

## EDITORIAL

In this issue of Africa Journal of Nursing and Midwifery (AJNM), we continue to present exploratory descriptive research findings. These findings are mostly characteristic of basic research as opposed to applied research and they are either qualitative or quantitative in nature. Undoubtedly, the current issue of AJNM is not different from previous issues as the majority of published manuscripts are based on qualitative studies; and only two manuscripts resemble quantitative studies. Arguably, publishing basic research findings is essential. However, Africa has invested a lot of research funds on basic research with limited funds used to apply such findings in providing relevant interventions to address contemporary health issues affecting African populations.

Therefore, the current situation calls for a paradigm shift to radically promote the production of nursing knowledge based on applied studies rather than knowledge generated from basic studies.

Significantly, in Africa, nursing research should bring about observable change in people's health statuses through various approaches such as testing available theories, guidelines and strategies developed through basic research methodologies. Also, such a change will lead to the discovery of high impact research findings that will attract attention and readership by international communities.

In this issue of AJNM we celebrate the appointment of a new executive editor in the name of Prof Thandisizwe R Mavundla. He is a member of staff in the Department of Health Studies and has the following qualifications: D Cur in psychiatric-mental health nursing from the (RAU), M Cur (Advanced Psychiatric Nursing) & Advanced University Diploma in Nursing Education (AUDNE) both from (the UKZN) and B Cur (UFH). Prof Mavundla has published extensively in health scholarly journals nationally and internationally. His research programme focuses on men's (mental) health. His appointment as executive editor comes with a change in journal cover. The new cover page is significant of the nursing and midwifery discipline in the African continent.

## OBITUARY

We also mourn with sadness and regret the death of Professor Melanie Jasper, Head of the College of Human and Health Sciences, Swansea University in the United Kingdom (UK) who was one of our International Advisory Board (IAB) members. She tragically

passed away in May of 2014. Professor Jasper's field was nursing, and her particular interest was on how nurses can improve their skills through professional development and by reflecting on their work. She was regarded as an outstanding researcher and teacher, she had been with the University of Swansea since 2007. During the time of her death she had been head of the College of Human and Health Sciences, which draws together the disciplines of health, nursing, midwifery, social care, social policy and psychology and is the largest provider of health care education in Wales. Professor Jasper was educated at the University of Manchester. Before joining the team at Swansea, she held academic positions at the universities of Portsmouth and Canterbury, and was also seconded to work with the Welsh Government Chief Nursing Officer. She was laid to rest on Monday 19 May 2014. The editorial team appreciates the contribution she has made to AJNM over the years. Condolences to her family and may her soul rest in peace.

**Prof T.R. Mavundla**

**Executive Editor**