

EDITORIAL

Changes to the South African Family Practice Journal

At the end of 2018 the contract with Medpharm to publish the South African Family Practice Journal was up for renewal. Over the last five years Medpharm has enabled the journal to obtain accreditation with the US National Library of Medicine and to be searchable on PubMed. This has raised the visibility and accessibility of the journal considerably, particularly as the original research is published on an international platform managed by Taylor and Francis.

While we have renewed our contract with Medpharm to publish the journal, we have also asked for some changes. This is the official journal of the South African Academy of Family Physicians and members benefit from receiving the hardcopy of the journal in the post. In future the hardcopy of the journal will only be posted to members of the Academy. If you are not a member of the Academy then you may find that you no longer receive the journal. In order to continue receiving the hardcopy of the journal you can join the Academy as a full or associate member: <http://saafp.org/index.php/2011-12-09-13-16-10/membership-categories>

The journal will remain freely available on-line as an open-access resource to all. In future, however, we have asked Medpharm to publish all the content on the Taylor and Francis website so that one only needs to engage with one portal. The Medpharm website will simply re-direct readers to the Taylor and Francis website.

Apart from original research, the journal is also committed to providing continuing professional development. As we go forward we hope to align our CPD topics even more closely to the learning needs of our members. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for topics that should be addressed. Members of the Academy will continue to receive access to Continuing Education Units to meet all their annual needs via www.ecpd.co.za

Over this same period our long standing editor, Professor Gboyega Ogunbanjo, has stepped down as Editor-in-Chief. The Academy is grateful to him for his guidance, commitment and leadership of the journal over many years.

The new Editor-in-Chief will be Dr Klaus von Pressentin. Dr von Pressentin is a family physician at Mossel Bay District Hospital, he has a PhD in Family Medicine and has experience as the Assistant Editor of the African Journal of Primary Health Care and Family Medicine. We have also appointed Prof Indiran Govender as Assistant Editor. Prof



Govender is an academic family physician attached to Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University with a good track record of research publication, peer review and examination.

The term of office for the Editorial Board also came to an end in 2018 and the new Editors will also appoint a new Editorial Board to offer support and strategic direction.

So, many changes, but all designed to maintain and improve the academic standards of the journal and the value of the journal to members of the Academy.

Before signing off I would also like to draw your attention to the annual National Family Practitioner Conference that will be held in Midrand from 23–25 August 2019. The theme of this year's conference will be "The primary healthcare team: Roles and alignment to the ideals of the NHI". In addition to a focus on implementation of national health insurance, the conference will provide an opportunity for continuing professional development, engagement with the latest research, debate and discussion as well as special interest groups such as our registrars and clinical trainers. To register and obtain more information please go to the website: <http://saafp.org/conferences/index.php/ANFPC>

Bob Mash

Acting Editor: SAFPJ

President of the SA Academy of Family Physicians

Editorship of the SAFP

Medpharm Publications would like to thank Prof Gboyega Ogunbanjo for his dedicated service as Editor-in-Chief of the SAFP. He started in January of 2003. Thank you, Professor, for your dedication and hard work.

We would also like to note our gratitude for Prof Robert Mash who assisted us with editorial duties for the first issue of SAFP for 2019.

It is with great excitement that we then announce the new Editor, Dr Klaus von Pressentin and sharing the load with him as Deputy Editor, Prof. Indiran Govender. The Medpharm Publications team is excited to start a new journey with you.