

Vol 2, No 1 (2010) - Health Issue pp (1 - 3)**Editors' Note:**

We are pleased to bring together in this issue of *Ee-JRIF* (Vol 2, No 1) contributed articles on health topics relevant to Ethiopia. The issue features various reports from a number of Ethiopian scholars who are well versed in their respective fields of interest. The majority of the contributors have a track record of several publications to their credit in the scientific literature. In order to avoid any potential conflict of interest, the manuscripts which FF is an author or co-author of, were blind-reviewed by referees. The situation didn't apply to this note and the book review. Although the contributions are all invited, the initial manuscripts have gone through a rigorous review process by peers within and/or outside of the *Ee-JRIF* Editorial Team. The articles span epidemiology, nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopic analysis of the health-affecting *chat* (*khat*) plant, clinical practice guidelines and aspects of traditional medicine

The commentary by Dr. Mesfin is a timely reminder to Ethiopian authors to consider using their full names instead of father's names as a family name, as the latter does not exist in the Ethiopian nomenclature. While it is hard to reverse what has already been published in the literature, it is appropriate, as recommended by Dr. Mesfin, in the future to let editors of western Journals know about the confusion of using father's first name as a family name in the case of Ethiopian authors.

Ato Henoch analyzes the origin and nature of the disparity of child health status in various regions of Ethiopia. Emeritus Professor Ermias and co-authors present a research report on qualitative and quantitative proton NMR analysis of the psychoactive constituents of *chat* in the plant itself, and a qualitative test for an ingredient of *chat*

(cathine) in the human body. The research is useful in that it provides a powerful tool to analyze the constituents of *chat* in the human body, both for health and legal reasons. It may add to the arsenal of tools for the quantitative determination of the ingredients of *chat*.

Dr. Worku presents in a detailed review the problem of fluorosis in Ethiopia, and its health implications. He provides a backdrop to frame the issue, and suggests measures that could be taken to alleviate the problem. Dr. Bisrat and co-authors review the heart failure treatment guidelines currently in use in Ethiopia. They recommend new additions to the arsenal of medications for heart failure treatment and expansion of the current guideline. Dr. Mesfin and coauthor provide a broad background on the usefulness of plants in medicine in Ethiopia. They focus on selected medicinal plants which have the potential to be developed on a modern large-scale basis. Along similar lines, Dr. Fekadu discusses Ethiopian medicinal plants used in veterinary healthcare, and lists recommendations in this much-unexplored area of traditional medicinal plants.

In the Book Review section, an *Amargna* book written by Ato Aman Belay on Ethiopian traditional medicine is reviewed in English. We hope in future issues to rather use *Ge'ez* scripts in similar cases, and also to publish articles written in *Amargna*. In this issue, we feature Dr. Bisrat Hailemeskel's career to inspire young Ethiopians, so that they may emulate his success. The *Journal* will continue to single out and feature Ethiopian scholars who have made significant contributions in their respective fields.

Finally, in order to sustain this *Journal* as a credible repository of well-researched information on Ethiopia (pertaining to agriculture, education, health, technology, etc), we once again invite scholars to contribute manuscripts.

Fekadu Fullas, Mammo Muchie, Yeshitila Degefu, Seble Worku and the Managing Editors