

Editorial to JHIA Vol. 6 (2019) Issue 1

The previous issue of the Journal of Health Informatics in Africa (JHIA) consisted of the proceedings of the HELINA 2019 conference. This issue consists of three papers that were submitted directly to the journal and is thus an open-call issue. All papers in both open-call, as well as conference issues, are double blind peer reviewed before being accepted for publication. One paper in this issue was written in French. This is the particularity of JHIA.

The first paper evaluates the impact of an e-learning program using the Africa Build Portal on the level of knowledge of medical students in a Sub-Saharan African setting. This interventional study indicates that there is potential for e-learning as an effective method of training in Sub-Saharan African countries. The paper also identifies obstacles to e-learning that should be addressed.

The second paper investigates the role of interoperable health information systems in improving health outcomes in the Democratic Republic of Congo through a case study. It is found that the adoption of an interoperability model could improve the use and the quality of data by unifying the health information collected and maintained by many disparate individual organizations.

The paper in French investigates the perception of the use of information and communication technologies by health professionals in the Gabonese Republic within the framework of the eHealth Gabon project. The authors found that health professionals in Gabon generally have an average perception of the usefulness of the electronic patient record and the practice of telemedicine. They also indicate that basic computer literacy – including the use of internet and digital health solutions- are inadequate.

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