



Ilze de Kock

iDesign, Cape Town, South Africa

Reflecting on 20 years of collaboration: A tribute to the SA Heart® Journal

As I reflect on the past 20 years with the SA Heart® Journal, it's hard to believe how quickly time has passed. Throughout these 2 decades, I've had the privilege of working alongside an incredible colleague and friend who has been responsible for the design and layout of the journal. Together, we've produced countless editions of this important publication, each with the shared goal of creating a well-designed, error-free journal on time.

My role as the production manager has been deeply intertwined with every step of the journal's journey, from initial submission to final print. For many years, the journal was printed before transitioning to a digital format. I liaised with printers, conducted color proof checks, and arranged for the journals to be delivered to recipients.

I've had the responsibility of liaising with the editor, ensuring that each article was carefully reviewed and refined before it was handed over to me for production. Working closely with the proofreader, we ensured that every issue met the highest standards of quality, accuracy, and clarity. Once the copy was finalised, I passed it along to my layout artist, who transformed it into the beautifully designed journal you see in each edition.

Over the years, I've gained immense respect for the process and the attention to detail required at each stage. From coordinating deadlines and ensuring the smooth flow of content to managing the back-and-forth with the editor and proofreader, every step has been vital to the journal's success. While the technical aspects of production were always challenging, it was the collaboration between all of us that truly made each issue come together seamlessly.

Our layout artist was an exceptional partner in producing a quality academic journal. Her creativity, professionalism, and meticulous attention to detail brought each issue to life in ways I couldn't have imagined. She has an incredible ability to take complex, dense articles and transform them into accessible, well-organised content, always maintaining the journal's high professional standards. I look back at each publication with pride.

The SA Heart® Journal has been more than just a job for me – it has been a passion project, a labour of love, and a vital part of my professional life. It has been incredibly rewarding to know

that our work has contributed to the cardiovascular field, helped inform clinicians, and ultimately made a difference in patient care.

As we conclude our involvement with the SA Heart® Journal, I feel a bittersweet sense of pride in what we've accomplished. I am confident that the journal will continue to thrive under the guidance of a dedicated team of specialists and a passionate Editor.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has been part of this journey – I met so many talented and dedicated people who all, in their own way, make a huge difference in the lives of many. The work we've done together has been meaningful, and I'm excited to see the future of the SA Heart® Journal unfold under the guidance of the new team.