and the American Journal of Public Health in September 2004, and Adamson Muula visited the Chicago JAMA offices in December 2004. When this article went to press, plans for one or more representatives of African Health Sciences to visit BMJ were under way.

While visiting JAMA, Muula met with the editorial and publishing staff and participated in a manuscript-review meeting. Muula wants the Malawi Medical Journal to be a high-quality journal that is published regularly. “We have joined the group of the world’s prestigious journals”, he said. Although his meeting with JAMA representatives was productive, Muula said that it was less than ideal in one respect: “Chicago was too cold for me. I like it like Adelaide or Perth, in Australia, boiling hot like hell.”

Ofori-Adjei, editor of the Ghana Medical Journal, hopes through the program to improve the visibility and use of his journal: “I want to make it relevant to its constituency, using the experience and opportunity to help other African journals.”

Providing an attractive local journal for dissemination of research is vitally important to the people of Africa, Goehl said. “These regional journals are the key to getting the latest health-care information to people who need the information most.” Goehl said that the benefits of such a partnership include the bonds of friendships and understanding that form between the participants. “These are bonds that can be forged only by direct interactions.”

The African journals are in countries that have NIH-sponsored research and are part of the communication network developed by the NLM for the Multilateral Initiative on Malaria. Some of the African medical journals have had low distribution rates, making research in areas in which malaria is endemic unavailable to local colleagues and the international scientific community. With less than one-third of the 66 medical journals in Africa publishing regularly, the journals have little or no representation in international indexing services.

All four African journal editors have received CSE membership and were invited to participate in the 2005 CSE annual meeting.

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