



## Co-Editors

Dr Evans Amukoye,  
KEMRI, Centre for Respiratory Disease  
Research, Nairobi  
Email: amukoye@gmail.com

and

Prof. Gregory Erhabor,  
Consultant Chest Physician, OAU  
Teaching Hospital, Ile-Ife, Nigeria  
Email: gregerhabor7@yahoo.com

## Consulting Editor

Prof Stephen Gordon  
Head, Department of Clinical Sciences  
Professor of Respiratory Medicine, Liver-  
pool School of Tropical Medicine, UK  
Email: sbgordon@liverpool.ac.uk

## Editorial Board

### Tuberculosis

Dr Jeremiah Chakaya, Kenya  
Prof Keertan Dheda, South Africa

### Chronic and occupational lung disease

Prof Ben Nemery, Belgium

### Pneumonia

Prof Stephen Gordon, UK

### Paediatrics

Prof Refiloe Masekela, South Africa  
Prof Lisa Obimbo, Kenya  
Dr Regina Oladokun, Nigeria

### Asthma

Prof Elvis Irusen  
Dr Joe Aluoch, Kenya

## Managing Editor

Michelle Tooke  
Email: michelle@fsg.co.uk

## Publisher

Bryan Pearson

## Correspondence to:

African Journal of Respiratory Medicine  
FSG Africa Ltd, Vine House Fair Green,  
Reach, Cambridge CB25 0JD, UK  
www.fsg.co.uk  
Tel: +44 (0)1638 743633  
Fax: +44 (0)1638 743998  
E-mail: editor@fsg.co.uk

ISSN 1747-5597 (print)  
ISSN 2053-2512 (online)

All contents are © 2017 FSG Africa Ltd



## First word

In this issue we have articles touching on capacity building in sleep medicine, and respiratory disease caused by charcoal use.

It is estimated that over 100 million people are affected by sleep apnoea.<sup>2</sup> In the developing world this condition may be grossly under-diagnosed due to low awareness by the general populace and inadequate training by the health workers. Obstructive sleep apnoea is fairly common in children, usually caused by enlarged lymphoid tissue. This is due to the fact that the growth of lymphatics is faster than the somatic tissue. Demonstration enlarged adenoids is not synonymous with obstructive apnoea thus the need for training to avoid both under and over diagnosis of the condition. Failure to recognise the condition could not only lead to deprived quality of life, but also result in a long-term sequel such as pulmonary hypertension.<sup>3</sup>

Over two billion people worldwide are exposed to indoor pollution thus the need to study its effect on health. As the continent becomes more urbanised, there seem to be a shift from fuel wood to charcoal. Girard P in his article showed this shift in Bamako and Mali,<sup>1</sup> where in 1990 over 85% of families were using wood as their everyday household fuel. By 1997 the figure had reduced to fewer than 50%. The effect of charcoal use on health requires to be documented and measures taken to reduce its negative effects. A report by Bates et al<sup>4</sup> showed that it is possible to replace sources of indoor pollution and positive health effect could be demonstrated within a very short span of time.

We would like to thank all of you for your patronage and especially the alumnae of PATS MECOR and hope you will continue using AJRM as your preferred journal.

*Dr. Evans Amukoye, Co-Editor, AJRM*

## References

1. Girard P. *The Global Impact of Respiratory Disease*. <http://www.firsnet.org/publications/the-global-impact-of-respiratory-disease>.
2. Lindberg KA, Lindberg E. Obstructive sleep apnoea is a common disorder in the population—a review on the epidemiology of sleep apnoea. *J Thorac Dis* 2015; 7(8): 1311–1322. DOI: 10.3978/j.issn.2072-1439.2015.06.11
3. Young T, Peppard PE, Gottlieb DJ. Epidemiology of obstructive sleep apnea: a population health perspective. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med* 2002; 165(9): 1217-39.
4. Lam N, Bates M, Harrison K, et al. The Pollutant Exposure Impact of Solar Lighting: results from a pilot experiment in rural Kenya. <http://acumen.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Pollutant-Exposure-Impact-Solar-Lighting-Kenya.pdf>

## Contents

### 3 News/Notes

### 4 Review Article

**Efficacy of immunotherapy in adults with bronchial asthma: a mini-systematic review of randomised clinical trials**

T Eltoun and Y Fadelelmoula

### 8 Original Article

**Lung function impairment among charcoal workers in an informal occupational setting in Southern Nigeria**

I P Obiebi, R U Ibekwe, and G U Eze

### 14 Original Article

**The contribution of percutaneous needle biopsy of the lung, under image guidance, in the diagnosis of pulmonary lesions in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso**

A R Ouédraogo, G Badoum, G Ouédraogo, K Boncounou, N A Ndé, A S Ouédraogo, B Kambou, S Maiga, R Nacanabo, and M Ouédraogo

### 20 Original Article

**Is childhood obstructive sleep apnoea properly taught in medical schools? An assessment of doctors' knowledge of obstructive sleep apnoea**

B P Kuti and D K Kuti

### 27 Guidance to Authors

The Pan African Thoracic Society exists to promote respiratory health in Africa. It is supported by the Nuffield Foundation (UK) and the American Thoracic Society.  
[www.africanthoracic.org](http://www.africanthoracic.org)

