Introducing the new JOECSA editorial board

In this issue, we are pleased to introduce the new JOECSA editorial board. The board was selected following an elaborate process that took over one year. It included a call for expression of interest from the wider COECSA community, training of the new board and updating of the submission and review systems.

A key change in the operations of the journal is the digital migration onto an automated online journal management system. The new board works closely with the Eye Journal editorial board as part of the existing COECSA-RCOphth LINKS partnership. Below is a list of the board members.

Dr. Simon Arunga trained as an ophthalmologist in Uganda in 2014. He went on to do his PhD at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London, UK. His thesis was titled “Epidemiology of Microbial Keratitis in Southwestern Uganda”. He works as a clinical lecturer and residency training coordinator at Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda. He is also honorary visiting lecturer at the International Centre for Eye Health, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London, UK. His research interest includes cornea, glaucoma, and community health with a particular interest on primary eye care. His current cornea research is on a series of Randomized Controlled Trials investigating prevention strategies and optimization of treatments for microbial Keratitis in Uganda. Dr Arunga also works as the Lions Clubs International Foundation Technical Advisor for Anglophone Africa.

Dr. Emmanuel Muindi is a consultant ophthalmologist with more than 12 years’ experience as an eye specialist and 6 years’ experience as a sub-specialist in oculoplastics & orbit from LV Prasad Eye Institute and Aravind Eye Hospital Systems, India. He graduated as a medical doctor at Moi University in 2001, and as an ophthalmologist from the University of Nairobi in 2007. He is an International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) Fellow and a Fellow of the College of Ophthalmologists of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa, (COECSA). He has published widely in the area of ophthalmology and presented many papers in seminars and conferences.

Dr. Consity Mwale has been working with the Ministry of Health in Zambia since 2002. Consity currently works as provincial health director for Lusaka province and is responsible for coordinating and provision of quality health care services in both public and private health facilities. In this regard, Consity passionately engages in providing technical support and mentorship for leadership and governance thereby contributing positively to health systems strengthening. Consity also lectures at the University of Zambia and Levy Mwanawasa Medical University and has great interest in research. Consity is also an executive committee member of ECSA HC and COECSA.

Dr. Lucy Njambi is a consultant ophthalmologist and a lecturer at the Department of Ophthalmology, University of Nairobi, Kenya since 2012. She is also an ICO fellow, Paediatrics Ophthalmology and Strabismus Fellow (CCBRT, Tanzania), Retinoblastoma Fellow- Sick Kids Hospital (Toronto, Canada). Lucy has interest in research and has several publications particularly in paediatrics ophthalmology. She has served COECSA in other capacities, previously as a member of the Scientific and Research Committee and currently as a member of the Training of Trainers programme.
Dr. Egide Gisagara is an ophthalmologist from Rwanda, trained in Uganda in 2015 and an MSc course addition from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (UK). He has worked under Ministry of Health and University of Rwanda, closely collaborated with Fred Hollows Foundation, Vision for a Nation and One Sight. Currently, he is a consultant ophthalmologist and lecturer/visiting faculty member at University Teaching Hospital of Kigali (CHUK) and University of Rwanda/Rwanda International Institute of Ophthalmology (RIIO) respectively. He has special interest in clinical work, research and teaching.

Dr. Anne Ampaire Musika is an ophthalmologist since 2004, clinical epidemiologist/biostatistician and lecturer since 2014 at Makerere University College of Health Sciences. She is an Orbit and Oculoplastics surgeon and ocular oncologist at Mulago National Referral Hospital. Anne is the coordinator for the ICO exams in Uganda and is a member of the School of Medicine Research Ethics Committee (Makerere University). Anne’s research interests include orbital tumors, ocular TB and HIV, glaucoma, residency training curriculum, diabetic retinopathy, and ocular trauma. She has participated in clinical trials for ocular safety of therapy for multidrug resistance TB and is currently a co-investigator on ocular malignancies with Aids Malignancy Consortium.

Dr. Alemayehu Woldeyes is a consultant ophthalmologist, (2008, AAU, Ethiopia) subspecialist on community eye health (2012, LSHTM, UK), certified RAAB (Blindness survey) trainer (2015, IAPB, UK), trained in Medical retina (2010, ICO, Finland). He got ICO and LSHTM fellowships and others. He works as a clinician (Ras Desta Hospital), clinical supervisor, lecturer (Private medical colleges), global technical advisor (Sightsavers) and is involved in charity works (Lions, Rotary international, VCS).

Dr. Sarah Sitati is a Paediatric Ophthalmologist and Squint specialist working at the Kenyatta National Hospital. She completed her MMed training at the University of Nairobi, Kenya, followed by a Paediatric Ophthalmology Fellowship in the US. She is the Chair of the Retinopathy of Prematurity working group in Kenya, that published national guidelines for screening and management of ROP in Kenya. Dr. Sitati has over ten years’ experience in the management of paediatric and adult cataract, ocular trauma and squints. She has published research papers in local and regional journals and given several presentations in regional and international conferences. She is the current treasurer of COECSA.
Dr. Teddy Kwaga completed her training as an Ophthalmologist in Uganda in 2021. She is currently working as an Ophthalmologist at Ruharo Eye Centre, Uganda. Her interests include glaucoma, cornea and community health. Dr. Kwaga works also as a project coordinator for the Lions Comprehensive Eye Care Project for Kigezi in Uganda.

The board is supported by an admin secretariat which includes Mr. Josiah Onyango, CEO of COECSA, Ms. Annette Abuya the journal administrator and Eng. Felix Obare the journal IT specialist.

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