'What's New' Column

Since 1988, when the first issue was published, *Medical Principles and Practice* (MPP) has made its mission the constant improvement of the quality and standing of the Journal. In 2001, the Journal changed its format to include papers from dentistry and pharmacy. Thus, the Journal had become a comprehensive health sciences journal with publications from all health and related research areas. The vision of the editors since its inception has been to raise awareness and recognition of the Journal internationally. We appreciate and acknowledge the contributions of our readers, reviewers, Editorial Board and International Advisory Board in assisting us make this vision a reality.

Starting this month, a new feature appears in the Journal, a column devoted to the latest developments in a particular area of the health sciences. The idea for this column was suggested by a member of our newly reconstituted International Advisory Board, and is in keeping with MPP's desire for the International Advisory Board to play a more active role in the development of the Journal. Dr. George J. Dohrmann, Professor of Neurosurgery, University of Chicago, Ill., USA, proposed the idea, and it is fitting that the first column to appear in the Journal, 'What's New in Neurosurgery', be written by him.

A preview of future columns includes fetal DNA testing by Dr. Fiona Macdonald of the West Midlands Regional Genetics Laboratory in the United Kingdom; Professor Kewel K. Jain, founder of Jain PharmaBiotech, Switzerland, reporting the latest developments in nanomedicine; Professor Vincent Marks, Professor Emeritus of Clinical Biochemistry, University of Surrey, United Kingdom, reviewing recent developments in the treatment of diabetes; and Professor Adrian Newland, of Barts and the London NSH Trust, United Kingdom, examining the rationale for innovations in the treatment of immune thrombocytopenia.

With the 'What's New' column, our goal is to update our readers on topics of interest in the many fields of the health sciences. By doing so, we hope to help health care professionals stay abreast of the fast-paced and changing environment of the many specialties that fall under the umbrella of health sciences and medicine. We also strive to raise awareness and simulate debate on 'hot topics' and current issues.

We envision the 'What's New' column will become a regular feature of the Journal and welcome your comments and suggestions to make this vision a reality.

Azu Owunwanne, Editor-in-Chief