

## Bridging the divides in health systems intervention and reform

*Strengthening Health Systems*, an international open-access peer-reviewed journal, incorporates the *Southern African Journal of Public Health*. It is supported by the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and published by the Health and Medical Publishing Group and South African Public Health Medicine Association. This journal will be an international, peer-reviewed, open-access journal that will publish the best academic studies on practices of public health, preventive and community medicine that would strengthen health systems, capture the most significant field-based innovations and lessons, and build an interactive cohesive community of academics and service providers. We will publish four issues per year.

The journal aims to bridge the divides between academia and service providers in health systems intervention and reform. We will endeavour to capture the totality of knowledge about health systems: to support governments and development professionals to systematically document what they have seen, to link researchers with implementers to define research questions with practical relevance and to provide policy makers with a solid foundation of knowledge on which to base their decisions.

We would like to publish the most significant and widely applicable findings and experience from programme implementation and translational research, with recognisable policy impacts that draw on robust research and operational experience from both academic and non-academic authors and service

providers. We are committed to addressing the 5/95 publications gap for health systems research – a term coined by the WHO-based Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research to describe the imbalance between the numbers of health systems research papers from developing countries compared with developed nations.

The journal will also publish series of articles on health systems management, health technology assessment and evidence-based healthcare, as well as articles focusing on postgraduate studies in public health and preventive medicine. The first issue of the journal in 2017 covers these areas, as well as topical issues in the South African health system such as 'ward-based outreach teams'.

As such, we have pledged to maintain a policy of no author fees and open-access publication for all our content, to remove barriers to publication and to ensure the maximum dissemination and use of published work. To support all authors, no matter how inexperienced, and to capture their knowledge in the scientific record, we also offer a cluster of publishing support services, including protocol reviews, writing support, intensive author feedback/developmental editing, and mentoring arrangements.

**Deb Basu**

*Editor*

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