

SAJCH has started to crawl

The idea for a *South African Journal of Child Health (SAJCH)* has been doing the rounds for many years. Conception at last occurred in 2006, and the new baby was delivered in 2007 with the first issue published in April. Like most new babies it has had to deal with its share of colic, sleepless nights and childhood ailments. We are grateful for the tremendous support and help from South African and international academics who submitted and reviewed manuscripts for the journal. We have met our goal of publishing four issues this year, but the road has been bumpy and although the baby is now crawling there have been injuries along the way.

The peer review process is time consuming but is what makes *SAJCH* unique as the only paediatric journal of its kind in the country. Our aim is to publish high-quality work and ultimately to be Medline listed with increasing international visibility. We hope to make *SAJCH* the publishing home for child health professionals, and we invite national societies to advertise their meetings and encourage their members to submit manuscripts for consideration. We would also welcome proposals from special interest groups and societies, and would consider offering part of an issue to feature articles on a particular theme; however, contributions would still be required to undergo the peer review process.

The overwhelming burden of HIV/AIDS in our country explains why this subject has dominated the 'Hot Topics' section of the journal. It seems appropriate to end the year by including the article by Michaels and Eley entitled 'The HIV and AIDS and STI National Strategic Plan 2007 - 2011: A paediatric perspective'. The Plan is well overdue, and will guide and focus the management of the disease. We hope that the range of other articles in this issue of the journal will make for further interesting and informative reading.

It is not enough that *SAJCH* is crawling; we are impatient not only to stand but to take our first steps – a stage that will no

doubt be associated with even more painful falls. We look forward to your help and encouragement. One of the steps we aim to take is to introduce a continuing professional development (CPD) section. This will increase the number of journals under the South African Medical Association that provide CPD points.

We welcome suggestions and contributions that can improve the quality of the journal, and invite you to visit our website where complete PDFs of published articles are available free of charge: www.sajch.org.za

We wish you a wonderful and restful festive season and the very best for 2008.



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Editor