

## | EDITORIAL

The AJNM (Africa Journal of Nursing and Midwifery) published nine articles in both 2009 issues, and strives to do so in 2010. Reports (of approximately 1 000 words) of conferences and other relevant health-related occurrences will also continue to be included. Possibilities will be investigated during 2010 to increase the number of articles per issue and the number of issues per year. If these ideals could be achieved, the AJNM will offer nurses and midwives more opportunities to get published in an academic accredited journal.

The nine articles in this edition represent research reports from South Africa, Rwanda, Namibia, Uganda and Ethiopia. The topics addressed by the nine articles are diverse, reflecting the diversity of health care situations handled by nurses, midwives and healthcare workers in Africa. Clinical healthcare aspects addressed in this issue include the effects of pre-operative education for patients undergoing coronary artery bypass surgery; and challenges encountered by registered nurses and by medical practitioners to provide cervical screening services in different areas of South Africa. HIV/AIDS issues pose numerous challenges to healthcare workers in Africa as reflected by the articles addressing the implementation of a programme for coping with stigma after the death of the women's partners in South Africa, and the provision of integrated voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) services in Uganda. Unplanned pregnancies, affecting the lives of these women and their children, continue to occur despite the availability of effective contraceptives. The enhanced practices of service providers in Ethiopia could help to provide more effective emergency contraceptive services, reducing the number of unplanned pregnancies in this country. When contraceptives and emergency contraceptives fail, unplanned pregnancies could be terminated legally in South Africa at the request of the pregnant woman, subject to certain regulations. However, the nurses providing termination of pregnancy (TOP) services, require support, in-service education, and resources to provide effective accessible services.

Two articles address nursing education issues. The implementation of the nursing process in gynecology wards in Namibia posed challenges to the nurses concerned. Processes and procedures used to assess student nurses' clinical learning in Rwanda

indicate some complexities of using different assessment strategies, or even the same strategies, with different students at different phases of assessment.

The authors, reviewers, editorial board members and editors trust that every reader will gain new insights from reading these diverse articles. Similarly, we trust that every author gained writing skills and expertise from the process of getting an article published in the AJNM. We hope to receive many more articles from accomplished and from novice nurse authors in future to help us realise the ideal of publishing more articles per issue and more issues per year as from 2011DV.

**Professor Valerie J. Ehlers**  
**Executive Editor**