

From the Editorial Bench

April 25, 2019.

I write to thank Medical Laboratory Scientists that responded to the clarion call in terms of submission of their valuable research articles for peer review and consideration. There was a tremendous improvement in the number of manuscripts we received compared to the last quarter of 2018, whereby we published only 1 article after almost 10 years of visible inactivity.

In this volume 29, No.1, we are grateful to our esteemed reviewers who found seven (7) manuscripts worthy of publication. Other manuscripts received from January to April 2019 that are not published in this volume, are either rejected as recommended by the reviewers or still undergoing peer review.

The article from **Okoli *et al.***, of the Department of Medical Laboratory Science, Nnamdi Azikiwe University was very topical, informative, and I chose it as the cover page. Okoli *et al.*, used the state-of-the-art molecular techniques, utilizing 16S rRNA metagenomics and sequencing by synthesis to study the microbiome composition of the vagina and the gut of pre-menopausal women diagnosed with Bacterial Vaginosis (BV). They also determined metabolic functional predictions *in silico* with the 16S rRNA dataset. It is worrisome that majority of clinicians do not send women for BV investigation and when they do, Medical Laboratory Scientists rely only on Gram stain technique and inadequate culture methods that cannot detect organisms associated with BV. Metagenomics with 16S rRNA is now the Gold-Standard for detection and quantitative abundance of the presence of all types of bacteria in a specimen.

Ibeh and Ezike reported the concentrations of D-dimer and fibrinogen differences between the diabetic and control groups, which may contribute to an increased prevalence of hypercoagulability in DM patients.

Ezeugwunne *et al.*, from Nnamdi Azikiwe University showed a significant reduction in the serum level of Apolipoproteins (Apo A2, Apo B, Apo C3, Apo E) and a significant increase in levels of HDL and CD4 counts respectively in symptomatic HIV subjects as anti-retro-viral therapy lengthened, thereby suggesting improved cardiac function. **Adeleke and Emokpae** from the Department of Medical Laboratory Science, University of Benin, demonstrated that microalbuminuria was significantly higher ($p < 0.001$) in HIV positive than HIV negative subjects but the renal function markers of those HIV-positive subjects on HAART treatment were not adversely affected. **Tukur *et al.***, from Amino Kano Teaching Hospital, Kano, demonstrated that the Line Probe Assay (MTBDRplus) compared to Proportional Method performed very high in the detection of Rifampicin resistance in Mycobacterium Tuberculosis more than Isoniazid resistance and MDR-TB.

We welcome on board **Dr. Isaac Aliche** as a member of the editorial team. Dr. Aliche is a seasoned, tested and grounded in the practise and examination of professional certification in Medical Laboratory Science in Alberta, Canada. He will bring his wealth of knowledge in Global Health Policy and Management into the editorial process.

Last but not the least, the editorial board congratulates **Dr. Kingsley Anukam** as he has secured a Microbiome Research Grant from uBIOME Inc. USA, for the Department of Medical Laboratory Science, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Nigeria. The grant is to enable the research team investigate the effects of probiotics on the urinary tract microbiome and to use the 16S rRNA metagenomics with Illumina next generation sequencing platforms to determine the urinary tract microbiome compositions in culture positive and culture negative urine samples.

Enjoy the articles as you read. If you have any question or clarification on the published articles, feel free to contact the respective corresponding authors.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kingsley C Anukam,

Chief editor.

Journal of Medical Laboratory Science.