



EDITORIAL: Promoting Evidence-Based Practice Through Indigenous Research

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We are pleased to present Volume 4, Issue 3 (July 2025) of the *Niger Delta Medical Sciences Journal*, the official publication of the Faculty of Clinical Sciences, Niger Delta University. This edition showcases a compelling array of scholarly articles that reflect the ongoing commitment to research and evidence-based practice within and beyond the Niger Delta region.

The lead article by Dimoko *et al.* offers a thought-provoking comparative analysis on *Class Attendance and Academic Performance* among undergraduate medical students in a Yenagoa-based medical university. In an era where digital learning platforms are on the rise, this study underscores the enduring relevance of physical classroom engagement in shaping academic outcomes.

In the second article, Esene *et al.* examine the *Prevalence and Determinants of Primary Healthcare Utilization* in Okada, Edo State. Their work provides critical insights into healthcare-seeking behaviours in semi-urban communities, highlighting both systemic challenges and opportunities for policy intervention to strengthen primary healthcare delivery in Nigeria.

The third article by Okumoko *et al.* turns the spotlight on the *Prevalence and Social Determinants of Teenage Pregnancy in Bayelsa State*. This research addresses a pressing public health issue, shedding light on the sociocultural and economic factors that influence early pregnancies and offering recommendations for targeted interventions to reduce their occurrence.

Collectively, these contributions offer valuable perspectives that enhance our understanding of health systems, education, and social health determinants in Nigeria. We extend our sincere appreciation to the authors, reviewers, and editorial team for their rigorous efforts and commitment to academic excellence.

We trust that this issue will serve as a useful resource for scholars, clinicians, policymakers, and public health practitioners, and we look forward to continued scholarly engagement in future editions.

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