

| EDITORIAL

This year, 2012, marks the fifteenth consecutive year of publication of the Africa Journal of Nursing and Midwifery (AJNM) and its fifth year of publication as an academic journal accredited by South Africa's Department of Higher Education and Training (DoHET). This accreditation is a major accomplishment. Retaining its status as an academic accredited journal is the major focus of the journal's editors and editorial board, and poses challenges for exceeding the minimum expected standards of every DoHET audit. Meeting these expectations necessitates repeated revisions of most manuscripts and the rejection of some manuscripts. The critical factor for retaining its DoHET accreditation is the quality of every article published by the AJNM, rather than the number of articles or the number of issues published during any year. The major reasons for manuscripts being rejected include the manuscripts being based on outdated data, outdated references, incorrect statistics, incomplete qualitative data analysis or aspects irrelevant to the nurses and midwives of the 52 countries of the World Health Organization (WHO) Africa region. This is a non-negotiable requirement because the AJNM strives to provide a publication and communication platform for the nurses and midwives from these African countries.

Via this Editorial, the Editorial Board of the AJNM wishes to thank all authors for the constant flow of manuscripts received by its Executive Editor over the past 15 years, and especially over the past five years. Special thanks go to all authors for their willingness to share research results in their fields of expertise with the rest of Africa and indeed the world. The Board is convinced that every author who has published an article in the AJNM, or any other accredited academic journal, would agree with the AJNM's Executive Editor's weathered experience: 'Publishing an article keeps me humble.' It is the Board's sincere wish that each author will convert the potentially 'humiliating' experience of having an article published into scholarly humbleness, and gratitude, into an appreciation of both their own worth as academics and the contribution made by others in this regard. It is at this point that the Board wishes to thank the independent reviewers of the AJNM. These individuals, through blind assessment, devote many hours to assessing the academic worth of manuscripts. It is these individual reviewers who, when authors become so immersed in their topics that they lose focus of the central theme, put authors back on track. It is these individuals whom we all thank for their – admittedly, sometimes controversial – contributions and critique. It is our independent

reviewers who, through the academic and scholarly discourse they initiate, ensure the maintenance of the AJNM's accredited status.

The editors of the AJNM are currently in the process of analysing all the AJNM issues published since its DoHET accreditation in 2008 as well as analysing the manuscript submission and publishing statistics. The findings from these analyses will be published in a future issue of the AJNM. Such an analysis should provide an overview of the types of articles published and reasons for manuscripts being rejected, and also indicate possible future directions that should be considered by the AJNM.

The current issue of the AJNM (14/1) comprises ten articles of which four address healthcare aspects: glaucoma in Nigeria; HIV/AIDS knowledge in Botswana; osteoarthritis in Nigeria; and experiences of haemodialysis patients in Ghana. The other six articles address issues affecting healthcare workers, such as the media portrayal of nursing in South African newspapers; challenges encountered by mental health workers in Rwanda; burnout and job satisfaction among nurses in South Africa; nurses' experiences of family witnessed resuscitation in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and South African nurses' experiences of the ritual of fetching the spirit of the deceased from a public hospital in South Africa. As the topics indicate, these articles represent a mixture of concerns relevant to the nurses and midwives of Africa.

Professor Dirk van der Wal

Professional Editor