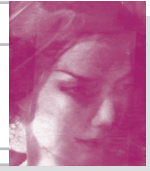


Starting afresh



The *South African Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* is being revitalised. Many changes are taking place, some of which will be seen in this issue – the first under the auspices of the new Editorial Board.

In 2006 we plan to bring out three issues, two being linked to special interest conferences, the first being the Menopause Society's Sun City extravaganza this month and the second the Ultrasound Society's conference in Gauteng in October.

We want the new-look *SAJOG* to be relevant and readable while maintaining the highest academic standards.

Relevance

South African obstetricians and gynaecologists are mostly in private practice, but there is also a strong academic base to the specialty, with thriving departments in each of the eight Faculties of Health Sciences.

The relationship between private and public sector practitioners is generally a comfortable symbiosis, as is the co-operation between the academic units. There is always good support for meetings, refresher courses, skills development workshops and conferences.

The *Journal* intends to facilitate this private/public mix by covering activities of the umbrella body, the South African Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, and its daughter societies, which are:

Fetal-Maternal Medicine	Gynaecological Oncology
Menopause	Reproductive Medicine
Ultrasound	Urogynaecology

More about these organisations and their contacts elsewhere in this issue, as the *Journal* wishes to promote their causes by showcasing their information.

Changes

The *Journal* will carry editorials reflecting the South African viewpoint, reviews that will be useful to your practice, summaries from the international journals called 'The Best of the Rest', interviews, research, case reports and, from the next issue, a column by entertaining writers.

We will try to keep the style light but professional. Fiona Godlee has been editor of the *BMJ* for some months now and is clearly changing the direction of that venerable publication. She says that she wants the *BMJ* 'to be a



Athol Kent

great magazine as well as great journal' (*BMJ* 2006; **332**: 1-2). Magazines have high readability indices, more colour pictures, more quick-read pieces and higher entertainment value than highbrow scientific journals. We intend to move *SAJOG* in the same direction without compromising the academic content.

We have to earn your respect, and hope to do this by publishing quality research that has been rigorously peer-reviewed, and presented in an eye-catching manner.

Editorial Board

The editorial team has been changed, as can be seen from the masthead.

We are a South African publication and want to encourage those in training in our country to write up their research and submit it to us for peer review, so we have invited the academic heads of departments to be on the Editorial Board.

We want private practitioners to consider the *Journal* for the publication of their material, be it audit of their practice techniques, for example caesarean sections, case reports they find intriguing and formal research.

The *Journal's* policy will be to publish original articles that have been scrutinised by referees. To attract authors

to submit their work is a slow process. Reputations take a long time to be established and can only be justified if standards of excellence are set and maintained.

Our long-term goal will be to have *SAJOG* recognised by *Index Medicus* – a process involving the National Institute of Health in the United States – which requires evidence of consistently high-quality articles with increasing citation indices. This will be some years down the line, but we are determined to work towards that goal and become a quality journal, recognised as such in Africa and the whole English-speaking world.

To achieve this we need your help. If you believe you have expertise in a field in our specialty and would be prepared to serve on our referees' panel, we would like to hear from you. If you know of colleagues who you consider expert, please let me have their names (021 686 4935) and contact details and we will take it from there.

People on the referees' panel from South Africa are:

Alperstein Dr Alan, Buga Professor Geoffrey, Coetzee Professor Ed, Cronje Professor Hennie, de Jong Dr Peter, Denny Professor Lyn, Dyer Dr Rob, Dyer Dr Silke, Fawcus Professor Sue, Guidozi Professor Franco, Hofmeyr Professor Justus, Kruger Professor Thinus,

Lindeque Professor Gerhard, MacDonald Professor Peter, Monokoane Professor Sam, Moodley Professor Jac, Ncayiyana Professor Dan, Odendaal Professor Hein, Pattinson Professor Bob, Petro Dr Greg, Roos Dr Peter, Stewart Dr Chantal, Woods Professor Dave, Van der Spuy Professor Zephne.

And from overseas:

Baird Professor David, Dornan Professor Jim, Drife Professor Jim, Guillebaud Professor John, Jenkins Dr Julian, Lilford Professor Richard, Neillson Professor Jim, Patel The Lord, Purdie Professor David, Soothill Professor Peter, Steer Professor Phil, Studd Professor John, Templeton Professor Allan.

Aim

The *South African Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* aims to inform and entertain. We need to be relevant, up to date and scientific. We believe we have the capacity in South Africa to provide the material and reviewers to produce a journal out of Africa that will be respected by the world.

Athol Kent

Editor



**South African Society for Ultrasound
in Obstetrics and Gynaecology**

2006 Ultrasound Congress

26 – 28 October 2006

Helderfontein Estate, Lonehill, Johannesburg

For further information:

Contact Eileen Shaw at Londocor Public Relations

Tel: 011 768 4355 Fax: 011 768 1174

E-mail: eileen@londocor.co.za

Website: www.sasuog.org