Dear Susanna,

Amazing times last week. MJoTA went to DC on 20 Nov to attend the Health Forum of the Corporate Council of Africa as accredited press. The forum was great; the Editor-in-Chief was swooning at seeing panels of 5 pharmaceutical manufacturers; 5 pharmaceutical distributors. And the panel on pharmacology and biotechnology.

We are hoping to publish some of the papers that were presented: we were particularly taken with presentations from South Africa’s Dr Iain Burton and Dr Joe Molete, Kenya’s Stephen Maina and Uganda’s Nazeem Mohammed. You will see articles explaining what they and others do well in the January 15 issue.

What really resonated with MJoTA was the call pharmaceutical manufacturers made for a pan-African regulatory authority for drugs, devices and vaccines. MJoTA wants this, and wants to publish anything relevant to making this happen from anyone who wants to work towards it. If this is something you want, please contact us.

We have published 2 articles this week from our MJoTA staff, one from Dr Macharia Waruingi and one from Dr Elana Stolpner. Both were trained as physicians and have chosen other work in the United States: Dr Macharia Waruingi (from Kenya) works as a medical journalist, online teacher, and meeting planner. Dr Stolpner (from Russia) works as a medical writer preparing documents for the United States Food and Drug Administration. These articles can be accessed from this link.

MJoTA is starting an online course in writing regulatory documents on 01 Dec: training IND/NDA FDA documentation (RW2). This course includes 4 2-hour webinars which are accessed at the student’s convenience. Please contact the Editor-in-Chief if you would like to take the whole course (USD1,000) or listen to one webinar (USD110) or all 4 webinars (USD400).

MJoTA is preparing for a conference and expo in Philadelphia. It was planned for 07 to 11 October 2009, Dr Macharia Waruingi is in charge and will tell you when and where it is. This, the first global health, technology and business conference, is sponsored by the Ustawi companies and all abstracts and selected papers will be published in MJoTA.

If you have read this far, let me tell you how I was enlightened on Saturday when I walked through the Library of Congress. The US Constitution and the Bill of Rights is in the Library of Congress (as is the ISSN of Medical Journal of Therapeutics Africa). I was reading the rationale for the Bill of Rights when I realized: what is it but a
contract between the people of America with the government, put together at the birth of the country. Everything was spelled out at the beginning, and anything that didn't work was later amended. Contracts are beautiful documents spelling out expectations at the beginning of a business deal, at the beginning of a marriage, or at the beginning of a country.

My contract with the readers of MJoTA from the beginning is that I will give my last breath to raise the profile of African health industry professionals in general, and pharmaceutical industry professionals in particular. We want to publish your stories, we want to write about the pharmaceutical manufacturing you are doing in Uganda, the hospital you are building in Ghana, the health risk pooling you are doing in Kenya.

Best wishes from MJoTA staff and faculty,

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Kenya Development Network: 7,000-member advocacy group chaired by Ustawi CEO Macharia Waruingi MD, DHA; http://www.kdnc.org
MJoTA courses are enrolling: MW1 and RW1, RW2, MW2, MW3

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