

## | EDITORIAL

The Africa Journal of Nursing and Midwifery (AJNM) enters its 13<sup>th</sup> year in 2011. Large numbers of articles are received on a regular basis, implying a huge increase in the workload, necessitating all reviewers' and authors' inputs to be submitted on time. Authors' initial submitted documents must meet the author guidelines (see the last few pages of this issue) before they will be sent to independent reviewers. Only articles with signed declarations by the corresponding author, as specified in the author guidelines, will be processed in future.

The ten articles published in this issue (13/1) address diverse issues. In order to retain its academic accreditation with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DoHET) of South Africa, the AJNM publishes mainly empirical research reports. However, in this issue, the first article addresses challenges encountered in the translation of research instruments. The translation of a research instrument could impact on the validity and reliability of the entire research project. Translation of research instruments is a necessity in many research projects in Africa, with its multitude of different languages.

HIV/AIDS, malaria and Tuberculosis (TB) remain major healthcare concerns throughout Africa. HIV/AIDS programmes' success depends on numerous and diverse socio-economic, healthcare and personal aspects. In a bid to address HIV/AIDS issues more effectively, some countries instituted routine testing (healthcare provider initiated) in addition to voluntary counselling and testing (patient initiated). One article reports on a survey investigating patients' attitudes towards such routine testing at one hospital in Botswana. Most HIV/AIDS patients are being cared for in their homes by voluntary caregivers, and one article addresses the needs of these caregivers in Malawi.

Malaria continues to contribute to Africa's mortality and morbidity statistics. One article describes the challenges of providing intermittent malaria preventive treatment in Ghana to pregnant women. Another article addresses caregivers' home-based management of fever in children under five in Uganda. Both articles indicate that the availability of anti-malaria services does not guarantee accessibility or utilisation of such services. People also need knowledge and support to utilise these services effectively to prevent and treat malaria.

Two articles address TB challenges in South Africa. In one article the challenges encountered in diagnosing pulmonary TB in children under five, despite the availability

of national guidelines, are highlighted. Another article proposes that no significant differences could be identified between TB patients counselled by nurses compared to those counselled by lay healthcare workers.

Nurses provide the bulk of Africa's healthcare services. Therefore, the importance of effective nursing education endeavours cannot be overemphasised. Three articles address nursing education issues namely, the clinical accompaniment of open distance learning (ODL) critical care student nurses; the utilisation of computer-assisted instruction in nursing education in South Africa and the graduates' evaluations of a Master's of Nursing Science degree programme in Botswana.

We trust that the AJNM will go from strength to strength throughout 2011 with the continued support from our authors, editorial board members and reviewers.

**Professor Valerie J. Ehlers**  
**Executive Editor**