

Letter from the Executive Editor



It is my pleasure to introduce you to the June 2023 Public Health Review (PHR) issue. Since its inception in 2018, the PHR journal has borne on its wings the tenets that seek to bolster health equity. As the world evolves, so does the need for new information and the quest for knowledge in response to the inherent public and global health challenges, thus matching the demand for global health security. From time immemorial, science and technology keep evolving. Opportunities continue to meet needs. The ship of innovation keeps sailing into the ocean of endless possibilities. With this background, the PHR continues to thrive and grow as a hub for public health information. The PHR is improving!

To refine our delivery and improve our reach, we started publishing accepted articles online on a rolling basis, which we expect to benefit from early viewing, thereby adding to the body of knowledge and gaining early citations. We hope this update to our process encourages you and others to continue to consider publishing with us as we publish peer-reviewed articles at no cost to the authors.

This June 2023 issue is made possible by astute and diverse authors with valuable contributions, including rich content focusing on COVID-19 vaccinations, drive-through clinics, empowering nurses, and advancing health equity. The selfless service of our reviewers is worthy of note. To appreciate our reviewers' efforts, we will start sending peer review certificates to our reviewers who participate in peer reviews, including the number of reviews submitted at the end of the year. To ensure our reviewers' service is duly recognized, we shall publish their names each year following due consent.

One research article in this issue by Devin Graham, "The role of trust, hesitancy, and personal autonomy on COVID-19 vaccination behavior," explores some factors that may contribute to COVID-19 vaccine behaviors in the United States. While comparing vaccinated to unvaccinated groups, Graham pointed out that being rich in autonomous motivation and trust are essential to accepting the COVID-19 vaccine, thereby calling for more research investigating public health messaging.

Two opinion pieces focus on advancing health equity. The paper by Race Creeden, "Advancing health equity means banning PFAS...ASAP," examines some determinants of

population health as it relates to human exposure to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which disproportionately affects people of color and socioeconomically disadvantaged neighborhoods. Based on the poor health outcomes from environmental exposures to PFAS in the United States, Creeden recommends policy action that prohibits using PFAS. The article by Elizabeth Lees, "Why advancing health equity must include equitable regulations of social media," captures the population disproportionately targeted through social media in the United States. Due to the negative impacts social media has had on vulnerable and minority populations, Lees recommends regulating social media content.

Two papers focusing on public health practice were also included in this June 2023 issue. Estefanía Henríquez Luthje and co-authors, through their article, "Empowering nurses in rural eastern Dominican Republic: a pathway to improved quality care for maternal and neonatal patients through education," highlights the importance of recognizing the unique position of nurses in healthcare. Luthje et al. also underscore the importance of enabling nurses to fulfill their role and efforts toward improving maternal and child health in the Dominican Republic. An article by Luis Castro and co-authors, "Drive-thru clinic: a new model of healthcare delivery and future directions – a Lubbock, Texas experience," describes the essence of setting up drive-thru clinics to improve access and safety for vulnerable patients in underserved and rural communities.

This issue is undoubtedly loaded with relevant information for charting the future of healthcare in our ever-changing world. I congratulate you for reading this article, a testament to your quest for knowledge. I implore you to continue actively seeking to provide answers that we all need to create a world that we, including our contemporaries, our younger and older generations, and generations unborn, would be safe in and proud to be a part of.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Taiwo Aremu', with a horizontal line underneath.

Taiwo Aremu, MD, MPH
2023 Executive Editor, Public Health Review