

## | EDITORIAL

When the Africa Journal of Nursing and Midwifery (AJNM) was evaluated to become an academic accredited journal in 2007 (and to be listed by South Africa's Department of Higher Education and Training as such since 2008), every issue contained five articles. We slowly increased the number of articles. We are proud to present 13 articles in this issue of the AJNM and hope to continue publishing 13 articles in each issue. As an accredited journal we have to meet specific standards and cannot publish articles from only one institution or one conference or one research project. We strive to present a variety of articles from different countries related to different fields of research. Some manuscripts submitted to the AJNM were rejected because they were based on outdated data, the references were too old, the authors failed to supply proof of ethical clearance granted for data collection, the statistics were incorrect, ethical concerns were raised by the data collection procedures, or the manuscript needed serious editing. Authors can enhance the chances of getting their manuscripts published by complying with the journal's author guidelines and by ensuring that they submit their articles to the most relevant journal, judged by the contents of each manuscript. If a manuscript has been rejected by one journal, it needs to be rewritten in the required format for submission to the next journal. Submitting a manuscript in the incorrect format, indicates to the editor that this manuscript might have been rejected elsewhere.

Any journal can only retain its academic accreditation if its peer review process is maintained and audited. In South Africa, peer reviewers do not get paid, are mostly extremely busy academics, and render their review services during their limited free time. Some authors complain that the peer review process of the AJNM is too stringent. This is a complaint with which many editors are familiar. Robertson (2013:1) indicated that some authors "... find current peer review practices obstructive to the point of being destructive" and that publishing remains "painful". It is a daunting task to revise one's manuscript, based on reviewers' comments, but this process must be followed to ensure that the journal complies with the peer review requirement and publishes the best possible articles. Unfortunately this implies that a large number of manuscripts require 3-5 revisions and some are rejected during the review-and-revision process.

The current issue of the AJNM (15/1) comprises thirteen articles of which the first three address nursing education issues in South Africa and in Rwanda. The quality of nursing and midwifery services depends on the quality of nursing education. Tuberculosis (TB), including multi drug resistant (MDR) TB, continues to threaten the lives and wellbeing

of many people in Africa. Two articles address the challenges encountered in diagnosing TB in children and in nursing MDR TB patients in South Africa. Caring for children suffering from HIV, understanding the spiritual dimension of psychiatric nursing and preventing teenage pregnancies by employing the Johnson Behavioural System Model present different perspectives on everyday nursing encounters. HIV/AIDS remains the major health-related challenge throughout Africa. Five articles address condom use in Uganda, HIV disclosure in Swaziland, circumcisions in Swaziland, community and home-based care in Zimbabwe and AIDS management at a coal manufacturing company in South Africa. We trust that all persons who read this issue of the AJNM will gain some new knowledge and enhance their comprehension of the complexity of health-related issues in Africa.

Reference: Robertson, M. 2013. Painful publishing – whose fault? Available at: <http://blogs.biomedcentral.com/bmcblog/2013/03/01/pianful-publishing-whose-fault/> (accessed on 4 March2013).

**Professor Valerie Ehlers**

**Editor**