

EDITORIAL**State of the Journal**

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It gives me great pleasure to write this editorial for the journal's fourth issue since publication was resumed after a 21 month hiatus. In this editorial, I would like to reflect on the positive change in Cardiology practice over the last 20 years. In spite of considerable economic and political challenges in health delivery, there has been a significant and steady growth in Cardiac services in Sudan. Twenty years ago, there was only one center providing tertiary cardiac care in Sudan – Shaab Teaching hospital; this has increased to six tertiary centers in Khartoum and Wad Medani (See Table 1). Moreover, there are numerous Cardiac Catheterization laboratories that routinely perform percutaneous procedures in Khartoum, River Nile & Northern States.

Furthermore, the Sudanese Medical Specialization Board (SMSB) has introduced postgraduate medical training in Adult Cardiology, Pediatric Cardiology & Cardiothoracic surgery. The first batch of Sudan trained adult and pediatric cardiologists graduated in 2014; an important step in retaining skills with the continuous brain drain that plagues Sudan similar to other countries in sub-Saharan Africa (1).

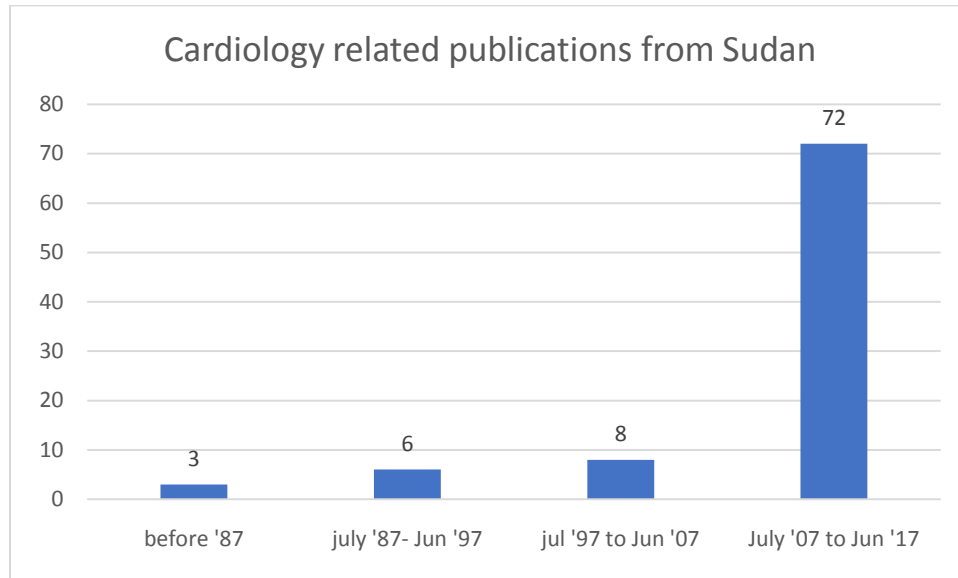
This growth in Cardiology Service was also reflected on the number of publications coming from Sudan. A search of the literature for scientific articles indexed on PubMed whose authors are in Sudan or were conducted in Sudan reveals a significant increase in the number of Cardiology related publications over the last 10 years (Figure 1). In Sudan Heart Journal, we do believe that there is significant room to increase Cardiology research productivity in Sudan; and that there is an untapped potential to produce the next generation of researchers in heart disease in Sudan.

With this introduction, I share with you Volume 5, Issue 1, Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim reviews the role of PCSK9 Inhibitors in cholesterol management. Prof. Mohamed Elbagir Khalafalla Ahmed gives a focused review on Hypertension control. This is followed by 3 case reports with a coronary focus: the first a report of successful percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) during cardiac arrest, the second reviews the role of Impella in hemodynamic support during elective high risk PCI; and the third presents a rare combination of anomalous coronary artery and Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome. We have two interesting cardiology images; and to wrap up this issue. Dr. Telal Mudawi shares a patient complaint that was peer reviewed to assess if standards of care were met.

Table 1: Expansion of Cardiac Services in Sudan in the last 20 years

Location	Sector	Center	Service
Khartoum	Ministry of Health	Shaab Teaching Hospital	Performed first Open Heart Surgery in Sudan in 1980(2). Currently performs Open Heart Surgery and percutaneous procedures in adults.
		Ahmed Gasim Hospital	Performed its' first Heart Surgery in 1998(2). Currently performs Open Heart Surgery and percutaneous procedures in adults & children.
	Armed Forces	Sudan Heart Centre	Established in Feb 2000, performed first CABG in Sudan in April 2001(2). Currently performs Open Heart Surgery and percutaneous procedures in adults & children.
	Non-Profit Charity	Alsalam Cardiac Center	First surgery in April 2007(3), performs Open Heart Surgery and percutaneous procedures in adults & children (with focus on congenital and valvular disease)
WadMedani	Ministry of Health	WadMedani Heart Diseases & Surgery Center	Started service in 2010, performs open heart surgery and percutaneous procedures
Khartoum	Private Sector	Royal Care International Hospital	Open Heart Surgery and Percutaneous Procedures

Figure 1: Result of PubMed search for authors in Sudan

**References:**

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3. The Salam Centre for Cardiac Surgery. Clinical Activities 2016 [Available from: <http://www.salamcentre.emergency.it/En/003/Clinical+Activities.html>].