



Author-Assist Program:

Journal of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa

This is a memorandum to all CMSA members, Committee of Medical Deans, Heads of Academic Departments, MMed and Ph.D. candidates, and graduates.

In July 2023, the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa (CMSA) launched the Journal of the CMSA (JCMSA). The JCMSA is a Diamond Open-access journal, which means Article Preparation Fees (APF) are waived for authors. The JCMSA aims to provide a platform to publish the scientific work of authors from middle- to low-income countries and increase the visibility of focusing on MMed and Ph.D. and other scholarly work on the continent.

Since its launch, the editorial board of JCMSA has received many manuscripts, and it has become clear that, although the quality of the submissions could have been excellent in some instances, a mentoring program for inexperienced and unestablished authors is needed.

Therefore, the JCMSA is launching an "Author-Assist Program," whereby established authors will mentor inexperienced trainees and early-career authors.

Experienced authors willing to participate and help trainee and early-career authors are invited to submit a two-page CV that should include their MMed and Ph.D. supervision and publication experience, area/s of expertise, and special interests to Herlien van Rooyen (herlien.vanrooyen@cmsa.co.za). Mentors will be paired with early-career authors and acknowledged in the final published article and Transactions, the official CMSA journal. As publications are time-sensitive, we ask for a one-month turnaround between mentors and authors.

Early-career authors are encouraged to email their manuscript in a simple Word document to Herlien van Rooyen (herlien.vanrooyen@cmsa.co.za) with the subject header 'Request for author assist service.' All manuscript authors must agree to the process of being paired with a suitable mentor, who will then work with the author to prepare the manuscript for submission to JCMSA (on the AOSIS platform) for the formal peer-review process.

Mentors will not participate in and will not influence the peer-review process. Authors and volunteer manuscript mentors will determine their internal timelines and deliverables within the four-week timeframe. While the author assist program may substantially increase the likelihood of acceptance for publication, please note that this is a preparatory process ahead of submission and peer review and does not guarantee publication. The author-assist program will launch on May 1, 2024.

Respectfully

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