation and Support for ScholarOne Manuscripts**– Lisande Bissonette Bissonette said again that she was pleased to come to the meeting to discuss the journals use of ScholarOne Manuscripts. She indicated that ScholarOne/Thomson Reuters would continue with this service for the original four journals and would be working with the two new journals to implement the system for their journals. She went through the basic steps in using ScholarOne Manuscripts especially for the new journal editors.

The editors raised many issues in regard to using ScholarOne Manuscripts. Bissonette will set up a Webex follow-up/users' group meeting with editors and appropriate journal staff to continue training and discussion of ScholarOne Manuscripts functions and features. She will also provide updated ScholarOne support staff contact information to the AJPP to editors.

The editors asked whether there is a function in the Production Center to send e-mail notice to authors whose articles have been published (as opposed to accepted) to alert the authors that their article is now available online and also providing the appropriate URL.

Sidibe noted that Mali Medical still needs a French language version. Morrissey offered to contact the Francophone journal, Canadian Medical Association Journal, to see if someone would be able to help. It was also suggested that other Francophone journals might be willing to share available translated content/instructions of ScholarOne Manuscripts for replication and use by Mali Medical.

The editors expressed strong interest in using doi from Cross Ref. Flanagin and Bissonette will contact Cross Ref about possibly providing the complimentary service to the AJPP members. Flanagin will provide guidance to AJPP editors on the common doi structure used by most journals.

Bissonette will also determine if Ithenticate (plagiarism checker) would be compatible for use with ScholarOne Manuscripts.

AJPP would like to give appropriate credit to ScholarOne/Thomson Reuters for the support rendered to AJPP. Bissonette was asked to provide estimates to Goehl of in-kind costs of services provided by Scholar One/Thomson Reuters.

**Forum for African Medical Editors (FAME)** – Siaka Sidibe, David Ofori-Adjei, James Tumwine

Sidibe, Ofori-Adjei and Tumwine led a discussion of the status and future of FAME. Tumwine noted that FAME is still functioning but there was consensus

that new leadership is needed. He also noted that African Index Medicus, which was started about 20 years ago by WHO, is still active.

Sidibe commented that he is hoping to make FAME more accessible to non-English speaking editors. This would include editors whose native languages are French, Portuguese, Arabic, etc. At his upcoming ePublishing workshop for Francophone journals he will discuss a Francophone branch of FAME.

The editors agreed to continue the discussion among themselves with regard to rejuvenating FAME.

Goehl commented that AJPP sees FAME as an important organization in helping meet partnership objectives. He suggested that it was essential that FAME identify reasons for African editors to join and be active in FAME. One suggestion is to notify inactive or potential members that EHP has funding that could be used to expand AJPP workshops. This expansion would mean that support would be available for FAME members to attend AJPP workshops.

### **Formal Sessions**

#### **Welcome from CSE – Diane Lang and Christine Laine**

Lang welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed us that even though her term as CSE president had expired she would remain active with the AJPP serving as CSE's liaison to the AJPP. She identified Christine Laine as the new CSE president. Lang and Laine assured the participants of the continuous support from the Council of Science Editors.

#### **Welcome from Sponsors – Julia Royall, Ione Auston**

Royall and Auston commented that they were very happy to meet with the partners again and delighted with the progress of the Partnership. Royall noted that Linda Kupfer of the Fogarty International Center had to cancel at the last moment because of a family emergency but that she sent her congratulations on another very productive year. They confirmed that the AJPP would again receive about US\$210,000 for the next fiscal year (July 2010 through June 2011).

#### **Meeting Objectives and Operational Issues – Tom Goehl**

Goehl commented that this had been another whirlwind of activities of the AJPP journals and the progress made is truly impressive. He mentioned that Flanagin and he prepared regular updates on the AJPP and they receive only glowing comments on the Partnership's activities.

He commented that the objectives of the meeting this year were to conduct a review of the Partnership activities and plan for the next fiscal year. He asked that

the partners be candid with their comments and be sure that the meeting addressed their needs.

He went through a list of operational issues:

- 1) Confirmed contact information for the Partnership's Contact List and asked everyone to update their email AJPP addresses in their email directories;
- 2) Funding requests and disbursements have been handled very well this year by Carla Pacheco of the new CSE contractor, Resource Center for Organizations;
- 3) Reviewed individual payments to the Partners and asked them to confirm receipt of amounts indicated on the spreadsheets that he distributed;
- 4) Asked that receipts for activities conducted from July 2009 to end of June 2010 be sent to him as soon as AJPP supported activities are completed (last year he received receipts from everyone);
- 5) Stated that after the expenses of the CSE/AJPP meetings are determined there should still be a small amount of money available to support AJPP activities through June.
- 6) Asked the editors to review the specific objectives of AJPP so they could request funds this year to address their needs;
- 7) Noted that EHP is willing to provide additional funds to expand the AJPP sponsored workshops;
- 8) Emphasized that the annual Evaluation Report, prepared by Sara Schroter of the BMJ, is very important to the continuation of funding. He distributed a hard copy of last year's report and asked the editors to re-read the report to ensure the accuracy of the report. He noted that their most recent report was prepared October 2009;
- 9) Thanked Royall for arranging to prepare a basic website for AJPP last year and asked whether the current AJPP website was meeting their needs. The consensus was that it was very useful but should be expanded using a small amount of AJPP funds if needed. The website could become an important means of increasing the visibility of AJPP;
- 10) Volunteered to coordinate the preparation of updates on AJPP for CSE e-mail alerts and Science Editor.

### **Sponsor Expectations from Workshops – Annette Flanagin**

Flanagin noted that there were eight highly successful workshops conducted last year by the AJPP editors. She outlined the needs of our sponsors in regard to the workshops:

1. Workshop reports need to be prepared and submitted to her and Goehl and should include:
  - a. list of attendees and their countries;

- b. number of days of the workshop;
  - c. agenda/curriculum and learning objectives;
  - d. summary of evaluation forms and;
  - e. cost summary.
2. Evidence that workshops have met objectives.

### **Librarian Involvement – Julia Royall**

Royall noted that the librarians could be useful allies to the editors in the development of their journals. She specifically suggested:

1. Utilization of network of NLM librarians (currently in Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe);
2. A new course for training of writers, peer reviewers, researchers, etc. should be available soon and could be integrated into the curricula at their universities;(An update since the meeting – the course is now complete and will be launched officially at the AHILA (Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa) in Nov.)
3. Active involvement of librarian with journals (for example on editorial board);
4. Using librarians to train scientists, clinicians, and journalists in information retrieval.

Royall will post instructions for applying to Medline on the AJPP website as well as a link for instructions to getting included in PubMed. (An update since the meeting - Julia has sent this information to the AJPP webmaster for posting on the website.)

She also asked that the editors consider making use of librarians and their resources with relevant workshops.

### **Brief Reports on Status of African Journals and Partnerships (see slides on the AJPP website)**

Session One – Siaka Sidibe

#### **African Health Sciences/BMJ - James K. Tumwine**

Tumwine stated that the AHS just celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He demonstrated the need for journals, such as AHS to publish health information by discussing specific examples of how information had helped in the prevention and treatment of diseases. He noted the need is even greater given the recurrent hunger and poverty in African countries as well as troubled health systems.

African Health Sciences is based at the Makerere University, College of Health Sciences. He noted that the editors are spurred on by the wish to push their communication to a higher level. To achieve this they have restructured the

administration of the journal. This restructuring also will help lay the foundation for grooming the successors to the 2 founding editors, Tumwine and Kawooya.

The new editorial team will consist of an editor-in-chief, a deputy editor, two associate editors, four assistant editors, two administration staff, an IT manager, a librarian, a student intern, ten editorial board members, and eight international consulting editors.

The Manuscript Submission and Review will not have any major changes. Since January 2008, manuscript submission and review process is done online using the software, Manuscript Central, generously provided by Scholar One/Thomson Reuters. Manuscripts are reviewed by at least two reviewers: one from Uganda and one from outside the country.

AHS is an open access quarterly publication publishing in March, June, September and December. The journal is available both in print and electronic forms (AHS web site). However, the number of locally printed copies has been reduced to 100 copies due to escalating costs. Tumwine is exploring options of raising funds locally such as through adverts, etc.

AHS is indexed by Medline and African Index Medicus. The journal is archived in PubMed Central, African Journals Online (AJOL) and available in BIOLINE and HINARI without cost to the user.

The number of submissions has increased over the past three years and they are facing a major problem of delayed publication of accepted articles. Tumwine is hoping that they will have access to the DOI system so that he could publish articles immediately after acceptance, which would eliminate the backlog of accepted but unpublished articles.

The journal's overall business structure is challenging. Raising funds is achieved through advertisements and publication of special issues. Tumwine is trying to decide if charging authors is a viable option and asked for advice from others familiar with this model.

The special issues published by AHS included an issue dedicated to: Makerere University Annual Scientific Conference; Resilience with support by Astier Almedomof of Tufts University; and Equity and Health with support from Rene Loewenson of Equinet (The Network on Equity in Health in Africa).

A planned special issue on Climate Change and Health received only one manuscript. He noted the dearth of research on climate change effect on health.

The special issue would have been fully funded by the Africa Initiative on Climate Change.

The demand for abstracts and full articles published by AHS on Bioline from Jan 2006 to March 2009 has increased significantly.

Tumwine sees a groundswell of interest in the journal by researchers, authors, reviewers, and readers. Therefore, as African Health Sciences is entering its next decade of publication, he sees that training is an especially important activity.

### **Ethiopian Journal of Health Sciences/Annals of Internal Medicine - Abraham Haileamlak**

Jimma University is a national pioneer in community-based education of higher learning. EJHS, founded in 1990, is published by Jimma University and is a peer-reviewed journal. EJHS, established in January 1990, used to be published twice a year until 2006. Since 2007 the journal has appeared trice a year. The journal publishes editorials, original articles, brief communications, and case reports. The journal now has its own website, <http://www.ejhs.ju.edu.et>. Haileamlak stated that the journal is currently not indexed but indexing is a very high objective for the journal.

The administration consists of an editor-in-chief, an associate EIC and a four member Editorial Board, a secretary, and seven editorial consultants, two of which are from Ethiopia. The journal consists of editorials (although not regular component) original articles (minimum 8 per issue), reviews, brief communications (maximum 1 per issue), and case reports (maximum 2 per issue).

The production process starts with the preparation of the submitted manuscript by the journal secretary, a blinded peer-review process, decision by the EIC, and printing (300 copies) by a private company. The journal is distributed free to universities and health units (over 200 local institutions and individuals, all libraries in JU, and all public medical schools in Ethiopia. There are few international subscribers. The journal is also available online on the journal's own website (<http://www.ejhs.ju.edu.et>), which was developed in 2009 thanks to support from the AJPP.

Financial management is under the Jimma University system. To date the journal has not started to generate money. With strong university support, financial sustainability is not an issue.

However, the journal faces major challenges of improving its manuscript flow and peer-review processes. Haileamlak hopes to address these issues by strengthening

administrative staff, continuously training staff, postgraduates, and implementing a manuscript management software program. He hopes to increase the journal's visibility by having the journal accepted into major indexing systems.

The journal is a member of COPE and hopes soon to participate in AJoL, PubMed Central, and Medline. They made an unsuccessful attempt to be included in International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) but were encouraged to reapply by Christine Laine, whenever there is vacancy.

The journal's 2009 accomplishments included publishing all the three issues in a timely manner; revising its editorial policy; improving its organization and staffing; securing three editorial offices; and introducing the idea of intern editors. The editor shared editorial experiences during visits to Ethiopian Medical Journal (EMJ) and Ethiopian Health Development Journal (EJHD). One board member and one staff received training in Accra, Ghana and another board member (associate editor) received training in Kampala, Uganda. In addition, the journal conducted two in-house training workshops. The number of submissions has increased from 31 in 2006 to 56 in 2009. The acceptance rate has increased slightly from 48 to 59%.

The major improvements in the journal included increasing the number of original articles to a minimum of 8; updating the design of the journal's cover; having journal content available to readers online; improving the peer review quality.

Estimates for manuscript handling process is difficult to analyze but Haileamalak's estimate of time from submission to first action is 7 days; to acceptance decision 60-90 days; and to publication 90-120 days. The time for the review process was 6 – 8 weeks with the number of reviewers used totally were 43 (all local).

The medical library staff gave university-wide training on how to search databases and became involved in supporting researchers.

The journal's outreach activities included positive email messages from some authors and readers but the journal did not conduct any surveys. The journal did reach out to local news media and used local radio to disseminate findings of researches published in their journal.

Future plans include attempting to secure and implement manuscript management software; work hard for indexing; and make another attempt for ICMJE membership.

## **Ghana Medical Journal/The Lancet** - David Ofori-Adjei

The quarterly peer-reviewed journal was established in 1962 and is published by the Ghana Medical Association. Membership dues and advertisements are used to finance the journal. The journal offices are housed in the Office Ghana Medical Association building. Staffing is an issue with frequent turnover of staff. Journal equipment includes computers, a scanner, and a printer. Ofori-Adjei stated that they do have Internet access but the DSL service is problematic.

Changes in their journal included the addition of three new young editors (Child Health, Surgery, and Internal Medicine) all of whom attended the peer review workshop held in Accra. The advisory board membership has been changed. And, an internship has been completed.

The journal prints 2000 copies but the electronic version precedes the print issue and is available on their website ([www.ghanamedassn.org](http://www.ghanamedassn.org) or [www.ghanamedj.org](http://www.ghanamedj.org)). Each issue includes an Editorial/Commentary (topic is based on issue content or subject of interest), five original research articles, one special article or review, two case reports, and Correspondence/News.

Submissions are usually handled manually by email but online processing started in April 2008. The challenges with the online process are with use by both corresponding authors as well as with reviewers. On average about 57% are submitted online. Total submissions increased from 49 in 2006 to 115 in 2009. In 2006, 11 came from outside Ghana to 16 in 2009. The rejection rate has been fairly consistent at about 37%. Turn around time from submission to decision is about 26 days.

The journal has published two special issues: one on non-communicable diseases and the other on women's health, which was sponsored by Harvard.

The journal supported training activities included local courses for academics supported by AJPP and the Mayo Clinic and for general practitioners –in how to write case reports. International courses provided by the journal included a Peer Review Workshop and an ePublishing Workshop funded by AJPP and EHP.

The journal is indexed in AJoL but currently AJoL is not very active; CABI Publishing; African Index Medicus and archived in PubMed Central. Ofori-Adjei is currently preparing a submission for inclusion in Medline. He also had not heard about the status of indexing by ISI.

He sees opportunities for GMJ in offering CPD credits (for re-certification) for participating authors and reviewers and for answering quiz questions based on

published articles in GMJ. He hopes to use surveys of authors and readers as he was re-inspired by the 2009 CSE course on Journal Metrics.

He commented that he is pleased with the interaction with the journal's sponsors. He has had excellent interactions with SPi. The basic electronic manuscript handling software provided by ScholarOne/Thomson Reuters, is working but he would like more customisation and training, and would like to explore the system for conducting author and reviewer surveys. He finds The Lancet's scientific writing slide set very useful but would like to see more engagement with his international sponsor. He also noted that the journal is a member of COPE and FAME and has worked with WHO on TropIKA.net and AIM.

Looking forward, he sees the need for continued improvement in journal visibility; improved sustainability planning; further work on capacity building; improving the efficiency of Workflow; and more engagement of the media.

## **Session Two – James Tumwine**

### **Malawi Medical Journal/JAMA – Chiwoza Bandawe**

Bandawe outlined the structure of the journal. The staff includes the Editor in Chief, Prof. Malcolm Molyneux, who provides guidance but is not involved in the day to day running of the journal. Bandawe stated as editor he is involved in day-to-day running of the journal, makes final decision on content of the journal, but is responsible to the EIC and Chairman of the Board. The journal uses a desk editor, Thengo Kavinya, who is the only paid employee of the journal. Her position requires her to run the office, manage advertising, subscriptions, and distribution, as well as write articles for the journal. There are 7 editorial board members who are all members of the College of Medicine. The postgraduate Dean's office serves as the point of liaison with College of Medicine management.

This open-access quarterly journal has moved to more editorial board involvement in the manuscript and review process, which lessens the pressure on the editor. Manuscripts are submitted primarily through Manuscript Central. The editor checks for suitability and then either accepts or rejects the paper. If accepted, the manuscript is assigned to member of the editorial board who manages the manuscript by inviting two reviewers (on a single blind basis), looks at comments from reviewers, and then recommends a decision to the editor. However the editor makes the final decision and communicates that decision to the authors. The editorial board bears responsibility for copyediting.

The content of the journal includes an editorial, original research articles, case reports, interviews, opinions, and abstracts.

The website ([www.mmj.medcol.mw](http://www.mmj.medcol.mw)), hosted by the College of Medicine, contains contact information, podcasts, blogs, events, submission information, past and current issues. Articles are available in both pdf and html format.

Bandawe gets usage statistics using Google Analytics report. He reported for the period Jan 2008 to May 2009 there were 439 visits from 340 unique visitors. The viewers went to 988 pages for a 2.25 average page views. During this period there was a 75.63% increase in new visits compared to a comparable time period last year. Visitors came primarily from Malawi but there were also visits from the US, UK, South Africa, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, Australia, and India.

In the production process, the accepted article in the Word file is downloaded from Manuscript Central and copied into Adobe Indesign. Once the desk editor completes the layout, the files are copied onto a CD and then sent to the printers. The pdf is emailed to AJoL for posting and to SPi for conversion to xml for later submission to PubMedCentral.

The number of submissions received has remained stable (about 42) from 2006 through 2009. The acceptance rate has fallen from 80% to 70%. The time from submission to first action has remained at about 2 weeks. The time from submission to publication has fallen from 6 months to 4 months.

The journal is distributed free to all CHAM and DHO hospitals with a total of 250-150 print copies. The content is also posted on the MMJ website with an email sent to a MMJ emailing list announcing the new issue. Hard copies are also put on sale during dissemination conferences and workshops such as COMREC, NAC and MAM.

The College of Medicine pays for printing of two issues each year. Other revenue from advertising, subscriptions, and sponsorship for special issues is used to publish the other two issues. Bandawe is working on developing a strategic and business plan for the journal. He feels it is likely the journal will get some further assistance from Malawi Research Council.

Bandawe promotes the journal locally with personal visits to academic and research institutes. He also has been able to have publication in MMJ used in promotion decisions. He is hoping to receive the journal's first Impact factor in the period of 2010 to 2011.

The journal has been accepted for indexing in Medline since October 2008 and is included in PubMed Central. There have been some delays with uploading files

for PMC but he is working with SPi to have issues from volume 13 available on PMC. The journal was also accepted for inclusion in Thomson ISI in the same year.

He reported major improvements in editorial content including new features including Malawi Health News, Opinion articles, a Deeper Look section, and Case reports. The journal also has improved its services such as maintaining an emailing list and awarding CPD points.

The journal enjoys assistance from the medical librarians including having a COM librarian on the editorial board. COM library also runs classes for undergraduate and postgraduate (MPH) on information retrieval.

The journal has been reaching out to authors by holding a workshop in 2007 with Tim Albert, providing writing tutorials with MPH and COM for 4<sup>th</sup> year students, occasional email alerts, holding research methodology workshops with RSC, and is planning an AJPP sponsored workshop in June. The journal also reaches out to the local news media with occasional press releases. Notably, the editor also had a weekly column in the Weekend Nation newspaper. Bandawe would like to host a science communication workshop. Finally, the journal hosts science cafes with MLW.

MMJ has had very good interaction with its international partner journal. Flanagin and Ana Marusic (Croatian Medical Journal) facilitated an author/reviewer workshop in 2007. The journal receives useful guidance and advice on Medline, PMC, and support from SPi. There was a scholarly publishing workshop held on xml. MMJ hosted a visit from Africa Health Science for their staff to learn about ScholarOne Manuscripts in 2008. The journal has also developed a systematic review proposal with GMJ and the proposal was submitted to TDR.

In the near future, MMJ hopes to arrange a site visit to JAMA for its new business manager/ desk editor. And looks for continued guidance and advice from JAMA.

### **Mali Medical/EHP/AJPH – Siaka Sidibe**

Sidibe reported that Mali Medical was first published in 1975 and first recognized by CAMES in 1998. However, lack of adequate funding interfered with the journals further development until the AJPP was established in 2003.

Sidibe noted that Mali Medical is the quarterly official publication of Medical Society of Mali and is a quarterly, general biomedical journal. The editorial board consists of 7 volunteers, including the Director of publication, 3 editors, and a

treasurer. The journal uses the services of a desk manager and a national and international peer review committee.

This open-access journal receives more than 100 manuscripts each year with about 60% coming from other Francophone African countries. The journal publishes guidelines for contributors (authors and reviewers). Because ScholarOne Manuscripts does not have a French-language version yet, submissions and reviews are handled using hard copies of the articles. Two independent reviewers are received for each manuscript using a double blind process. In 2009, the journal received 169 manuscripts and utilized 66 reviewers (58 local and 8 foreign)

The journal publishes research articles, reviews, and case reports with most of work for publication process handled by the EIC. Each issue has a minimum of 14 articles per issue (76 pages). The number of submissions has steadily increased from 88 in 2005 to 169 in 2009. The rejection rate has increased from 32% to 57% over the same period.

Manuscript processing is as follows: manuscript is received and acknowledgement sent to author; triage of manuscript takes from 2 to 15 days; peer review is completed between days 16 to 45; requests for revisions are sent to author between days 46 to 60; revised manuscripts are received between days 61 to 100; and decision is made usually by day 120. At that time, notes of thanks are sent to reviewers.

The journal has no subscribers and distribution of all 200 print copies is free – 120 local and 80 international. Online publication began in 2004 with assistance from Environmental Health Perspectives (EHP). The journal was accepted for indexing in Medline in 2006 and has the ISSNs - 0464-7874 for paper and 1993-0836 for the electronic version.

Lack of national financial support is a major issue. The journal has no paid subscribers and no advertisement income. The journal raises some funds by charging a submission fee of \$10 per manuscript and receives funds from publishing special issues. To reduce costs, the journal has reduced its number of print copies.

The partnership has helped greatly in the development of MM. Equipment was purchased in 2006 but now needs to be updated. AJPP supported training was provided through regional workshops on peer review in 2006 and journal management in 2009. Desk managing editor salary was provided for the periods of August 2006 through July 2008 and June 2009 through May 2010.

Sidibe reports that the journal has achieved much success in recent years. The journal has become a national and regional training center on scientific publication. Fair, energetic, and enthusiastic editors have been trained. Journal submissions have reached the level of more than 100 manuscripts per year, with over 60% coming from outside Mali. On time publication for all issues has become the rule. The journal is now producing special sponsored issues that help support the journal. There has been a noticeable improvement in handling times for submitted manuscripts. Local librarians have been more and more helpful for writers and reviewers. Training workshops have been held with AJPP sponsorship. And finally, the journal has been accepted for indexing into Medline.

MM faces several challenges including maximizing submission fees; ensuring a yearly special sponsored issue; improving on time printing of all issues; completion of planning for next month's regional ePublishing workshop for Francophone journals; and establishing an association of Francophone editors within FAME. Sidibe hopes to receive updated computer hardware and software as well as establishing an online manuscript submission and peer review system using ScholarOne Manuscripts.

Sidibe ended his presentation by noting the need to extend partnership project to more African journals published in French as well as those published in Portuguese and Arabic.

### **Medical Journal of Zambia/New England Journal of Medicine – John S. Kachimba**

Kachimba gave a short history of the journal noting that the journal had significant impact but then went through turbulent periods. The journal was founded in the late 60s but was in existence in the pre-independence period under control of the Northern Rhodesia colonial medical hierarchy. Through this time the journal had a clear scientific, clinical and academic mandate. The journal had impact with respect to its publication scope, achieved respect from its readership for the caliber of its authors.

The formative years of the journal were between 1964-1978 and these became the glory years for the journal. Zambia gained independence in 1980. From 1978 to 1988 the journal underwent severe turbulence for the Journal because of external forces. The dark period extended from 1989 to 2000 during which the journal was published erratically and was of poor quality. Rejuvenation of the journal started in 2006. Kachimba envisions the journal becoming a premier African medical journal and achieving indexing in Medline and African Journals on Line (AJOL) by 2011.

He hopes to achieve this rejuvenation of the journal by employing best practices in journalism, maintaining high level of integrity, and promoting the internationalization.

The journal is a publication of the Zambia Medical Association (ZMA). The journal's mandate is to be an instrument for the dissemination of medical and allied research as well as clinical opinion and practice. The journal strives to be a resource of medical information for evidence-based patient care and public health. The journal hopes to provide medical researchers, biomedical scientists, clinicians, and all allied health worker professionals with a forum to enhance their publication skills as well as a source of local continuing education to almost? all health care professionals in Zambia.

Kachimba identified five goals for the journal: 1) Enhance and improve its governance and policy procedures; 2) Develop an action plan to strengthen financial solvency, while supporting future growth; 3) Expand its subscriber, reader, author, editorial, and advertiser bases; 4) Enhance access to the journal via multiple media resources; and 5) Develop strategic partnerships with stakeholders to develop a community of authors, reviewers, and editors.

The plan for rejuvenation of the journal includes efforts to improve journal publication quality, timely publication, and sustainability. Key areas of interest are to strengthen peer-review system; train the Editorial staff; invest in the journal production methods; enhance quality of authorship. Kachimba hopes to enhance journal visibility and readership by targeting circulation groups and establishing online access to the journal. Finally, he hopes to strengthen linkages with its international partner as well as with other stronger journals and other organizations.

The quarterly journal publishes original research articles, reviews, case reports, consensus medical opinions (clinical practice, Public health and even health policy), and health related news. The journal also includes limited advertisements.

The journal has a small staff that includes the editor and six associate editors.

After the manuscript is received and reviewed for suitability, the manuscript is sent to two reviewers in a double blind review process. Based on the reviewers' comments, the editor makes the decision to accept, reject, or request revisions. Once accepted, the manuscripts are copy-edited and the proofs sent to the corresponding author.

Currently, the journal is running two months behind schedule. Dissemination by mail is to all Zambian governmental health facilities, university staff, and libraries.

The journal participates in the AJoL group of journals, which provides great exposure and has resulted in submissions from South & West Africa. However there are technical challenges that have affected AJOL that have hampered communication with authors through this site.

Kachimba noted that the journal has a formal agreement with the Association to receive 5% of association subscription contributions. He is currently in discussions with Vanderbilt Global Health Division on a formal partnership to assist with submissions and printing costs.

Accomplishments of this past year include a strengthened review process; a larger database of reviewers; a redefinition of the roles of the associate editors and editorial board; and establishment of a formal approach to contacting principal research units in Zambia. Other accomplishments have been to enhancement of the visibility of the journal through its website and AJoL and the establishment of editorial office with improved ICT capability.

Over the period of 2006 to 2009, the number of submissions has increased from 7 articles (6 original articles and 1 review article) in 2006 to 35 articles (28 original articles, 4 review articles, and 3 case reports) in 2009. The journal now has 47 reviewers with 7 of these from other countries and in 2009 used 29 of the reviewers. The time from submission to first action was on the average of 2 days; submission to acceptance averaged 30 days; and submission to publication averaged 90 days.

The journal has seen improvements in a few areas. Invited editorialists (e.g. Dutch editorialist on Malaria treatment, CDC editorialist on MDR TB upsurge) have written articles that have received wide circulation. There has also been an increase in number of original works published and there has been a noticeable improvement in the quality of the copy-editing.

Kachimba has sought an expanded role of the local librarians. A librarian is represented at the associate editor level. They help with the journal's push to achieve indexing in international databases. A librarian assists in maintaining the journal's website. A librarian has also run database search workshops in 2008.

Outreach activities included courting authors on a one-on-one basis; holding writers' workshops; and delivering print journals to all practicing physicians; and

visits to research institutes to discuss publishing in the journal. Plans are being made to reach out to local news media to promote the journal.

In regard to interaction with its international partner, exchange visits have been made and a writers' workshop held. Kachimba hopes to further expand interactions in the future.

Challenges facing the journal include attracting higher quality manuscripts; achieving Medline indexing; earning a respectable status among academics in Zambia and the region; and acquiring financial sustainability.

**Plans for 2010 - 2011 Workshops and Follow-up** – Chiwoza Bandawe  
Bandawe led a discussion on which workshops and training are required for the upcoming year. He also posed the question of how partner journals can best coordinate their workshops and training needs.

The editors noted the need for training for authors, peer reviewers, researchers as well as in web site management, journal sustainability, journal visibility, and journal management. They also would like to see the workshops expanded to include non-AJPP journals.

Although many workshop topics were raised it became clear that each journal would have to evaluate its own changing needs. After accessing their needs, the editors would then make the decision to organize the AJPP workshops. For most AJPP workshops, the sponsoring journal would offer to support participants from other AJPP journals and, if funds were available, expand to FAME members.

Goehl again mentioned the willingness of EHP to provide funds to expand AJPP workshops.

**AJPP Discussion of AJPP Evaluation Report** – David Ofori-Adjei  
Ofori-Adjei led a point-by-point discussion of the 2009 evaluation report that had been prepared by Sara Schroter of the BMJ.

Discrepancies in the document were, for the most part, minor and some reflecting updates since the evaluation was conducted, but they will be corrected by Goehl and a final version posted on the AJPP website.

The editors and the AJPP sponsors noted the value of these evaluation reports and Schroter will again be asked to complete another evaluation. To bring the evaluation reports in sync with the usual journal-reporting year, the next evaluation report will be requested for completion in early 2011.

Goehl said that he would be sending the annual survey this summer to the journals partners to update their journals' status.

**Major challenges for Journal Partners in 2010 – John S. Kachimba**

Kachimba asked each editor to enumerate major issues they need to address. All editors identified challenges that they feel are priorities.

Ofori-Adjei - GMJ

- Get into MEDLINE
- Improve workflow
- Cut down on backload

Haileamlak - EJHS

- Improve visibility – indexing
- Build capacity – training, administrative staff
- Improve workflow

Bandawe - MMJ

- Improve peer review process
- Improve manuscript flow
- Appoint business manager/managing editor
- Make journal more visible in country by promoting to nurses, social science, & medical historians

Tumwine - AHS

- Make new team more functional and efficient
- Build stable financial base – sustainability model
- Training in order to widen author and reviewer base

Kachimba - MJZ

- Training in order to widen author and reviewer base
- Get indexed
- Improve visibility in country and attract scientific community
- Financial sustainability

Sidibe - MM

- More details on website traffic
- Workshop on e-publication
- On line submission

During the discussions, several of the editors noted the need for updated hardware and software. Julia suggested that the editors include the needs in their budgets and she could then arrange for technical experts to look over the requests to see if the experts have ideas about better deals or better equipment that the editors might not know about, etc.

The editors of journals that had institutional support, discussed how best to interact with their supporting institutions and at the same time maintain editorial independence.

Publishing of special issues has become an important source of revenue for some AJPP journals. However, maintaining editorial independence was also an issue that was discussed in relationship to handling these special issues.

**Future Directions and Recommendations for 2010** – Abraham Haileamlak  
Editors discussed how their journals could best be served by participation in the AJPP. In addition to the financial support, the editors agreed that the AJPP has allowed for greater contact with the broader scientific publishing community.

The editors asked about the status of the ISI applications. Flanagin informed the editors of the decisions reached by ISI and plans for future actions. Flanagin agreed to follow-up with ISI, after June JCR release, to appeal decisions on inclusion of AJPP journals and get guidance on re-application process and timing. She will then contact each editor, not yet included in ISI, for discussion about decision and plans for appeal/re-application. [Note: since the meeting, we have been informed that *African Health Sciences* has been accepted into ISI for indexing.]

The editors considered the African Index Medicus to be an important vehicle for dissemination of information published by their journals. Kachimba and Haileamlak will contact AIM concerning requirements for inclusion of all AJPP journals.

The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) is an organization that provides invaluable information for journal editors. Three AJPP journals are not currently members. Kachimba, Sidibe, and Tumwine plan to apply for membership in COPE.

Tumwine will provide contact information to all editors for HINARI and guidance for asking for inclusion in HINARI.

There was general agreement that publishing review articles enhance the value of scientific journals. Laine has held workshops on writing review articles and offered to provide guidance on how to write review articles to AJPP editors. Kleinert said that she would provide materials for how to write review articles and other articles to AJPP editors. This information will be placed on the AJPP website.

### **Summary** – Julia Royall

Royall began her summary by quoting two of our AJPP sage editors, Tumwine and Sidibe, who commented on journal visibility. Tumwine said, “If people don’t know

we exist, they'll think we are dead.” Also, Sidibe said he uses his journal to “Bring to you in your home what is done in Mali.”

She noted that she has observed the AJPP editors moving undaunted from strength to strength. The editors are past the beginning bumps, technical problems, and expansion issues. The AHS celebration of their 10<sup>th</sup> year of publishing and the rise from near termination of MJZ demonstrate the impact of the editors' dedicated efforts. And the journals can be justly proud of their achievement of indexing in MEDLINE, archival inclusion of journal content in PubMed. Further evidence of the maturation of the journals is their acceptance into organization such as AJOL, AIM, HINARI, COPE, and ISI.

The editors have also made major strides in becoming leaders within their own countries as well as in their regions. South – south mentoring, another goal of the AJPP, has become more and more of a reality.

The four mini-workshops (journal sustainability, XML conversions, Manuscript Central and FAME) held during the first afternoon of the meeting were very useful to the participants. Sustainability was the first workshop and proved to be a topic that came up frequently during the meeting. By the end of the meeting, the editors started to think of sustainability challenges in different ways and were very open to embracing innovation. Manuscript handling using ScholarOne Manuscripts has proved to be a major advance for the journals that currently use the system. XML conversions by SPi have allowed the journals to improve timeliness of publication. Based on the enthusiasm for FAME that was expressed by the editors, the future development of FAME looks bright.

The reports from the editors were concise and informative outlining the structure, accomplishments, and challenges that their journals faced. They identified the evolution of journals' content that now includes editorials, research/clinical articles, reviews, case reports, special issues, and news. The editors noted the potential problems associated with the publication of special issues, which could impact editorial control. The editors also discussed the important topic of journal independence in regard to relationships with universities and associations.

The editors acknowledged the important role that librarians could make to their journals and discussed how they had begun to utilize their services. One area of expertise that was identified was in the area of searching databases. Several journals have engaged librarians as members of their editorial board.

Training was again identified as a critical area of need. Many topics for workshops were mentioned such as writing review articles and case reports; e-publishing

perhaps handled by webinars, enhancement of journal visibility, database searching, peer review workshop, data analysis, training in statistics (enough to review articles using programs available online), and publication ethics (distance learning courses are available). However, the editors concluded that each journal would have to evaluate its own changing needs and then plan the workshops to address their specific training requirements. In most cases, the workshops would be made available to all AJPP editors and expanded to include FAME members when possible.

The annual evaluation report is an important vehicle to demonstrate progress of the partnership. However, the timing of the report will be changed to coincide with the calendar year.

Survey of authors and reviewers was also an area of need. Sara Schroter will be asked to put evaluation information on the AJPP website. Use of the free service Survey Monkey was also mentioned.

Common challenges facing the journals include manuscript quality, workflow, visibility, leadership succession, sustainability, language, printing, and ePublishing. Expanding readership was also an area of interest. Because of the shortage of medical doctors, other medical staff often provide medical services. The challenge is to make the journals appealing to other medically trained providers, such as nurses. Possible approaches including promoting the journals to other health science related departments within universities and colleges. Bringing representatives of those groups onto editorial board and commissioning articles from this group could help.

The editors discussed how AJPP could help them reach their goals. One possibility was proving training for the editors on finding alternate sources of funding, such as from the foundations (for example, Google and Elsevier Foundations). Fogarty might also be able to provide ideas and information..

The editors expressed the feeling that the annual meetings were very useful and would like to see them continued. They also commented that the AJPP is meeting its objectives. This appreciation for the partnership was clear from the comments of the editors at the end of the meeting. Tumwine commented that, "AJPP has been a TRUE partnership. Challenges are solvable, but we can only solve them together. We do it by keeping the philosophy of flexibility, tailored to partners, and respect for individualism, diversity and strength it is giving us." Kachmiba stated that, "Keeping the journal alive, have it known and seen. How best to utilize partnership." Sidibe said, "For us, the goal is to prove every day, every year that the partnership is very necessary for our journal." Bandawe added, "The

partnership is not just about the journals but reaching the entire scientific communities in the countries. It is about promoting and strengthening the scientific participation, and spreading out through the training of trainers. We can then proudly be part of the international scientific community. The outcome will be improvement of scientific writing and contribution on the continent.”

From Royall’s viewpoint, exciting developments of this past year included an increase in the number of quality articles published, using CME credit for publishing in journals, CPD credits to authors and reviewers, which they would need for recertification. Institutions are now using publication in AJPP journals as part of the basis for promotion. She was very pleased to see workshops expanding from internal events to regional events. In many cases, the workshops are now locally led as well as bringing in partners and outside experts. She has also noticed an expanded effort to engage librarians, such as three journals now including librarians on their editorial boards.

At the end of her comments, Royall again thanked the partners for their dedication and hard work on the project. She assured the participants that the funding agencies are very pleased with the success of the program.

As a final note, Goehl announced that the next CSE meeting will be held from April 29-May 3 in Baltimore. The AJPP meeting will start in the afternoon of May 3 and end on May 4 with a possible visit to NLM in Bethesda, Maryland.

Action Item	Person(s) responsible	Status	Comments
1) Ask CrossRef about waiving membership and per doi fees for 6 AJPP journals	Flanagin, Bisonette	Open	
2) Summarize and confirm workflow steps for XML conversion and delivery of files and metadata to/from Spi and journals, PubMedCentral, PubMed, AJoL	Parker (lead), Flanagin, Auston, Bandawe, Haileamlak, Kachimba, Ofori-Adjei, Sidibe, Tumwine,	Ongoing	5/19 Parker has begun this process
3) Provide contact information for new contact person (Virgil Sangalang) for Spi to	Parker (lead), Bandawe, Haileamlak, Kachimba, Ofori-Adjei, Sidibe,	Ongoing	5/19 Parker has introduced Virgil Sangalang to the editors and

editors and confirm contact information for relevant staff for each journal	Tumwine,		requested contact information for each journal
4) Post instructions for applying to PubMed to the AJPP Web site	Royall	Completed	Can we add guidance/tips from partnership editors?
5) Post link for instructions to getting included in PubMed Central	Auston	Open	
6) Provide contact information for PubMed Central to Parker	Auston	Open	
7) Provide name of AJoL contact to Parker and others to investigate sending files to AJoL.	Kachimba Parker (lead),	Done	
8) Investigate what is needed to send files to AJoL as part of Spi conversion	Bandawe, Haileamlak, Kachimba, Ofori-Adjei, Sidibe, Tumwine,	Open	
9) Ask CMAJ about availability of translated content/instructions of Manuscript Central for replication and use by Mali Medical	Morrissey	Open	
10) Set up Webex follow-up/users' group meeting with editors and appropriate journal staff to continue training and discussion of Manuscript Central functions and features	Bisonette	Open	
11) Provide contact information to editors of contact information for Scholar One staff who	Bisonette	Open	

support the AJPP

12) Consider whether Ithenticate will work for AJPP editors	Bisonette	Open
13) Provide guidance on common doi structure to AJPP editors	Flanagin	Open
14) Provide estimate of in-kind costs of services provided by Spi to Goehl	Parker	Open
15) Provide estimate of in-kind costs of services provided by Scholar One/Thomson Reuters to Goehl	Bisonette	Open
16) Provide follow-up direction to AJPP editors on sustainability discussion led by Auston	Auston	Open
17) Get the word out about AJPP	All partners	Open
18) Write updates on AJPP for CSE e-mail alert and Science Editor	Goehl, Flanagin	Open
19) Check financial spreadsheets Goehl provided to editors for accuracy and provide feedback to Goehl	Bandawe, Haileamlak, Kachimba, Ofori-Adjei, Sidibe, Tumwine,	Open
20) Look into future development of AJPP Web site	Goehl, Royall	Open
21) Post guidance for workshop summary reports to AJPP Website	Royall, Flanagin	Open
22) Follow guidance for workshop summary reports and submit reports within 30 days of workshop	Bandawe, Haileamlak, Kachimba, Ofori-Adjei, Sidibe, Tumwine,	Ongoing

23) Consider making use of people and resources recommended by Royall to help with relevant workshops (ie, NLM network of librarians in Africa)	Bandawe, Haileamlak, Kachimba, Ofori-Adjei, Sidibe, Tumwine,	Ongoing
24) Complete application for consideration in PubMed	Ofori-Adjei	Ongoing
25) Ask Schroter if available to complete another evaluation, with the current evaluation as a base living document that needs updating, in January 2011 (to permit data from calendar year 2010 to be included)	Goehl (lead), Flanagin	Open
26) Provide contact information to all editors for HINARI and guidance for asking for inclusion in HINARI	Tumwine	Open
27) Provide copies of May 19 presentations to Royall for posting in AJPP Web site	Bandawe, Haileamlak, Kachimba, Ofori-Adjei, Sidibe, Tumwine,	Completed
28) Follow-up with ISI, after June JCR release, to appeal decisions on inclusion of AJPP journals and get guidance on re-application process and timing	Flanagin, Bandawe, Haileamlak, Kachimba, Ofori-Adjei, Sidibe, Tumwine,	Open
29) Contact each editor not yet included in ISI for discussion about decision and plans for appeal/re-application	Flanagin	Open
30) Contact African Index Medicus to get	Kachimba, Amlak	Open

information on including all AJPP journals

31) Apply for membership in COPE	Kachimba, Sidibe, Tumwine	Open	Is MMJ a member of COPE?
32) Provide guidance on how to write review articles to AJPP editors	Laine	Open	
33) Provide materials for how to write review articles and other articles to AJPP editors and post on AJPP website.	Kleinert, Royall	Open	
34) Ask if there is a function in Production Center to send e-mail notice to authors whose articles have been published (as opposed to accepted) and when available online with URL	Flanagin to Bisonnette	Done	Awaiting reply from Bisonnette
35) Send summary of discussion and plan for future AJPP workshops to all	Bandawe	Open	
36) Provide names and description or roles/job descriptions for managing editor/business manager/desk editor to Goehl/Royall and all editors for posting on AJPP site	Bandawe, Haileamlak, Kachimba, Ofori-Adjei, Sidibe, Tumwine,, Royall	Open	
37) Ask for template of surveys for authors and readers, and post on AJPP site	Flanagin, Schroter, Royall	Open	
38) Follow-up with additional directions for the editors on how to complete the AJPP	Auston		

financial needs forms.

39) Provide the cost estimates for next year's CSE and AJPP annual meetings to Auston.

Goehl

40) Help the editors to identify potential funders but the AJPP editors would write the proposal.

Loder, Kleinert

41) Provide name and job descriptions for the managing editor/business manage/desk editor to Goehl for posting on AJPP website.

Bandawe,  
Haileamlak, Kachimba,  
Ofori-Adjei, Sidibe,  
Tumwine, Royall

42) Send the annual survey this summer to the journals partners to update their journals' status.

Goehl

43) Provide receipts to Goehl for activities conducted from July 2009 to end of June 2010 as soon as AJPP supported activities are completed

Bandawe,  
Haileamlak, Kachimba,  
Ofori-Adjei, Sidibe,  
Tumwine

44) Provide survey templates for authors and reader and post on AJPP site.

Schroter, Royall