

Editorial

¹**Collaboration in the Digital Era: An Impetus for Purposeful Medical Care and Research Sustainability**

Teamwork, which can be adapted to virtually all works of life has been of great concern to the developed world and even Africa as a continent. The positive gains of team work underscore the essence of collaboration which goes far beyond gathering of individual strengths for a goal.

Collaboration involves people who are the foundation of teams. They are made of different background, orientation, personality and expertise - more reason it is a driving force for a specified course. Common course in this regard could be any field, medicals inclusive.

ICT is the 21st century standard in medicals and healthcare. The digital transformation being experienced can be linked to the fourth industrial revolution which its essence is to simplify task and activities; a development marked by automation and artificial intelligence in a 'smart world'.

It is real that while man power will inevitably be affected so also the digital era breeds new set of opportunities that requires, in all entirety, brand new or an upgraded 'polished skills' to meet the demands of ICT in medical and healthcare delivery - tagged 'eHealth'.

WHO elaborated that it is *"...the cost-effective and secure use of information and communication technologies in support of the health and health-related fields including healthcare, health surveillance and health education, knowledge and research"*.

Electronic Health (eHealth) encompasses a wide variety of sub-domains of digital health such as: Electronic Health Records (EHR), Electronic Medical Records (EMR), Telehealth and telemedicine, Health IT systems, Consumer health IT data, Virtual healthcare, Mobile Health (mHealth) and Big data systems among others.

You will agree with me that to make something worthwhile out of these digital developments, especially considering settings such as a developing nation, then collaboration is a must. Besides, such teamwork must be 'people-centered' and 'patient-based' with research hinged on concrete findings and realistic recommendations.

Resultantly, it will enrich medical care in the digital era which Mertz (2021) hinted that it is also about understanding how to better view and use patient data, building of patient connectivity and improving Patient-Clinician communication as they remain the next steps for 'technology-assisted' healthcare.

Health - a broad term, ordinarily encapsulates a wide range of medical fields: clinical, medi-

cine, mental psychology etc. to mention few; but while public health rooted in applied research addresses healthcare of a population (i.e. community) and prevention of disease, medical related field such as Medicine is characterised by treatment of individual patients, diagnosis and care (Murdock, 2020). Whichever way, both in collaboration, under the same umbrella of 'health' are for a sane and healthy environment - a better nation.

Meanwhile, health globally is being threatened. The COVID-19 pandemic is still ravaging and leaving adverse effects on mankind. We cannot all be in the laboratory at the same time for solution but collaboratively, healthy practices and preventive care is even a better alternative. So far, both local and foreign solutions are results of careful research which is an enquiry to solve problem.

Apart from the corona virus, there are still many life-threatening health challenges that require attention. This is exemplified in a study on "Social Media as an Interaction and Visual Health Communication Tool for Public Sensitisation on Colon Cancer: A Study of Facebook Users". The researcher found out that it is even better to engage all media platforms (not only Facebook) to create needed attention which will make information more available for awareness and solutions to colon cancer that is rated second amongst cancers leading to mortality.

AFROMEDIC-ICT 2021 is a classical example of such collaboration in the digital era. This was a conference by 'experts-for-experts' to address global issues on health, information and medical technology; thus, themed, 'ICT for Health in Africa: Problems and Prospects'. It is imperative to state that the conference gave birth to AJIMT (African Journal of Information and Medical Technology) and ABIN (Association of Biomedical Informatics of Nigeria).

Glaringly, these are concrete and collaborative measures to sustain health and medical practices with research for human and national development.

Conclusively, a popular axiom states: 'talent wins games but teamwork and intelligence wins championships'. On this note, I present this edition (Vol.1 Issue 2) of African Journal of Information and Medical Technology - simply, collaborative efforts.

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