
EDITORIAL

A new publishing platform and model for the SAJAA

What can a local, scholarly journal, like *SAJAA* offer its authors and readers that high-impact international journals cannot? This is a very challenging and exciting question that many scholarly journals in South Africa face. In particular, there is enormous pressure from public higher education institutions to publish in international journals that carry a high-impact factor and which are Medline and ISI listed. Is it sufficient to be accredited with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and indexed in Scopus? DHET will pay the subsidy for peer-reviewed articles published in journals listed in ISI, Medline and with respect to the South African list of journals accredited by DHET (and ASSAf). Clearly we would like to aim higher, and with this edition we will be embarking on this journey.

You will see that we have changed the layout template of *SAJAA* in this edition. This marks the beginning of a totally new era in the history of the journal. Not only are we updating our “look and feel”, but as from this edition, *SAJAA*’s electronic journal will move to the new electronic platform that is available on www.tandfonline.com under the “Medicine, dentistry, nursing and allied health” category.

Soon, we will move our archives and our submission office to the new platform as well. Through our new partnership with Medpharm Publications (our South African publisher) and Taylor and Francis (our international publisher), we are now able to offer our authors world-standard discoverability on this new international publishing platform. All archived articles will be meta-tagged again, and their discoverability will be optimised for overseas search engines and indexes. Watch this space!

With the new platform, we will be able to introduce an “online early” facility for unsolicited research articles and case studies. This will shorten the time from acceptance to online publication of the version of record from months to a couple of weeks so that it can fetch views and citations as soon as possible.

I’d like to personally thank my editorial team and colleagues for their relentless efforts to uphold and improve the editorial rigour and standards of the peer-review process and publishing, and for the many hours that they spend to make this a worthwhile journal for which to write and read. I would also like to thank authors for supporting the local journal. It is ultimately your submissions that have enabled us to become DHET accredited and indexed in Scopus thus far. We are in the process of changing the entire publishing experience to a world-class, positive, professional one. We will shortly revise the aims and scope of the journal, have new instructions to authors, and will develop a research focus that will further improve the impact and indexing status of the journal.

Lastly, I would like to thank the South African Society of Anaesthesiologists and its executive committee for their support when we embarked on this new process 18 months ago.

Christina Lundgren
Editor-in-Chief