



CMSA LAUNCHES SCIENTIFIC ONLINE JOURNAL



Prof Johan Fagan

In an exciting development, the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa, through a joint venture with AOSIS publishing and in collaboration with the South African Committee of Deans, launched the CMSA's first scientific journal in July 2023. The brainchild of CMSA President, Prof Johan Fagan, the Journal of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa (JCMSA) is a peer reviewed medical and dental journal.

With a primary focus on South Africa, Africa and lower-and middle-income countries (LMICs), the JCMSA will be a fully online, open access, multi-disciplinary, premier, high-quality publication with high visibility; impacting healthcare globally by amplifying LMIC research. The JCMSA will not only enhance global visibility for the CMSA, but also for South African medicine, challenging the narrative that publishing in high income journals should be more valued than publishing in an African journal. At the heart of the initiative is the recognition that many authors are unable to publish their research due to the cost of article processing charges (APCs). "We want to ensure that the ability to pay is never a barrier to sharing research: for the CMSA this is an important matter of social justice," said Prof Fagan.

MEMBERS OF THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor-in-Chief: Soraya Seedat
Deputy Editor: André Boezart

Journal Oversight Committee

Pierre de Villiers
Johnny Mahlangu
Mike Sathekge
Soraya Seedat
Joleta van Wyk

A complete list of members of the Editorial Team can be found [here](#).



Prof Soraya Seedat

INTERVIEW WITH JCMSA EDITOR-IN-CHIEF PROF SORAYA SEEDAT

Prof Seedat said that it is a great honour to be Editor-in-Chief of the first scientific journal of the CMSA and shared some of the goals and vision for the journal.

"An exciting and future-focused aspect of this journal is that it seeks to ensure that article processing charges, which are usually a barrier to publishing in Open Access, high impact journals, is not a barrier to medical and dental specialists and trainees; particularly those in South Africa and in other low and middle-income countries. It seeks to showcase high quality peer-reviewed research that represents the diversity of medical and dental research and scholarship across different fields," she said.

The full interview with Prof Seedat is available [here](#).

SUBMISSION AND MENTORSHIP

The JCMSA is an educational and developmental opportunity for registrars and young academics and open for submissions www.jcmsa.org.za.

For those who need guidance converting an MMed. dissertation into a journal article, or with writing a first article, academics have graciously availed themselves to mentor their younger colleagues and assist them in making manuscripts publication ready. A list of these academics is available from Sharleen Stone sharleen.stone@cmsa.co.za.

"The JCMSA is an exciting initiative that supports the CMSA's founding objectives that include "promoting skill, efficiency, ethical standards and professional conduct for the benefit of humanity and promoting the honour of the medical and dental profession," said Prof Fagan. "It addresses a serious need to achieve equity in research and to ensure that research from Africa and LMICs is included in the global academic discourse."

DONATION AND SPONSORSHIP

The JCMSA Article Processing Fee Waiver Fund was created to provide financial assistance to authors facing barriers in paying for APCs. Through their generous support, [Adcock Ingram](#) has provided the foundation funds to ensure these authors can publish and share their research to the wider academic community. [AOSIS Publishing](#) is also sponsoring the cost of ten articles per year over the first two years of publication. "The initial target is R10m," said Prof Fagan, "the interest on which will cover the cost of approximately 100 articles per year for authors not financially supported by their institutions. As President of the CMSA, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our current and future sponsors and want to encourage you to be part of this visionary initiative and donate to the fund."

The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa (APC Waiver Fund)

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To receive domain-specific newsletters detailing the latest journal press releases in your field of interest, you are invited to sign-up [here](#). All the AOSIS Journals in the Health & Veterinary Scholarly Domain is grouped here. The JCMSA selection is the last tick box option.



 

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