

Medical Journal of Therapeutics Africa

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Malaria

Welcome from the Editor-in-Chief

Africa in the first decade of the 21st century is plagued with disease, of which the main killer is malaria. If malaria was a man and not a disease, it would be called an evil dictator and the deaths would be labeled genocide. So many deaths each year that the World Health Organization cannot estimate them, giving a figure of between 1 and 3 million world wide, of which the majority are in sub-Saharan Africa.

We are compiling the *Medical Journal of Therapeutics Africa* for readers in the United States and Africa. The medical journal articles are aimed at pharmaceutical industry professionals, the magazine articles are aimed at non-science trained professionals. We have a goal for a third audience, the general audience, and we are exploring broadcast video options for that. We wanted our first issue to explain what malaria is, who gets it, what other diseases have the same symptoms, what efforts are being made to prevent and treat it and why Americans should be appalled that it is a threat to a single life.

The pharmaceutical industry in the United States evolved from an unregulated industry in which snake oil was sold as a miracle cure into an industry regulated by acts of Congress which understand that medicines are so dangerous that anyone prescribing or dispensing them has to go through years of rigorous training.

Arguably the regulated pharmaceutical industry started in 1821, when University of the Sciences in Philadelphia (USP) was started (as the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy) by men of science who recognized the need to train professionals in scientific method to understand both how to deliver clean, consistent doses of therapies and the physiological effects of pills and potions given to heal. In 1997, when the Biomedical Writing programs were started, USP was the first to recognize medical writers as pharmaceutical industry professionals whose job is to compile and describe pharmaceutical data.

On behalf of the editors in the Biomedical Writing Programs, I welcome you to our pages. I invite all pharmaceutical industry professionals to contribute manuscripts and to work with us in our goal to establish of a regulated pharmaceutical industry throughout the continent of Africa.

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Billboard advertising anti-malaria mosquito nets in Botswana. Photo courtesy of Mark Travis.