

## Editorial

It is with great enthusiasm that we present the second issue of the *Sahelian Journal of Responsible One Health*. This issue brings together a set of original contributions that illustrate the diversity, complexity, and urgency of health challenges in the Sahel and beyond, while also proposing innovative strategies and culturally rooted perspectives to address them.

The first article, “*Prevalence of hepatitis B virus among pregnant women in the southern district of N’Djamena and strategies to prevent mother-to-child transmission*”, sheds light on a silent but devastating infection that continues to affect maternal and child health in Chad. By focusing on pregnant women, the study not only reveals the scale of hepatitis B virus prevalence but also points toward prevention strategies that could break the cycle of transmission from mother to child – an essential step toward the elimination of hepatitis as a public health threat in Africa.

In the second article, “*Socio-cultural, educational, and behavioral determinants of severe acute malnutrition among children aged 6 to 59 months: a study at the Ati Nord Health Center, Chad*”, the authors explore malnutrition not simply as a biomedical condition, but as a phenomenon deeply rooted in social determinants. Their analysis underscores how education, cultural practices, and community behaviors influence the nutritional status of children, thereby reminding us that combating malnutrition requires holistic, multidisciplinary approaches that extend well beyond food availability.

Broadening the scope, the third article, “*From cultural heritage to sustainable energy: Africa as a laboratory for the future. The case of Gorée Island in Senegal*” takes us into the intersection of history, culture, and innovation. By examining how Gorée Island – a site of immense symbolic value that can serve as a model for sustainable energy solutions – this contribution highlights the role of cultural heritage as a driver for ecological responsibility and social transformation in Africa. It also shows how Gorée can act as a platform for cultural and scientific diplomacy, linking local innovation with international cooperation. Similar

approaches could inspire other UNESCO World Heritage sites facing comparable challenges, where safeguarding heritage and advancing energy transitions go hand in hand. It invites us to consider how past legacies can inspire sustainable futures.

The fourth article, “*Computational identification of plant microRNAs targeting Plasmodium falciparum: a new strategy to address the challenges of modern malaria treatment*”, demonstrates how bioinformatics and computational biology are reshaping the frontiers of tropical medicine. The identification of plant-derived microRNAs capable of interfering with *Plasmodium falciparum* represents a promising avenue for malaria control, offering potential alternatives or complements to existing therapeutic strategies in the face of rising drug resistance.

Finally, the fifth article, “*Performance of anti-SARS-CoV-2 IgG/IgM rapid diagnostic test in N’Djamena, Chad: evidence from a clinical perspective during an outbreak response*” confirms the utilization and the efficiency of a rapid diagnostic test for the diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 infection in Chad.

Taken together, these contributions embody the mission of the *Sahelian Journal of Responsible One Health*: to advance knowledge that is scientifically rigorous, socially responsible, and regionally relevant. They remind us that health in the Sahel cannot be disentangled from broader socio-cultural, ecological, and technological contexts.

We thank our authors, reviewers, and readers for their commitment to advancing a One Health vision that is not only integrative but also responsible – anchored in the realities of our communities and open to the possibilities of innovation.

Acknowledgments: the AI platform ChatGPT was used to assist in the writing of this editorial.

### The Editorial Board

*Sahelian Journal of Responsible One Health*