MEDICAL STATISTICS

Statistical methods have gained wide usage in medicine and associated health sciences. This broad discipline is generally known as "Biostatistics". The Term "medical statistics" being largely synonymous with biostatistics.

The intension of this edition is to provide a useful convenient and comprehensive resource for readers interested in the applications of biostatistics. We wish to implore readers, especially medical doctors, to continually revise and develop proficiency in the use of fundamental principles of mathematics and statistics for these are becoming more ad more relevant to theoretical and practical biomedical research. Mathematics is the language of science and an understanding of medical statistics depends of medical statistics depends almost entirely on proficiency in pure and applied mathematics. There is no way of learning biostatics without very good books devoted to the subject and there are many of such good books. This edition is a guide to the fascinating world of biostatistics.

In 1964, the initial report of the advisory committee on smoking and health statistical data and submitted to the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service of the United States evidence that linked cigarette smoking and cancer [1]. This was collaborated by many more studies based on solid statistical principles. In 1995, scientists at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine reported that cigarette smoke causes mutations in the tumor suppressor gene. Similar molecular exploits based on statistical inferences have almost all the time proven to be correct. There is great power in statistics.

Among the various application of contemporary biostatistics clinical trials have witnessed amazing growth in the past century and the place of statistics in modern medicine (molecular or clinical) continues to grow in importance. Biostatistics is the Foundation of Evidence Based Medicine.

We are fortunate to have the permission of Prof. E.A. Bamgboye to republish his inaugural lecture titled "Medical Statistics: A microscope for Health and Diseases". Prof. Bamgboye, without any doubt, is Africa's foremost biostatistician and his journey into the world of medical statistics is unrivalled.

The subject of P-value is addressed comprehensively by two authors. Meta-analysis is rightly considered by many as the most powerful statistical tool. J. O. Akinyemi's article focuses on this aspect of medical statistics. We have included as synopsis of medical statistics that explains some common statistical principles.

Other article in this edition are on acute management of stroke in two district general hospitals in the United Kingdom, causes of visual impairment at a school for the blind at Owo (Nigeria), Acanthosis Nigricans of the Head and Neck Region, and a case report on Appendicitis and Situs Inversus in a 32yr old female Nigerian.

Chronicles of medical history in Africa returns in this edition. This innovative feature has the objective of commemorating African heroes of medicine and associated Health Sciences.

Faults are difficult to eliminate completely, we apologize and accept responsibilities for faults in this volume that may have gone undetected.

Finally, we express our appreciation to the many authors who contributed to this volume and made it a reality. We are very grateful to our reviewers and our readers especially the resident doctors of this hospital who are the owners of this Journal. To my colleagues who are members of the Editorial Board, I wish to say that these are very good days to be members of the Board. May we have the desire to continue in the hard-work and diligence that has brought us this far, and that promises to take us to international prominence.

Dr. O.S. Michael
Editor-in-Chief

Reference
1. US Public Health Science (1964). Smoking and Health, P.H. Service Pub; No.1103; Washington, US Govt. Printing Press.