South Africa’s Department of Health can ill afford to pay for costly interventions when cheaper alternatives exist. A recent Treasury report made it clear that the health sector needed to make efforts to achieve optimal value for money; insisting on a better price for PCV would be a good place to start.

Nathan Ford  
Médecins sans Frontières  
Johannesburg  
nathan.ford@joburg.msf.org

Daniel Berman  
Access to Essential Medicines Project  
Médecins sans Frontières  
Geneva

Lisa Frigati  
Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital  
Cape Town

A jaw for a tooth

To the Editor: I fully support the sentiments expressed by Dr N T Ospovat1 when he criticised the Editor for producing an editorial which has little to do with medicine and much to do with politics.2

It is not the province of the Editor of the SAMJ to embark on a career of political journalism in our journal. He has abused his position as Editor and foisted upon us his naïve and bigoted political views. In most Western countries, the Editor would be asked to resign, in consequence.

He owes the medical fraternity an apology.

Charles Isaacsion  
Emeritus Professor of Pathology  
University of the Witwatersrand Medical School  
Johannesburg  
charles@worldonline.co.za

References