

**EDITORIAL COMMENT**

**HEALTH ESTABLISHMENTS: THE PAUCITY OF EFFECTIVE LABORATORY RESEARCH**

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It is a well known fact that effective patient management and recovery, depends not only on the therapeutic strategies employed, but also the specificity and efficacy of such strategies based on accurate laboratory findings. Unfortunately, there are concerns that medical laboratory investigations in various Nigerian health establishments are not properly conducted as some relevant revelations from countless investigations are ignored.

Imaging an instance whereby a blood sample is being examined for malaria parasite (MP) and in the course of the investigation, the scientist detects a rare parasite and then ignores it because he/she is concerned with MP only. This implies therefore, that beyond routine laboratory duties, there is the research aspect of laboratory medicine and practice which must not be ignored.

Of course, several human samples like blood, urine, stool, tissue biopsies, sputum, semen, cerebrospinal fluids, etc., are collected for laboratory investigations daily. These samples collected (whether in sterile condition or not), are usually subjected to several standardized and tested laboratory procedures which sometimes, involves the use of reagents, media, kits, stripes etc, that have been carefully studied, experimented upon, and approved for clinical laboratory applications; further confirming the importance of research in laboratory medicine and practice.

Though ethical issues must not be ignored, one might wonder however, what fate had befalling various rare and relevant epidemiological revelations about certain diseases and ailments scientists come across daily in the course of performing their routine duties. The query is: beyond routine laboratory investigations, are laboratory scientists involved in active research?

It is rather disheartening to disclose that despite the volume of samples collected from patients daily, little is being done on the aspect of comparative analysis/evaluation of laboratory results, associated complications, incidence/prevalence and patient-clinical management strategies/therapeutic choices;

especially for the sake of the next patient with similar conditions.

It is high time medical scientists understood squarely, that the importance and motive behind improvements achieved over the years in laboratory medicine, is to make laboratory investigations more accurate, effective, less time consuming, and 'reproductive', such that patients on emergency can quickly be attended to. Sincerely, it is worrisome to admit the lack of effective research in Nigerian health establishments; be it private or government owned.

Interestingly, the Innovative Science Research Foundation (ISREF) opines that periodic comparative investigations on patient's illnesses along the lines listed above would definitely improve laboratory diagnosis and patient's management/therapeutic strategies. ISREF also challenges research ethical committees to encourage protocol submission for approval and be more proactive when protocols are submitted to the committee by scientists.

Anthonio Research Publications therefore, encourages all health workers directly involved in patients management to publish any rare observations as "case reports" or "communication/letter" in any of these journals endorsed by the Innovative Science Research Foundation (ISREF): **IJB AIR**, **IJHPR** and **IJCR**.

Such articles can be submitted via e-mail: [anthoservpub@yahoo.com](mailto:anthoservpub@yahoo.com) or [info@arpjournals.com](mailto:info@arpjournals.com) or [journals@arpjournals.com](mailto:journals@arpjournals.com), and can be accessed at [www.arpjournals.com](http://www.arpjournals.com); [www.anrescentpub.com](http://www.anrescentpub.com)