



The journal: the dawn of a new era

Dear Readers,

This is my first editorial as the new editor-in-chief of the South African Family Practice journal having been the associate editor for six years. During the last 3 years, I was simultaneously appointed the editor-in-chief of the first African Journal of Primary Health Care and Family Medicine (AJPHCFM), the tenure which I completed on 31st December 2011. Pierre de Villiers became the editor-in-chief of AJPHCFM with effect from 1st January 2012.

My experience under my predecessor (Pierre de Villiers), while together with the SA Family Practice journal, was very enriching as I learnt a lot about medical publishing and editorial policies from him. As I take over the helm of our journal, I am amazed by its progress as a peer-reviewed, accredited, and approved South African journal for the measurement of research output of public higher education institutions i.e. accredited by the National Department of Higher Education and Training, affording universities an opportunity to earn millions of Rands every year.¹ In addition, it is endorsed by the College of Family Physicians of South Africa and it is the official journal of the SA Academy of Family Physicians. The latter is the re-constituted SA Academy of Family Practitioners and Primary Care.

For any new editor, there is always an expected vision to be spelt out, which will form the legacy of that individual after s/he has relinquished the position. In the Jan/Feb 2012 editorial titled: "The journal: a change at the helm", Pierre de Villiers concluded his last editorial saying "*This journal has a long and proud tradition, but requires steady hands, because the waters of scholarly publication and medical politics can get rough at times. Bon voyage!*"¹

Pierre's wish of "*Bon voyage*" is commendable, but for me, it is "*Aluta continua*". I have continued where he stopped with the vision during my tenure as editor-in-chief to get our journal indexed in the "*Index Medicus*". This is no mean feat as it will involve upgrading the quality of the journal to the next level through enhanced, quality peer reviews, publication of high

quality original and review articles and complying with the stringent conditions of the database. In addition, the CPD section will strictly publish evidence-based reviews of relevant topics for the family physician, which should make a difference in clinical practice.

Before I took over the helm, we had accomplished indexing in the following international and regional databases:

- a. Excerpta Bibliographic Database (EMBASE)
- b. Index Copernicus
- c. Database for Healthcare Professionals (EMCARE)
- d. African Index Medicus (AJOL)
- e. Scopus, which is the largest abstract and citation database of research literature and quality web sources covering nearly 18,000 titles from more than 5,000 publishers.

In addition we have just completed the journal's archive material, spanning 30 years, which will be freely available online very soon. As this is the dawn of a new era for the journal, I encourage authors to submit high quality original and review articles online at www.safpj.co.za as we strive for excellence for this journal. On a very serious note, as with most local and international peer-reviewed journals, we have recently introduced author's publication fees for original and review articles to cover production costs, which have escalated over the last few years. The journal needs to be sustainable and the funding model dictates that we break even with the production cost. We have to support this initiative for the success of our journal. More information will be provided on the journal's website soon.

Gboyega A Ogunbanjo

Editor-in-chief: SAFPJ

Reference

1. De Villiers PJT. The journal: a change at the helm (editorial). S Afr Fam Pract 2012;54(1):4.