

## Inaugural issue of the *Sahelian Journal of Responsible One Health*

It is with great pride and a deep sense of purpose that we present the inaugural issue of the *Sahelian Journal of Responsible One Health* (SJROH). This new academic platform emerges in response to a growing global and regional recognition of the need for integrated, interdisciplinary, and sustainable approaches to health – human, animal, and environmental alike.

One Health is a collaborative, multisectoral, and transdisciplinary approach – working at the local, regional, national, and global levels – with the goal of achieving optimal health outcomes, recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment. One Health is not new, but it has become more important in recent years. This is because many factors have changed interactions between people, animals, plants, and our environment. Human populations are growing and expanding into new geographic areas. As a result, more people live in close contact with wild and domestic animals, both livestock and pets. Animals play an important role in our lives, whether for food, fiber, livelihoods, travel, sport, education, or companionship. Close contact with animals and their environments provides more opportunities for diseases to pass between animals and people.

The Sahel part of Africa includes – from west to east – parts of northern Senegal, southern Mauritania, central Mali, northern Burkina Faso, the extreme south of Algeria, Niger, the extreme north of Nigeria, Cameroon and Central African Republic, central Chad, central and southern Sudan, the extreme north of South Sudan, and Eritrea. From the cultural, socio-economic, and climatic points of view, Ethiopia and Somalia are also part of the Great Sahel. The Sahel populations are in a stage of civil society development that requires the scientific and technological contributions of all human resources (students, teachers, scientists, technicians, and so on) and institutions (primarily public and private universities, hospitals, industrial research centers, and so on) which operate the dissemination and communication of scientific and technological advances, best practices, and policies.

The Sahel region faces complex challenges that demand coordinated responses. From the growing impact of climate change and food insecurity to emerging infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance, and fragile health systems, the Sahel is at the forefront of One Health relevance. Yet it is also a land of resilience, of scientific innovation, and of community-led solutions deeply rooted in local realities.

The *Sahelian Journal of Responsible One Health* seeks to serve as a bridge between disciplines, between researchers and

policymakers, and between local knowledge and global science. Our commitment to *responsibility* means promoting ethical, inclusive, and context-sensitive science that puts people and ecosystems at the center. We believe that advancing One Health in the Sahel cannot rely on imported models alone, but must be grounded in the region's own expertise, experiences, and aspirations.

The SJROH, as an open and online journal, will be relevant for all scientific and scholarly research in the Sahel region and others with the same context, primarily drawing on experiences in the biosciences, with the following aims:

1. Share scientific and technical information and results in all fields of One Health Sciences, with a defined approach of responsible research and innovation.
2. Provide a publishing platform for Sahelian scientists, scholars, researchers in the diaspora, and local communities.
3. Give Sahelian scholars and Sahelian diaspora a chance to be part of the scientific community through peer review and publication support.
4. Create channels for the promotion and publication of research papers about and from socially, economically, and culturally disadvantaged groups worldwide.
5. Develop a network of Sahelian universities, research institutions, scholars, and researchers willing to increase the dissemination of One Health Science, guided by responsible research and innovation and science diplomacy principles.

This first issue includes contributions from experts across various sectors – public health, infectious diseases and maternal-child prevention, environmental studies, social sciences, and beyond – highlighting both critical insights and innovative practices. We are particularly proud to feature research led by scientists and practitioners from the Sahel itself, demonstrating the region's growing leadership in the One Health domain.

We invite scholars, practitioners, and students to join us in this journey. Through dialogue, collaboration, and a shared vision of health that transcends traditional boundaries, we believe SJROH can help shape a more sustainable, just, and healthy future for the Sahel and beyond.

Welcome to the *Sahelian Journal of Responsible One Health*.

### The Editorial Board

*Sahelian Journal of Responsible One Health*