



Editorial

The journey begins: Promoting high quality research from Africa



There are no reasons why African universities should continue missing out in the global ranks of higher education while Africa has produced, and continues to produce some of the world's top research. While the quality and quantity of research output has been steadily increasing for the past few years, Africa generates less than 1% of the world's research output¹ with most of the output coming from about 10% of African countries.

The most established researchers publish outside the continent in recognized international journals, which usually based on funding sources, have specific context, priorities and focus fields of research. Perception wise, it makes it seem that research coming out of Africa is of poor quality or lacking global relevance of the type that is sought out by international journals. This would of course be wrong. The research of African scholars is of great global and local importance.

At the Next Einstein Forum (NEF), we believe that knowledge generated, for instance, in Kenya or in Rwanda, might be more relevant for Tanzania or Ethiopia than it would be for the rest of the world. Therefore, if the generated knowledge stays in a drawer because it is perceived or assessed as not being relevant for top international journals, we have many missed opportunities, both in advancing knowledge and the potential for societal transformation. Further, this results in insufficient effort to link research-based knowledge and evidence to policy, and a minimal utilization of research findings, the basis for sustainable innovation. Concretely speaking, we are missing our transition to a knowledge-led economy.

To respond to these important concerns, African universities, centres of excellence and research institutions must build competitive research capacity, one of the three pillars of the proposed Pan-African Framework for a Knowledge-led Economy published at the NEF Global Gathering 2018. One of the ways to do this is to actively promote access to research outputs through increased publication in peer-reviewed journals. This is the reason for *Scientific African*.

Scientific African is a flagship pan-African scientific journal that addresses the challenges listed above by providing authors a highly-visible journal that is peer reviewed, open access, and multidisciplinary.

This first edition of the *Scientific African Journal* (SAJ) is a special moment and a milestone for the Next Einstein Forum and the wider African Community of Scientists. Since the journal's launch at the NEF Global Gathering 2018 in March 2018 in Kigali, we are truly delighted by the number of high quality article submissions we have received, and the willingness of members of the African and global community of scientists to participate in reviewing the submitted articles thus ensuring the highest quality. We thank our esteemed group of editors led by Editor-in-Chief Dr. Benjamin Gyampoh.

Our ambition doesn't stop at publishing high quality research from Africa and by Africans. This is step one for us. By publishing multidisciplinary, often collaborative, research, we hope to increase intra-regional scientific collaboration and funding for multidisciplinary collaborative research. We hope this first edition will encourage members of the African scientific community to join us on this important journey.

The NEF Community of Scientists

¹ <https://www.elsevier.com/connect/africa-generates-less-than-1-of-the-worlds-research-data-analytics-can-change-that>.