

## SAJPEC: A new dawn for pre-hospital emergency care in South Africa

The South African pre-hospital setting has made remarkable progress since the development of emergency care short courses more than three decades ago. The profession has moved from box-type ambulances staffed with ambulance drivers to well-equipped emergency response vehicles and ambulance aircraft staffed with paramedics with professional degrees.<sup>1</sup> Paramedics are now in a position to enroll for a Doctoral degree in emergency medical care or equivalent, a first for the African continent.<sup>1</sup> Having paramedics with postgraduate qualifications means that there is an opportunity for research output emanating from their research projects. It is against this backdrop that a working group of the Emergency Care Society of South Africa conceptualized the idea of the South African Journal of Pre-hospital Emergency Care (SAJPEC).

SAJPEC is an open access peer-reviewed journal, thus the emergency care community can enjoy unrestricted access with no publication fees. Accordingly, those who publish may enjoy a wider audience of readers due to the unrestricted access.

This first issue is a significant milestone for the emergency care profession as we have an opportunity to build emergency care research in South Africa and not rely on evidence from well-

resourced settings that may or may not be applicable to our setting. Therefore, we would like to see the work of emerging researchers to advance their careers and promote their research. We are also excited to learn about what is taking place in the pre-hospital research community.

In closing, I would like to extend an invitation to the emergency care community to contribute to the development of emergency care research in South Africa. If I may be so bold and extend an invitation to fellow colleagues from the African region and other regions of the developed world to contribute to SAJPEC thereby nurturing global community research in emergency care.

I hope you enjoy this first issue and look forward to seeing your papers in the near future.

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Associate Editor

### References

1. Sobuwa S, Christopher LD. Emergency care education in South Africa: Past, present and future. *Australasian Journal of Paramedicine* 2019;16:1–5.