

ERRATUM

In Volume 18 (2) 2016: 42

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READ

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Prof. Thandisizwe Redford Mavundla

Executive Editor

When I took over the editing of the Africa Journal of Nursing and Midwifery (AJNM) in 2014, the journal was already publishing 13 articles in each issue (Ehlers 2013, 1). The majority of articles published in the AJNM consisted of basic research as opposed to applied research, and they were either qualitative or quantitative in nature (Mavundla 2014, 1). The situation required a paradigm shift with the aim to radically promote the production of nursing knowledge that is based on applied studies rather than knowledge generated from basic studies. In addition, such a change would lead to the discovery of high impact research findings that we thought would attract attention and readership by various international scientific communities (Mavundla 2014, 1).

In 2015, the AJNM slowly migrated to an online publication platform called Open Journal Systems (OJS), a popular publishing workflow system that is used by many journals nationally and internationally (Mavundla 2014, 1). We can conclude that the migration of the AJNM to OJS and its online access to many of its readers and users have proved to be successful, since in 2015 the two annual issues and the supplement were handled and published online using the OJS platform. This move has been beneficial to the AJNM since the number of manuscripts submitted increased drastically and the number of articles published also increased. In 2016, we saw a staggering growth in the number of articles published in the AJNM to 36 articles. This success was promoted by the introduction of a supplement in which 16 articles were published at the beginning of 2016.

A significant growth in terms of AJNM publishing was also noticed with the introduction of an additional three associate editors early in 2016. The associate editors appointed were Prof. Sheila Mokoboto-Zwane, Dr Elsie Janse van Rensburg and Dr Rose Mmusi-Phetoe. This brought the total number of associate editors appointed to support the editor to five staff members. In 2015, a guest editor, Prof. Lindiwe Innocentia Zungu, wrote an editorial with the title *Advancing Development Goals for Health through Decent Work*. In this editorial letter, Zungu (2015, 1–3) argued the case for workplaces to serve as a catalyst for mobilising resources to advance the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through the provision of decent work and relevant health promotion programmes. Mavundla (2015, 1–3) wrote another editorial focused letter on *Co-morbidity of HIV/AIDS and Mental Illness*.

It is worth noting that in 2016 some authors started publishing articles that add value to the health of individuals and communities. The number of articles that evaluated the impact of interventions rose to six. These included the work of Yazbek (2016) that was aimed at enhancing the quality of pain assessment during labour through the development of a pain assessment instrument, the work of Van der Walt, Coetzee, Lubbe and Moss (2016) tested the effect of prenatal stimulation programmes aimed at enhancing postnatal bonding in primigravida mothers from the Western Cape, and the work of Ogunfowokan, Adereti, Daramola and Famakinwa (2016) and Rankosha and Ehlers (2016) further demonstrated the impact of interventions on the clinical setting through the assessment of both nurses' and patients' knowledge. In addition to these is the work of Louwrens, Greeff and Manyedi (2016), which presented findings of a qualitative evaluation of a stigma-reduction intervention that is community-based for people living with HIV and their partners, the work of Minas and Ganga-Limando (2016, 179–195) regarding optimal breastfeeding practices among primiparous mothers in Ethiopia, and the work of Ehwarieme and Anarado (2016) that looked at the evaluation of nurses' knowledge of the Glasgow Coma Scale in neurological assessments of patients in a selected tertiary hospital in Nigeria.

In 2016, articles invited to the AJNM were not only limited to traditional research papers, but the editorial team also invited other types of manuscripts such as reviews and concept analyses. However, the majority of such manuscripts have not made it to final publication due to failure of their authors to follow the appropriate methods.

In 2017, the AJNM became indexed with Scopus, an international index. This has given the AJNM international status and greater exposure of work published in this journal.

In this issue, 14 articles are presented to readers. Eight of these articles focus on midwifery, while six deal with nursing topics.

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