



Editorial

# Resilience and Progress: The Sudan Journal of Medical Sciences in the Face of Adversity

Ahmed Mohamedani<sup>1</sup>, Malavika Suresh<sup>2</sup>, Abduelbagi Altayeb<sup>3</sup>, and Nazik Elmalaika Husain<sup>4\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Wad Medani College of Medical Sciences and Technology, Wad Medani, Sudan

<sup>2</sup>Knowledge E Publishing, Dubai, UAE

<sup>3</sup>East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, United Kingdom

<sup>4</sup>Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Omdurman Islamic University, Omdurman, Sudan

The *Sudan Journal of Medical Sciences (SJMS)* is the leading journal in the field of scholarly medical publishing in Sudan, publishing high-quality scholarly output that addresses the health challenges faced by the Sudanese health community and health professionals.

The purpose of this Scopus-indexed journal is to preserve and showcase the scholarly work of the Sudanese community that directly impacts patient health outcomes, analyses of systemic health challenges and solutions to address them, and the training strategies for health professionals pre- and post-graduate. This editorial highlights the progress of *SJMS* despite the challenges caused by the Sudan war.

Sudan is a developing country with a fragile infrastructure, that continuously faces unique challenges [1]. The ongoing conflict in Sudan, which began in the capital in mid-April 2023 and then spread to rural areas, led to a significant destruction of health infrastructure [2]. This background with a unique war situation had led to the massive loss of nearly most of its health infrastructures [1]. Medical schools and academic institutions within the affected areas were also destroyed [3].

Despite these challenges, *SJMS* continued to collect and publish the scholarly output of Sudanese health professionals, distributing it online via our open-access journal platform and preserving it for future generations in a long-term archive (Portico).

*SJMS* performed exceptionally well in 2023. Along with acceptance into Scopus, the article reads went up 85.7% (with over 195,000 reads in 2023 compared to 105,000 in 2022). Both PDF and HTML saw a significant increase in 2023. The majority of the article views were HTML, which accounted for over 164,400 article reads – a 110% increase from 2022. Meanwhile, PDF downloads increased by 15.7% during the same period to reach over 31,500. There is a disparity between the two but this is increasingly normal in academic research and reflects the benefits of HTML content and sharing functions for online platforms.

*SJMS* has an extremely diverse readership that continues to broaden. In 2023, visitors from 203 countries read 52 journal articles. As seen in the below graph, in 2023, the largest number of readers were based in the United States of America, with a substantial number of readers in countries across Africa.

Corresponding Author: Nazik Elmalaika Husain; email: medc.oiu@gmail.com, nazikelmalaika@oiu.edu.sd

Received: 21 June 2024

Accepted: 25 June 2024

Published: 28 June 2024

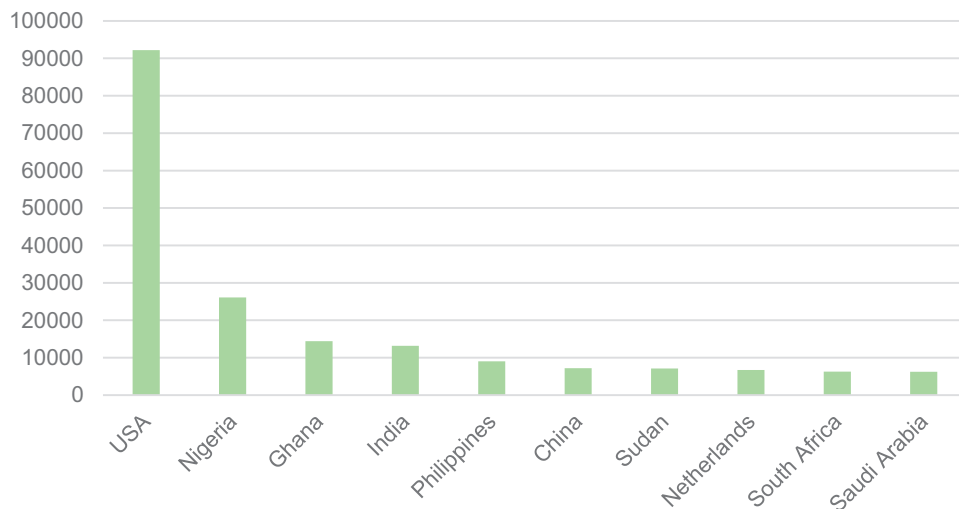
Production and Hosting by KnE Publishing

© Ahmed Mohamedani et al. This article is distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License](#), which permits unrestricted use and redistribution provided that the original author and source are credited.

Editor-in-Chief:

Prof. Nazik Elmalaika Obaid  
Seid Ahmed Husain, MD, M.Sc., MHPE, PhD.





**Figure 1:** Distribution of *Sudan Journal of Medical Sciences* readers in 2023 according to their countries.

We aim to continue to support and extend traffic in these areas and also further augment traffic in less well-represented areas such as the Middle East.

This growth is particularly significant as it occurred during a period when, along with much of the Sudanese community, *SJMS* had ongoing internet connectivity issues which impeded internal communications amongst the board, with the peer reviewers, and with the authors. This was intensified by the fact that many scholars were displaced to rural areas and some became refugees [4], but as we learned from the last crisis in COVID-19 and the Sudan revolution in 2019 we have already established a team outside Sudan, this kept us full functioning during this difficult time [5].

Another challenge was to meet our financial obligations to our publisher (Knowledge E) as Omdurman Islamic University's medical faculty was covering the article processing charges (APCs) for authors looking to publish their research in *SJMS*. We therefore wish to extend our thanks to the alumni of Omdurman Islamic University's medical faculty who generously supported *SJMS* through donations. We also want to thank the

Sudanese American Medical Association (SAMA) for their fundraising efforts. Both initiatives were a cornerstone in maintaining our operations and supporting our mission [6].

*SJMS* aims to represent the wide spectrum of the medical academic community in Sudan, so we issued an open call to scholars in Sudan and outside Sudan to join our platform as board members [7]. To get the attention of the junior academics, we have recently appointed a social editor to get in reach through these platforms and use visual abstracts for greater involvement with *SJMS*'s outputs [7].

*SJMS* has an ongoing open call for the Sudanese medical community to support our mission at present and to face these challenges.

## References

- [1] International Rescue Committee. (2023). *Ongoing conflict in Sudan is leading to the total collapse of its health system, warn IRC, BMA, and SDFHR*. <https://www.rescue.org/uk/press-release/ongoing-conflict-sudan-leading-total-collapse-its-health-system-warn-irc-bma-and>

- [2] Khogali, A., & Homeida, A. (2023). Impact of the 2023 armed conflict on Sudan's health-care system. *Public Health Challenges*, 2, e134. <https://doi.org/10.1002/puh2.134>
- [3] Mahgoub, E. A. A., Khairy, A., Osman, S., Haga, M. B., Osman, S. H. M., Abbu Hassan, A. M., Kamal, H., & Babiker, A. (2024). War and education: The attacks on medical schools amidst ongoing armed conflict, Sudan 2023. *Conflict and Health*, 18, 23. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13031-024-00584-7>
- [4] Hassan, M. H. A. (2023). Sudan's disastrous war – And the science it is imperilling. *Nature*, 623, 10. <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-023-03341-7>
- [5] Hemmeda, L., Ahmed, A. S., & Omer, M. (2023). Sudan's armed rivalry: A comment on the vulnerable healthcare system catastrophe. *Health Science Reports*, 6(8), e1517. <https://doi.org/10.1002/hsr2.1517>
- [6] Sudanese American Medical Association. (n.d.). *Supporting Sudan Journal of Medical Sciences*. <https://sama-sd.org/2024/03/24/supporting-sudan-journal-of-medical-sciences/>
- [7] KnE Publishing. (n.d.). *Sudan Journal of Medical Sciences – Join the board*. <https://knepublishing.com/index.php/SJMS/join-editorial-board>