

## South African Journal of Clinical Nutrition – remembering the past, and a glimpse into the future.

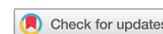
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Almost 40 years ago, a group of likeminded individuals under the leadership of Prof. Demetre Labadarios, identified a dire need for scientific communication on the Science of Nutrition, which led to the conceptualisation and birth of the *South African Journal of Clinical Nutrition* (SAJCN). The launching of the SAJCN undoubtedly represented a historical landmark in the field of nutrition in South Africa, a country with unique first and third world nutrition-related problems. Publication and dissemination of important local nutrition research and information were crucial, and a vehicle to deliver this information was needed.

In the 36 years since its inception, under the leadership of Prof. Labadarios the SAJCN has grown significantly to an established, accredited local scientific journal serving not only the local scientific community, but also the African continent as a whole. After the first issue appeared in 1988, the journal has consistently published initially two issues and later four issues per year, displaying the quality of work done locally and on the continent.

At its inception, the journal was the official publication of the South African Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (SASPEN). The journal has since expanded to be more encompassing of all aspects of nutritional sciences and accepts manuscripts from all basic and applied areas of dietetics and human nutrition, including clinical nutrition, public health nutrition, food science, food policy, food service management and nutrition policy. In subsequent years, the Association for Dietetics in South Africa (ADSA) and the Nutrition Society of South Africa (NSSA) came on board, with the journal now being the official publication of three key nutrition societies and associations in South Africa. The journal has evolved to be a respected locally accredited, peer-reviewed open access journal indexed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), Embase, Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) and Scopus.

After 36 years of exceptional leadership, the first Editor-in-Chief is now taking a well-deserved break, leaving the current Editorial Board and new Editor-in-Chief with a strong foundation from which to grow and expand the SAJCN even more. Throughout his tenure, Prof Labadarios worked tirelessly and selflessly to firstly establish the SAJCN as a reputable journal, and secondly, to develop it to the journal it is today. He steered the journal through tough financial challenges and ensured its viability whilst still ensuring accessibility to local researchers. He guided the journal through various publishers and innovations over the years, from print copies to being a fully online open access journal. Over time, and under his guidance, new and valuable additions were added to the journal, such as case studies, special issues, and congress supplements,

CPD (Continuing Professional Development) opportunities and Society news to keep all informed. All the while, Prof. Labadarios was upholding the highest quality standards and ensuring scientific rigour and integrity of the research published in the SAJCN. He is remembered for his enthusiastic support for developing young nutrition researchers and providing them with the opportunity to publish a first paper. Prof. Labadarios has led the journal with skill, selflessness, enthusiasm, creativity, innovation, collaboration, and care for close to 40 years, whilst being supported throughout by various committed Editorial Board members.

Under Prof. Labadarios' leadership, *The South African Journal of Clinical Nutrition* is now well positioned as a leader in publishing high quality nutrition research, and in promoting scientific accuracy throughout the nutrition community. The South African nutrition community will forever be grateful for his immense contributions to the journal over an astounding 36 years. We wish him well in his future endeavours and undertake to proudly build on the solid foundation provided, to expand, develop and take the journal to even greater heights.

With a view to the future, Prof. Renée Blaauw will take up the reigns as the new Editor-in-Chief with the support of the Editorial Board (Prof. Ali Dhansay, Prof. Mieke Faber, Dr Janicke Visser and Ms Anna-Lena du Toit), supported by the SAJCN Management Board (including representatives from the 3 nutrition societies/associations). The team looks forward to new challenges, innovations, achievements, and the growth of the SAJCN in the term ahead.

SAJCN Editorial Board



Prof Demetre Labadarios

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