

## **EDITORIAL**

The Africa Journal of Nursing and Midwifery (AJNM) has been published for 14 years. Since its inception in 1998, AJNM has been published as partial fulfilment of the obligations of the Department of Health Studies, Unisa, as a World Health Collaborating Centre (WHO CC). Based on this WHO CC status, hard copies of every published issue are posted to the World Health Organisation (WHO) offices in the 52 countries comprising the WHO African region. In 2015, AJNM will slowly migrate to an online publication platform called Open Journal Systems, a popular publishing workflow system that is used by many journals internationally. It was developed by the public knowledge project and it is available as free software. The migration of the journal to online access will assist with an evaluation of the impact that the journal has on society and this will also assist in improving the peer review and publication process of manuscripts submitted. The decision was made that the journal will slowly migrate to online publication as of 2015 and adapt the new standardised layout and citation style (Chicago manual of style, Author-date system) to help facilitate the digital publication process.

The migration of AJNM comes at a critical time, when there is high competition among scholarly journals, when the journal's survival has to be based on serious decisions that the editorial board has to make. These include developing a constitution for the journal and addressing questions that keep arising about ownership, whether to be an open-access journal and depend on page fees, or to generate income through subscriptions. These options have their advantages and disadvantages. The editorial team of AJNM hopes to address the issues mentioned here by the end of 2015. The editorial team will keep readers and authors informed of the decision taken by the editorial board as the year progresses.

In this issue of the Africa Journal of Nursing and Midwifery, we present findings of qualitative research studies. The majority of papers address experiences and perceptions of various populations in nursing and health. The first theme is nursing education and training. This theme deals with the professional socialisation of student nurses within the nursing profession and nurse preceptors' experience of the preceptorship programme. The second theme in this issue is the experience of HIV/Aids, including its treatment. In this theme the needs and expectations of students and staff in higher education institutions and the management of a workforce infected with HIV and or TB are addressed. The third theme regarding papers published in this issue covers the

experience of applying certain interventions by nurses and other health care personnel. This includes the experience of implementing focused antenatal care services, dealing with end-of-life issues in critically ill patients, and malaria treatment including adherence to antimalarial drugs. The fourth theme deals with caregiving, which is about the psychosocial issues influencing family caregivers after surgery and the detection and treatment of malnutrition in children. Lastly, the fifth theme addresses the experiences of various populations, ie the lifestyle issues among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex students in institutes of higher education and the beliefs of elderly people regarding health and illness.

Prof T.R. Mavundla

Executive Editor