

Editorial

Between the 1st and 3rd of July 2014, the School of Health Sciences at the University of Venda hosted its 2nd International Conference aptly entitled “*Towards Achieving 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)*”. This special issue emanates from papers presented at the conference aimed at addressing challenges that confront the poverty stricken in many developing countries and their efforts to realize the millennium development goals.

This unique conference attracted abstracts from a diverse scope of disciplines that included issues pertaining to HIV/AIDS, maternal and reproductive health. In all, over 200 abstracts were received, resulting in 102 oral and 56 poster presentations that were delivered in plenary, parallel and poster sessions over three days.

The resounding success of the conference rested on unequivocal commitment of pro-

gramme committee members who worked tirelessly to ensure quality reviews and selection of high quality conference and journal papers.

A special appreciation is extended to the authors and reviewers who worked tirelessly to ensure that this special issue meets the expected requirements and standard. In addition, our sincere appreciation goes to the DVC-Academic (Prof. J.E. Crawford) and the Dean of the School of Health Sciences (Prof. L.B. Khoza) for their unwavering moral and financial support for the conference and for organizing a series of article writing retreats for the special edition. Last but not the least, we would like to extend our thanks to the editorial committee members who spent many sleepless nights preparing and finalizing the papers in accordance with the requirements of the Journal of Human Ecology (JHE).

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