Journal of Public Health in Developing Countries: Launch of a Unique Journal

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ABSTRACT

The Journal of Public Health in Developing Countries (JPHDC) is a non-profit, peer-reviewed, open-access, international, scientific journal that publishes research in all areas of public health. JPHDC seeks to promote intellectual interactions among scholars and practitioners from the developing countries or those who are involved in research studies conducted in the developing countries. The ultimate aim of these intellectual interactions is to contribute to the development and strengthening of the public health field and to promote wider communication among the public health professionals around the world. This inaugural editorial provides an overview of the journal’s mission and its key features.

EDITORIAL

After many months of preparation, I am excited about launching the first issue of the Journal of Public Health in Developing Countries (JPHDC), and look forward to many more issues in the future. The journal offers an innovative solution to a long standing problem of publication of research for scientists in the developing countries.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to share with you the mission of the new journal, along with its key features.

Aim and Scope of the Journal

JPHDC is a non-profit, peer-reviewed, open-access, international, scientific journal that publishes research in all areas of public health. The journal has a special focus on the social determinants of health; the environmental, behavioural, and occupational correlates of health and disease; and the impact of health policies, practices and interventions on the community. JPHDC will also publish occasional special editions concentrating on specific topics or events regarding public health.

JPHDC’s mission is to:

- Facilitate the global dissemination of high-quality public health research;
- Promote international dialogue and collaboration on health issues; and
- Expand the understanding of public health, especially in the developing countries.

To achieve its mission, JPHDC seeks to promote intellectual interactions among scholars and practitioners from the developing countries or those who are involved in research studies conducted in the developing countries.

The ultimate aim of these intellectual interactions is to contribute to the development and strengthening of the public health field and to promote wider communication among the public health professionals around the world.

Benefits of Publishing in JPHDC

All journals strive for quality in their publications. To attract the publications, JPHDC is distinguished by:

Faster publication online: JPHDC operates an online submission system for manuscripts, speeding up the submission and refereeing process. Our online system also allows authors to view the status of their submitted articles.

Quality and high standard of peer-review: JPHDC has a high standard of peer-review with strong Editorial Board who helps with policy and decision-making and in some cases with choosing referees and reviewing manuscripts.

Wide readership: JPHDC is available online adding speed and visibility to authors’ research papers. Our open-access policy ensures that anyone with online access can read the articles.

Free e-mail alerts: JPHDC reaches a diverse range of scientific community who have signed up for free e-alerts of the table of contents of the journal, ensuring additional exposure for authors.

Authors retain copyright under a Creative Commons license: This means that articles can be freely redistributed and reused as long as the article is correctly attributed. For example, a published article can be posted on a personal or institutional homepage, emailed to friends and colleagues, printed and sent to people, included in course-packs, quoted in the press, translated and further distributed as often and widely as possible. This enables far greater distribution of an author’s work than the traditional subscription-based publishing model.

No space constraints: Publishing online means unlimited space for figures, and extensive data.

Promotion of articles: Articles are widely promoted through email updates, table of contents, email alerts, and postings on JPHDC homepage - all resulting in increasing levels of access for each article. The authors can also promote their articles via their own email lists, online links, listserves, distribution at conferences, and any other innovative techniques they wish to adopt.
We hope that our emphasis on quality in our publications, our timely and collaborative approach to reviewing, and the open-access publication of the work will attract high-quality submissions from the international public health community.

**Subject Areas**

JPHDC particularly welcomes research in the following areas (the list is neither exhaustive, nor rank-ordered):

- General Public Health
- Epidemiology of Non-communicable and Communicable Diseases
- Disease Prevention
- Public Health Genetics and Genetic Epidemiology
- Community Health Improvement and Prevention Programmes
- Hospital and Community Infection Prevention and Control, and Health Surveillance
- Population Healthcare Needs Assessment
- Health Intelligence
- Healthcare Commissioning
- Quality of Healthcare
- Population Health Inequalities
- Health Service Evaluation
- Environmental, Chemical, and Occupational Hazards in the Community
- Health Screening
- Health Education and Promotion
- Health Behavioural Changes and Risky Health Behaviours

**Types of Articles accepted for Publication**

The journal publishes: Original research, Reviews, Technical notes, Study protocols, as well as a broad range of materials in the form of Editorials, Correspondence, Opinion, Book reviews, Theses abstracts, and Comments on prior papers in the JPHDC.

JPHDC abides by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) to ensure that the journal's editorial processes are consistent with the recognised best practice in scholarly publishing.

JPHDC is currently being indexed in major indexing services, the details of which are available on the website. More organisations are being added as we speak!

**Help Us to Improve the Journal**

Quite naturally, the journal's first years will be characterised by a fair amount of experimentation, and there are likely to be both successes and mistakes along the way. I am eager to hear your suggestions and feedback, particularly at this formative stage. Also, please let me know which features you would like to be introduced and have the highest priority for you. Please feel free to write to me at feedback@jphdc.org.

**Words of Thanks**

It is a privilege for me to work alongside an exceptional group of editors, all of whom have selflessly agreed to devote their expertise and their precious time to making JPHDC one of the best journals publishing public health research. I will continue to evolve the editorial board in order for the journal to remain relevant and embrace new and emerging trends quickly, while maintaining strength in the traditional areas.

My sincere thanks go to all the authors who shared their research in this inaugural issue. Without them, the debut of this journal would not have been possible.

JPHDC has also been fortunate to have highly qualified public health professionals willing to be the reviewers, and I thank all of them who peer-reviewed articles for this inaugural issue.

**Concluding Remarks**

I sincerely look forward to and warmly welcome the active participation of the public health professionals in the development of this journal. With your support as authors, reviewers, and editors, I see very bright prospects for the JPHDC to serve public health science and the scientific community.

I hope you enjoy reading the articles in this issue as much as I did, and I cordially invite you to consider this journal as an outlet for your scientific endeavours.