

## Dumo Baqwa Award

For article on domestic violence



**Ms Kate Joyner**

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A research article on the provision of emergency care for, and psychological distress in, survivors of domestic violence has earned Ms Kate Joyner of the Nursing Division in the Stellenbosch University Faculty of Health Sciences special honours at the 12th National Family Practitioner Congress that was held in Rustenburg in August.

As principal author of the article, Joyner received the Dumo Baqwa award for the best original research article published in *South African Family Practice* in 2007. Her co-authors were L Theunissen, L de Villiers, S Suliman, T Hardcastle and S Seedat. The award comprises 1,000.00 Euro, donated by the Federal Belgian Government through its VLIR Own initiatives programme and R5,000 donated by Abbot Laboratories, South Africa. Joyner is the first nurse to win this award.

The research study tried to ascertain the number of treatment referrals and information about protection orders given to survivors of domestic violence presenting for emergency trauma care, as reported at the one-month visit; to obtain a profile of violent incidents and injuries, and to assess self-esteem and post traumatic and depressive symptoms in the aftermath of injury.

Joyner and her colleagues surveyed 62 participants who presented in the acute aftermath of domestic violence, as defined by the Domestic Violence Act of 1998, over a period of 12 weeks at the Trauma and Resuscitation Unit of a Level One trauma centre in an urban public hospital in South Africa.

They came to the conclusion that even though domestic violence poses significant health threats and costs to the health system, it appears to be a neglected area of South African health care.

"Health professionals should at least be able to identify and intervene within the 'open window' period when psychosocial opportunities are pivotal," the article says.

The winning article can be read on the web address:

<http://www.safpj.co.za/index.php/safpj/article/view/546/684>

*Article written by Sybelle Albrecht for "Adrenaline", Faculty of Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University. Reproduced with permission.*