Research without Borders x

African Health Sciences – Assignment July 2017

***African Health Sciences* – report and planning**

The following bullet points are intended to assist the AHS editorial board with development.

**AHS Journal**

* Readership: Doctors, students, researchers, other health care professionals, policy makers, pharmaceutical representatives, press and public.
* Frequency of publication: Quarterly
* Content
  + Regional
  + International
* Focus and Scope: available on [website](http://africanhealthsciences.org/node/17)
* Editorial Board: up-to-date on [website](http://africanhealthsciences.org/node/10)
* Metrics
  + Impact factor included on website: 0.666
  + Not included 2016: CiteScore (0.80); SJR (0.380); SNIP (0.565)
  + Scopus metrics, comparison to other AJPP journals *[attached]*:



* Indexing
  + Indexed on: African Index Medicus, AJOL, Bioline, DOAJ, EBSCO, EMBASE, PubMed Central & MEDLINE, Scopus, Web of Science, HINARI, Science Citation Index - Thompson Reuter
  + Not indexed on: CABI, Google Scholar

**Key objectives**

* Increase pool of peer-reviewers
* Increase quality of reviews
* Mitigate backlog of submitted manuscripts in Scholar One
* Look at production process (and how to optimize)

**Peer Review process (in Scholar One)**

* Current status
  + Users cannot enter keywords to specify field of expertise
  + ***Action***: enable keywords to better assign reviewers, list *[attached],* in process



* Ask submitting authors to propose 2 reviewers (1 national / 1 international)
  + ***Action***: Scholar One to configure this setting, in process
* Re-target users who have reviewed 1-2 manuscripts:
  + 2339/2809 active reviewers, list of all users *[attached]*



* + Do not consider reviewers with average time >60 days (**ask EiC to review list)**
* Elsevier’s Expert Lookup Tool to find more reviewers: requested access, in process
* Incentivize reviewers
  + ***Action***: select top reviews, send certificate *[attached]* and announce on website under ‘News’



* Outreach to enlist new reviewers
  + Hold reviewer workshop (e.g. 19 enlisted reviewers from publishing workshop on 20 July 2017), list *[attached]*



* + Conference attendees
  + PhD candidates at Makerere University Medical School

**AHS Workflow for manuscript submissions**

* Scholar One
  + Training manuals *[attached]* available for:
    - Admin
    - Reporting
    - Production



* + Updates and customization
    - User interface changed in July 2017
      * ***Action***: update email templates to reflect new labels: ‘Awaiting Reviewer’s Score’ to be changed to ‘Review and Score’
    - Configure keywords setting, in process
    - ***Action***: upload letterhead
  + Reporting
    - Additional training available, contact Emily for details
    - ***Action***: set-up automatic quarterly reports
  + Questions: [ts.mcsupport@clarivate.com](mailto:ts.mcsupport@clarivate.com)
* Production
  + Publishing Manager converts submitted manuscripts into PDF in Adobe InDesign
  + Manual, time consuming process
  + Galley proof sent to author to approve
  + Authors must sign accepting PDF before publication (no changes at this stage)
  + Future planning: how can this process be made more efficient?
    - Additional volunteer
    - Change from Adobe InDesign
    - Ensure that Guide to Authors is detailed

**Communication Strategy**

* AHS website
  + <http://africanhealthsciences.org/> launched July 2017
  + Website development
    - Recommendations e.g. FAQs and Resources page to add *[attached]*



* + - Contact form and @africanhelathsciences.org email addresses
    - Website/journal homepage link on Scopus must be updated from AJOL, in process
  + Maintenance
    - IT Support
    - Content Support
* Other websites:
  + Bioline page: <http://www.bioline.org.br/hs>
  + AJOL page: <https://www.ajol.info/index.php/ahs/index>
* Social Media
  + Not a priority at the moment
  + Facebook page active (Pauline and Emily are Admins): <https://www.facebook.com/africanhealthsciences/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel>
* Press Releases
  + In progress: Vol 17 No. 2 (June 2017) *Evidence for decreasing sperm count in African population from 1965 to 2015* <https://www.ajol.info/index.php/ahs/article/view/158723> sent for press release
  + ***Action***: when available, feature on website under ‘News’

**Editorial board and supporting staff**

* ***Action***: include bios and photos – discuss first with EiC
* All work on voluntary basis, part-time unless indicated
* Editor-in Chief: Prof. James Tumwine (Founder of journal 2001)
* Associate Editor: Michael Kawooya
* Assistant Editors (not listed on website)
  + Grace Ndeezi
  + Moses Galukanda
  + David Mukunya
* Publishing Manager: Pauline Salamula (full-time)
* Copy Editors
* IT/Business Person
  + Edgart Katarahweire
  + Wycliff Nkamushaba (freelancer)
* Editorial Board
* International Consulting Editors
* Internship(s)

**Relationship Strategy**

* Partnerships
  + AJPP
  + African Journal Online:
  + Research without Borders
  + Mentorships
    - BMJ – Elsevier (Trish Groves)
* AHS Relationships
  + Authors
  + Reviewers

**Education and Outreach Strategy**

* Outreach and trainings
* Propose planning for weeklong summer
* Alternating special focus topics for shorter trainings (derived from GMJ Business Plan):
  + Ethics in Research and Publishing
  + Using Social Media – Create your social media strategy
  + Data Management/Biostatistics/Analysis – What to do with your data?
  + Applying for Funding – Successful Grant Writing
  + Manuscript Writing Review – style & formation for submitting to Scientific Journals
  + Use of on-line resources
  + Qualitative Research focus – defining and testing
  + Enrich & enhance your article for publication
  + Understanding the publication process
  + How to publish in AHS and other scholarly journals
  + How to review manuscripts – the principles of peer reviews
  + What are “hot topics” in Uganda
* Conference Attendance

**Future planning**

* Financial sustainability: Open Access journal with no article processing charges (APCs)
* Production process: consider alternatives to Adobe InDesign
* Additional support staff/volunteers