

## UPCOMING RESEARCH ARTICLES IN *HEALTH SA GESONDHEID*

### Author:

Neltjie van Wyk<sup>1</sup>

### Affiliation:

<sup>1</sup>Head of the Department of Nursing Science, University of Pretoria, South Africa

### Correspondence to:

Neltjie van Wyk

### e-mail:

neltjie.vanwyk@up.ac.za

### Keywords:

editorial; articles; Health SA Gesondheid; comments

### Dates:

Received: 09 Feb. 2009

Accepted: 09 Feb. 2009

Published: 09 Apr. 2009

### How to cite this article:

Van Wyk, N., 2009, 'Upcoming research articles in *Health SA Gesondheid*', *Health SA Gesondheid* 14(1), 1 page. DOI: 10.4102/hsag.v14i1.422

### This article is available at:

<http://www.hsag.co.za>

### FOREWORD

A range of articles covering a variety of most relevant topics in multi-disciplinary healthcare, in which a wide spectrum of research methodologies have been used, are presented in this volume that may contribute to the delivery of high-quality healthcare in both well- and poor-resourced facilities and communities.

*Kirsten, van der Walt and Viljoen* address the debate on 'holistic' therapies that oppose the 'traditional biochemical practice of associating a physical disease with a specific physical cause'. They focus on the work of Fritjof Capra, published in 1982, and discuss whether a paradigm shift has indeed taken place in the perspective of healthcare professionals during the past two decades.

*Bruce and Lack* focus on the very important task that lecturers have, to develop instruments proven to be valid in assessing the performance of students in problem-based learning and specifically in tutorials. A quantitative analysis of data sets from experts' judgements was used to construct a valid measurement scale for evaluating students' tutorial performance. In this article, valuable methodological perspectives of subjective judgement to establish instrument validity are presented. In an article by *Lack, Bruce and Becker*, the statistical analysis of construct validity of items in a tutorial performance evaluation instrument is described. As the weighting of items in an evaluation instrument contributes to valid interpretations of student performance, the necessity for such endeavours is emphasised. A report on the statistical analysis and results of the weighting of items in an instrument to assess nursing students' performance in problem-based learning tutorials is included.

Adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART) poses a problem to patients and healthcare personnel. *Frank and Duncan* investigate the phenomenon by exploring the opinions and recommendations regarding ART of a group of experts and patients. Despite some difference in the opinions of the groups mentioned, the importance of the mediating effect of social support and positive relationships between healthcare providers and patients on adherence is emphasised.

Since the public has become used to fear-appeal messages in anti-smoking advertising, the effect of these messages on cigarette smokers to encourage them to quit smoking is becoming more and more questionable. In a qualitative study, *Lynch, de Bruin, Cassimjee and Wagner* find that cigarette smokers fail to identify with content that relies solely on factual information, at the expense of emotive appeal.

*Becker, Wolvaardt, Post and Maree* propose a methodology to develop a measuring instrument (metric) for evaluating subjects from a population such as preterm infants, who cannot provide data to facilitate the development of metrics. An expert group who decides on the items to be included and the weights assigned to it is central to the methodology.



*Muchiri, Gericke and Rheeder* review the elements of effective nutrition education for adults with diabetes mellitus in resource-poor settings. The key factors that should be considered in planning effective nutrition education programmes for adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus from such settings is the aim. The active involvement of the patient and a behaviour-focused approach based on appropriate theory complemented by suitable delivery methods in individualised and group approaches seem to be of crucial importance.

Professor Neltjie van Wyk  
Professional Editor