

Three Years of the East African Journal of Neurological Sciences (EAJNS)

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Summary

The East African Journal of Neurological Sciences is a premier journal dedicated to advancing the field of neurological sciences by publishing high-quality, innovative research. Since its inception three years ago, the journal has consistently showcased groundbreaking studies spanning basic, translational, and clinical neurosciences. With 9 issues published to date, it has steadily grown in both reach and impact, attracting contributions from esteemed researchers across Africa and beyond. Over the years, the journal has not only expanded its readership but has also strengthened its editorial team, bringing together a diverse group of experts committed to upholding rigorous scientific standards and fostering knowledge exchange. As we continue to evolve, our mission remains steadfast: to be at the forefront of neurological research, providing a trusted platform for scientific discovery and collaboration in Africa and globally.

Introduction

The East African Journal of Neurological Sciences (EAJNS) proudly celebrated three years of advancing neurological research and knowledge in the region in a recent ceremony held at the Leopard Beach resort in Diani (Figure 1 (a-c)). EAJNS was launched on December 3, 2021, at the Lake Naivasha Resort, an event that was graced by the esteemed Prof. Stephen Kiama, then Vice Chancellor of the University of Nairobi (Figure 1(d)). Since its inception, EAJNS has served as a vital platform for publishing research across diverse fields, including neurosurgery, neurology,

neuroradiology, neuro-ophthalmology, and molecular biology, among others (1). Its mission to amplify voices from the East African region and beyond continued to promote collaboration and innovation in neuroscience. In this editorial, we reflect on the journey of EAJNS so far as we reaffirm the journal's commitment to bridging gaps in knowledge, inspiring a new generation of researchers, and contributing to the global neurological sciences community.



Figure 1(a): Editor in Chief Dr. Philip Mwachaka (centre) reflecting on the journey of EAJNS at Leopard Beach Resort, Diani, in December 2024 during the celebration of three years of EAJNS.



Figure 1(b): Cake-cutting celebration by the EAJNS editorial board at Leopard Beach Resort, Diani. Right to left: Dr Mwachaka (Editor In Chief), Mr Musau (President, EAANS), Dr Tracey (Secretary General, EAANS), Dr Mutiso (Associate Editor), Dr Mohan (Associate Editor), Dr Kiboi (EAANS)



Figure 1(c): Editorial board showcasing various issues of the journal at Leopard Beach Resort, Diani.

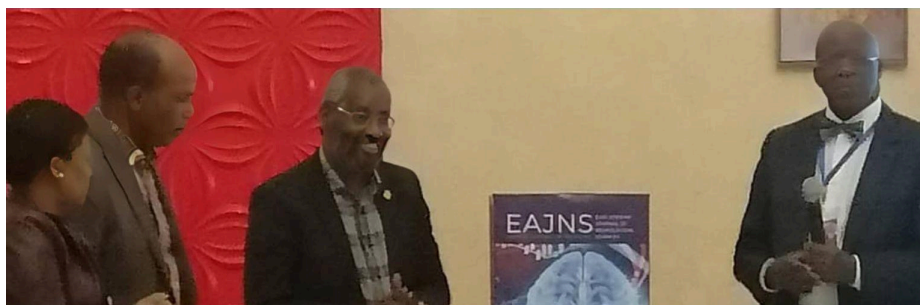


Figure 1(d): The launch of EAJNS at Lake Naivasha Resort in December 2021. The former Vice Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, Prof Stephen Kiama (centre) was the chief guest. In attendance were the officials of the East African Association of Neurological Surgeons.

Figure 1: The celebration of EAJNS at 3 years

Our publications over the years

In the past 3 years, the journal has had 3 volumes, 6 issues and 2 supplementary publications. The majority of the publications were original articles (n = 15, 45%) and case reports (33%). The distribution of the articles published so far is as shown in Figure 2. The distribution of

countries that have contributed to the journal's articles as shown in Figure 3 below.

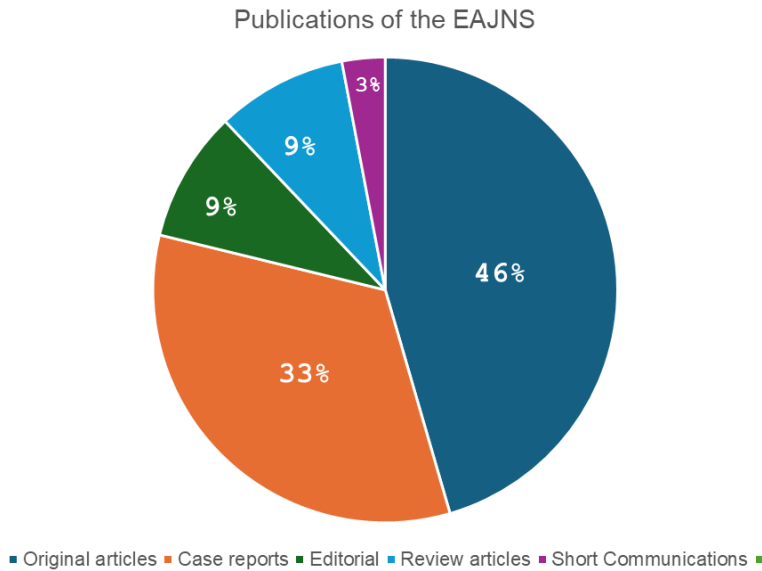


Figure 2: This pie chart depicts the categories of articles published in EAJNS. Forty-six percent of papers constitute accounts of original neuroscientific research conducted in Africa.

EAJNS Publications

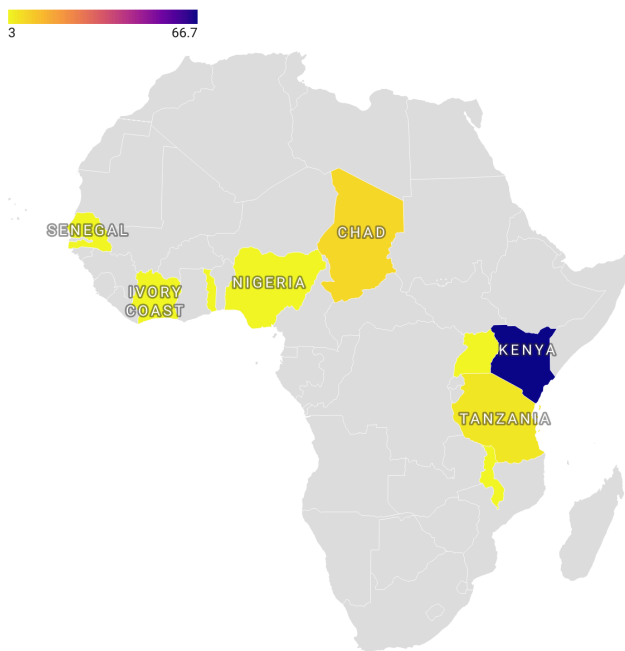


Figure 3: A gradient map of Africa illustrating the countries that have contributed to EAJNS publications. 67% of the articles originate from Kenya, followed by Chad at 9% and Tanzania at 6.1%. Other African nations, including Uganda, Nigeria, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, and Malawi, each supply 3% of articles.

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Our editorial and peer review processes

The peer review process commences upon the authors' submission of the manuscript through our submission portal. We employ Open Journal Systems (OJS) for editorial management. The authors submit a blinded manuscript along with additional supplementary materials. A journal editor thereafter evaluates the manuscript to ascertain its compliance with the established criteria and publishing regulations. A manuscript that fails to meet the journal's criteria is either returned to the authors for editing or rejected. Subsequent to this phase, the anonymised manuscript is dispatched to a minimum of three peer reviewers. The

peer reviewers provide feedback on the manuscript and submit their evaluations through the journal's website. The editor subsequently evaluates the peer review comments and either requests adjustments from the submitting author or approves the manuscript for publication. Publication may proceed following the editor's examination of the author's revised manuscript and confirmation of the requisite modifications. Following the editorial and peer-review processes, 70% of submitted papers are accepted for publication, whereas 30% are refused.

Conferences EAJNS has featured in

In the last three years, the East African Journal of Neurological Sciences (EAJNS) has emerged as a prominent entity in the neuroscience field, having been showcased at multiple forums. The journal has been presented at various conferences, including the annual East African Association of Neurological Surgeons (EAANS) conferences, the 4th Continental Association of African Neurosurgical Societies (CAANS) Congress in 2022 at Villa Rosa Kempinski, the Kenya Society of Neuroscientists Conference (KSN), and the annual Association of Medical Students of the University of Nairobi (AMSUN) Conference. Moreover, EAJNS was privileged to be included in the inaugural

issue of The Utamaduni Magazine, the publication for the Faculty of Health Sciences Cultural Week, enhances its influence and visibility both within and outside the scientific community.

The EAJNS, as the official scientific publication of the EAANS, has released supplementary issues featuring the conference proceedings associated with the EAANS, including the CAANS Congress (2022), the Pan African Association of Neurological Sciences (PAANS) and 11th EAANS Congress (2022), and the 12th EAANS Conference (2024).

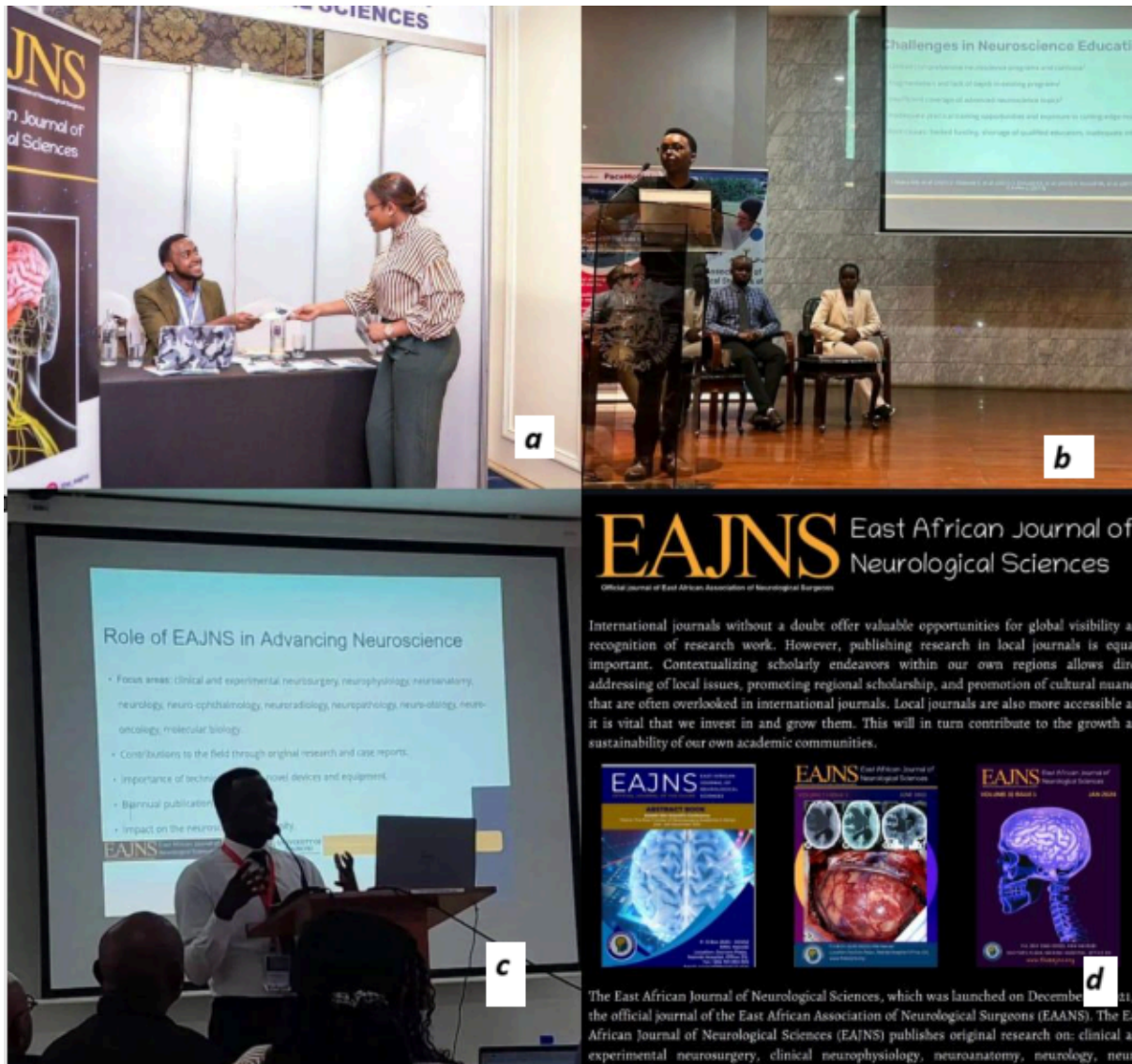


Figure 4: EAJNS presentations on various forums. Figure 4(a) shows Felix Njoroge manning the EAJNS booth at the CAANS conference (2022), which took place at the Villa Rosa Kempinski in Nairobi. 4(b) Faisal Nageyle presenting on the “The Status of Neuroscience in East Africa” at the 2024 Association of Medical Students of the University of Nairobi Scientific Conference 2024. 4(c) Mohamed Onyango presenting on the Role of the EAJNS at the 3rd neuroscience conference in 2024. 4(d) EAJNS feature article in the Utamaduni Magazine.

The EAJNS Editorial Team

The East African Journal of Neurological Sciences (EAJNS) owes much of its success over the past three years to its dedicated and dynamic editorial team. This team largely comprises young, dedicated medical students and passionate young researchers. The team has worked tirelessly to uphold the journal’s standards of excellence, ensuring the publication of high-quality articles

across diverse fields such as neurosurgery, neurology, neuroradiology, and neuro-oncology. Through their unwavering efforts, the editorial team continues to ensure ease of access and communication for authors, timely peer review and correspondence between peer reviewers and authors, social media engagement as well as timely publication of the journal’s biannual issues.



Figure 5: A section of the EAJNS Editorial Team during a recent editorial team meeting

Future outlook and plans for EAJNS

The East African Journal of Neurological Sciences (EAJNS) anticipates a more promising future as it persists in broadening its influence and scope. Successfully indexed in African Journals Online (AJOL) and the Electronic Journals Library (EZB). The journal is aggressively seeking indexing on further international platforms such as SCOPUS to improve its visibility and accessibility. Dedicated to extensive

publication and preserving its identity as a diamond open-access journal, EAJNS aims to cultivate collaborations and get grants to support and expand its purpose. The publication seeks to lead in the advancement of neurological sciences both regionally and globally by promoting collaborations and guaranteeing equal access to innovative regional research.

REFERENCES

1. East African Journal of Neurological Sciences [Internet]. Available from: <https://www.theejns.org/index.php/eajns>
2. East African Journal of Neurological Sciences [Internet]. Available from: <https://www.ajol.info/index.php/eajns>