

Editorial**PERSPECTIVES OF HUMAN ANATOMY TEACHING AND RESEARCH AT UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, PWANI UNIVERSITY AND POSTGRADUATE SURGICAL TRAINING IN KENYA****Jameela Hassanali***Department of Anatomy and Physiology, School of Health and Human Sciences, Pwani University, Kilifi, Kenya*

I feel honored to have the opportunity to write an Editorial for this Journal. This mainly covers my experiences in teaching and examining undergraduates and post graduates in Anatomy and Oral Biology for about 40 years at College of Health Sciences in University of Nairobi (UoN) and 4 years at Pwani University in Kenya. I joined the Department of Anatomy in 1975 to teach medical and dental students under the mentorship of late Professor Joseph Mungai who motivated me into academics, research and do a post graduate degree. Prof. Mungai graduated with medical degree from Makerere University in June 1967 and joined UoN Medical School to be Head of Anatomy Department. He arranged to get 10 bodies donated by Makerere Medical School to Nairobi and had to drive the van as no driver was available to do this due to the aura of dead bodies. As the Human Anatomy Act was enacted in Kenya, the unclaimed bodies for

dissection were availed from the Kenyatta National Hospital in Nairobi. More bodies were obtained from the District Hospitals, mainly of the ethnic groups who do not have formal burial procedures. Professor Mungai did a PhD in Neuroanatomy, became Dean and Vice Chancellor in 1978. Body donation does happen as in 1975, I encountered complete skeletons of a 5 year old African girl and elderly edentulous male European made from donated bodies. The Department had good technicians to make skeletons and dissected specimens for examinations. At nominal cost, they also prepare teaching dissection specimens for newly emerging medical schools before they started full body dissection. Training for Certificate in Mortuary Science was started to train more technicians. Presently at Pwani University, MBChB course has not commenced. Training for Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Public Health has been ongoing since 6 years. Teaching of Anatomy, embryology, gross and microscopic is done with lectures, tutorials and sessions in skills laboratory, using skeletons, charts, e learning and histology images. Students have library visits for textbooks and atlases. When possible; students are taken for post mortem sessions to show the human organs. When medical course starts in due course, permission will be granted to use human bodies. Kilifi County Hospital and Kenya Medical Research Institute (Wellcome Trust) are located close to Pwani University. There are collaborations with the Research Institute on post graduate training Many of the doctors at Kilifi Hospital, interns and medical

officers are interested in post graduate training and they are keen to update their anatomy. I hope to motivate them through a mentorship programme, to publish interesting clinical cases, do research and be demonstrators and occasional lecturers at Pwani University. Kilifi County Hospital provides medical care for all clinical specialties and some challenging surgical and orthopedic cases are undertaken by the medical officers, often with consultants. Lady coming with profuse bleeding from an attempted abortion at home, resulting in torn cervix, which was repaired. In a 37 year old male with a left distal femur comminuted fracture, during fixation with a plate using image intensifier, encountered profuse bleeding, possibly from popliteal artery. Presently there is no laser surgery available. A surgical post graduate training by the College of Surgeons of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) founded in 1999, was started to provide specialized surgical training outside of Masters of Medicine programs available in the

Universities in Africa. Training is a five (5) year structured programme in various surgical specialties, presently, general surgery and orthopedic is ongoing.. After two years, students get membership of College of Surgeons (MSC) and after 3 more years on completion, they get the Fellowship of the College (FCS). In the first two years, clinical sessions have mandatory anatomy structured module, tailored to take care of learning basic sciences with interactions with the consultants. . Further learning is done by e-learning modules from School of Surgeons, tutorials and virtual dissection. Academic conferences are ongoing as well. At a recent Meeting of East African Anatomist with Professor Beverley Kramer, President of International Federation of Associations of Anatomists (IFAA), held at Pwani University, contact has been made with many Anatomist in Public and Private Universities in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia. There are plans to form associations to affiliate to IFAA.