African section of e-journal Rural and Remote Health

To the Editor: We read with interest the SAMJ article ‘Scope and geographical distribution of African medical journals active in 2005’ by Siegfried et al.,1 and would like to bring to your readers’ attention the recent launch of an African section of the e-journal Rural and Remote Health (RRH). This regional section has a particularly African flavour, owing to its own editorial board and peer-review panel, but is under the umbrella of the international journal.

We hope that the African section will add to the initiatives described by Siegfried et al. and address some of the issues raised in their article. RRH is an international, peer-reviewed, open-access journal. It is Medline-listed. It aims to offer wider readers’ attention the recent launch of an African section of the e-journal Rural and Remote Health (RRH). This regional section has a particularly African flavour, owing to its own editorial board and peer-review panel, but is under the umbrella of the international journal.

We hope that the African section will add to the initiatives described by Siegfried et al. and address some of the issues raised in their article. RRH is an international, peer-reviewed, open-access journal. It is Medline-listed. It aims to offer wider exposure for quality African research in the area of rural and remote health care education, policy and practice. We believe the issues of rural and remote health are relevant to most of Africa.

Because RRH is an electronic journal it affords authors timely publication on an article-by-article basis. In addition, the electronic format means that RRH is not geographically bound, and therefore offers rural and remote authors and users an all-of-Africa approach to publication.

In a recent RRH editorial to coincide with the launch of the African section, we recognised the impact of inadequate access to information on the problems of health and health care in Africa.2 We also discussed the issue of inequity in access to the Internet, which has been highlighted for urgent attention by the Commission for Africa,3 and recent initiatives to improve the current situation of variable access.4,5 We offer the African section of RRH as a small contribution towards this.


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