

EDITORIAL

It seems like it was only a few days ago that we were all gathered at the Cape Town ICC for the IHBPA congress and its parallel SAGES and African Viral Hepatitis Convention programmes; but that was May and we are now in September. Still intoxicated by the high-flying speakers with their state-of-the-art topics, cutting edge research outcomes and plans, and just plain formidable academia; the realities of working in public and private South African healthcare (gastroenterology) can be challenging at times.

In the public sector we continue to face significant resource constraints which make practising adequate gastroenterology an administrative as well as a clinically onerous task; in private the challenges are different but real, in many cases the funders

dictating what is and is not available for patients, thereby forcing treatment plans that may not necessarily be optimal for the patient. A doctoring fatigue is evident across the country, which is scarcely alleviated by the government of national unity.... Where will the national health insurance plans drive our profession?

Taking all of this into account, and the fact that this is only the second issue of our new societal journal, this issue goes back to basics. We have a few reviews of common topics, a case study and some research papers. As we begin to refashion a footprint, we would very much appreciate feedback, as the content, for both this issue and the May 2024 edition, is very different. What do you as readers wish to see in your (our) journal?

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