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Towards a New Frontier in Biomedical Research: Enhanced Submission and Publishing for OJBR Using "SubmitManager" and "DigitoPub"

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The field of biomedical research continues to advance at an unprecedented pace, driven by the integration of cutting-edge technologies, interdisciplinary collaboration, and the growing imperative to translate scientific discoveries into clinical practice. Since its establishment in 2022, the *Open Journal of Biomedical Research* (OJBR) has remained steadfast in its commitment to disseminating high-quality research across the full spectrum of biomedical sciences. In alignment with this evolving landscape, we are pleased to announce a dual-platform enhancement to our scholarly infrastructure: the journal has now transitioned to SubmitManager, a sophisticated submission management system engineered to streamline and professionalize the submission and peer-review workflow for authors and reviewers alike. Complementing this advancement, OJBR has also adopted DigitoPub, an integrated publishing platform designed to furnish researchers with comprehensive access to the information, tools, and resources essential for effective scholarly communication and dissemination.

Coinciding with this technological advancement, the first issue of 2026 provides an opportune moment to introduce additional enhancements. On behalf of the Editorial Committee, I am pleased to announce that both the journal cover image and the first-page design for full articles have been comprehensively renewed (Figs. 1, 2). The new design has been strategically developed to incorporate all necessary metadata for data mining purposes while simultaneously increasing the visibility of published content. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the editorial manager for their outstanding contribution to this renewal initiative.



Fig. 1: Redesigned and updated journal's cover image.

The scope of OJBR encompasses, but is not limited to: experimental and clinical medicine; molecular and cellular biology;

pharmacology and therapeutics; medical microbiology; immunology; biochemistry; genetics; pathology; medical technology; biomedical engineering; and emerging interdisciplinary fields that bridge basic science with clinical application. By actively fostering collaboration across these diverse domains, the journal seeks to accelerate the translation of research discoveries into tangible improvements in patient outcomes and public health solutions.



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Epidemiological Surveillance of Notifiable Communicable Diseases: A Multi-Center Cross-Sectional Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: The aim of this study to examined notifiable disease surveillance data from multiple healthcare facilities in Zawia, Libya, spanning January to October 2024.

Materials and Methods: A retrospective analysis was conducted on surveillance records from eight facilities under the Zawia Center for Communicable Diseases. Data extraction encompassed 42 notifiable diseases categorized under the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) framework. Analyses addressed temporal trends, geographic distribution, demographic characteristics, and reporting completeness.

Results: Viral hepatitis B and C exhibited the highest notification rates, with 65 and 30 cases reported, respectively. Influenza-like illness displayed pronounced seasonal variation, peaking during August–September 2024 with 62 cases documented at Zawia Central facility alone. Trachoma, chickenpox, and gastroenteritis demonstrated sporadic occurrence with facility-specific clustering. Strikingly, 28 diseases (66.7%) recorded zero cases across all facilities throughout the surveillance period, prompting consideration of whether this reflects genuine disease absence or surveillance system deficiencies. Zawia Central facility and Juddaim Primary Healthcare Center maintained the most consistent reporting patterns, whereas several peripheral facilities exhibited considerable reporting gaps.

Conclusion: This multi-center analysis reveals substantial heterogeneity in disease surveillance performance throughout Zawia's healthcare network. While specific communicable diseases indicate active transmission warranting targeted intervention, the predominance of zero-reporting for the majority of notifiable conditions suggests either effective disease control or, more plausibly, systematic under-detection. Enhancing surveillance infrastructure particularly at peripheral facilities and instituting routine system evaluations constitute essential priorities for strengthening Libya's capacity to detect and respond to public health threats in alignment with International Health Regulations (2005) requirements. (*Open J Biomed Res 2026;5:3-11*)

Keywords: Disease surveillance, Notifiable diseases, Multi-center analysis, Epidemiology, Public health infrastructure.

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INTRODUCTION

Effective disease surveillance systems constitute the cornerstone of national public health security, providing the essential infrastructure for detecting, monitoring, and responding to infectious disease threats.[1] The International Health Regulations (IHR) of 2005

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Fig. 2: Redesigned and updated first-page of the full articles.

All submissions to the journal will continue to undergo rigorous double-blind peer review to ensure scientific integrity, originality, methodological soundness, and adherence to the highest ethical standards. OJBR maintains an unwavering commitment to excellence in scientific publishing, including transparency in authorship, rigorous plagiarism prevention, full disclosure of potential conflicts of interest, and strict adherence to international ethical guidelines for research involving human subjects and animals.

The *Open Journal of Biomedical Research* cordially welcomes the submission of original research articles, comprehensive review papers, systematic reviews and meta-analyses, clinical case reports, brief communications, and letters to the editor that meaningfully advance biomedical knowledge and its practical application in healthcare settings.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration with researchers, clinicians, and professionals worldwide through this enhanced platform, driving biomedical innovation, promoting evidence-based clinical practice, and ultimately contributing to the improvement of human health through open, accessible scientific research.

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