

The end of an era

The publication of the May 2007 edition of South African Psychiatry Review marks the end of an era, for the *Journal*, which has seen the further development of research capacity, and enthusiasm, within the fraternity of psychiatry and related disciplines in South Africa. The end of an era because this is the last edition of the *Journal*. The reality is that where one thing ends, another begins. Before giving you a view of the future, it is incumbent on me to acknowledge all of you as the *Journal's* most valuable asset, our readership, for having been part of a rather special voyage over these past years. In addition it is vital to acknowledge the critical role that the pharmaceutical industry has played during this time. Present through advertising alone and with no suggestion of involvement, or attempt to be involved, beyond that the *Journal's* relationship with industry has demonstrated that mutually beneficial, non-exploitative partnerships are not pipe dreams but a very real phenomenon.

The *Journal* started life as the *Journal of Depression and Anxiety* and was edited by Michael Berk. In the years that followed the publication was revamped, moving from a very focused product to something much broader with the aim of providing a forum for both young and more established researchers in psychiatry in South Africa. Thus in 2002, *South African Psychiatry Review* was born. With time, and experience, the possibilities became apparent. The next important step was the accreditation by the Department of Education and subsequent indexing in both PsycINFO and Embase as well as African Journals Online. This together with an electronic footprint in the form of the *Journal's* website set the scene for what followed, which not least of all was the positioning of the *Journal* as African. As a result the editorial board grew from predominantly South African academics to include important names from Africa in addition to those from around the globe which gave the *Journal* an international flavour. Most recently, at the Regional World Psychiatric Association (WPA) conference held in Nairobi – Kenya - in March 2007, a landmark decision was taken. *South African Psychiatry Review* is to become the official journal of the African Association of Psychiatrists and Allied Professionals (AAPAP). As of the August 2007 edition the *Journal* will henceforth be known as the *African Journal of Psychiatry*. As part of this development the *African Journal of Psychiatry* will partner with *International Psychiatry*, a publication of the Royal

College of Psychiatrists (UK). The process of negotiating this development has been most satisfying, not least of all because it has led to a publication that will represent a medical discipline (and allied disciplines) across a continent. The hope is that the *African Journal of Psychiatry* will make a significant contribution to the indigenous knowledge base of Psychiatry in Africa and continue the work of *South African Psychiatry Review*.

There remains much to be done logistically, but these are details. Importantly, the current distribution arrangements within South Africa will not change with the frequency of publication remaining quarterly. Further, all papers accepted for publication to date will appear in the *African Journal of Psychiatry*, likewise those currently under review if accepted for publication. New submissions are, as always, most welcome.

A number of colleagues deserve special mention: Frank Njenga (as President of the AAPAP), Robin Emsley and Oye Gureje (who negotiated on behalf of the AAPAP), Peter Tyrer (editor of the *British Journal of Psychiatry*)¹ as well as Solly Rataemane and David Ndeti (whose support and encouragement were most enabling), not forgetting Werdie van Staden (editor of the *South African Journal of Psychiatry*). Last but not least a special word of acknowledgement to Mike Ewart Smith (an honest critic and loyal friend over the lifespan of *South African Psychiatry Review*) as well as Andrew Thomas (Inhouse publications) who has been a constant supporter of the vision. Finally to all who have contributed, and reviewed, articles, it has been a real pleasure working with you.

It is my hope that these developments will serve as further incentive to both conduct research and submit manuscripts. In case you're wondering, I will be the Editor-in Chief of the *African Journal of Psychiatry*. I look forward to seeing you in August 2007.

Christopher P. Szabo
Editor-in-Chief

Reference

1. Tyrer P. A new African psychiatric journal. *British Journal of Psychiatry* 2007; 190: 456. doi:10.1192/bjp.190.5.456