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RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

“How to publish your first paper”

A conference workshop organised by
the SAFP journal editorial team

Klaus von Pressentin, Arun Nair, Indiran Govender,
Ramprakash Kaswa, Shane Murphy

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WHY PUBLISH WITH US?

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- Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) - DHET Approved Index from 2021
- SCOPUS

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 SOUTH AFRICAN ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS



Welcome, brief introductions and workshop aim & objectives



INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR SCHOLARLY COMMUNITY?

Submit your latest research manuscripts towards the open access journal titled South African Family Practice, published by AOSIS.

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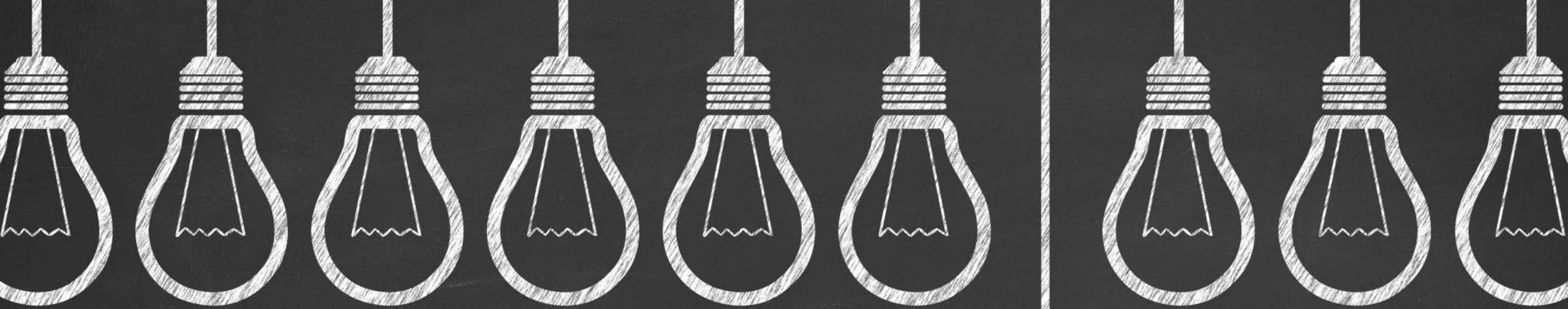
Show of hands

1. Coffee or tea?
2. Mountain or sea?
3. Zoom or MS Teams?
4. Numbers or quotes?



Overview of today's workshop 10h45 – 12h45

Time(min)	Activities	Lead
10	Introduction/welcome; Summary of Feedback 2022 workshop	Klaus
	Intro to author support interest group	Arun
20	Preparing manuscripts for publication	Shane
	Understanding the peer review process	Indiran
30	Group work (small groups)	
	1. Engaging with the peer review process	Ramprakash
	2. Opportunities to grow scholarly writing skills	Klaus
	3. How to identify research partners and mentors	Arun
30	Small group feedback-plenary	Arun
		Ramprakash
15	Reflection on group work insights (buzz pairs)	Klaus
15	Next steps & linking with community of practice...Take home message	All



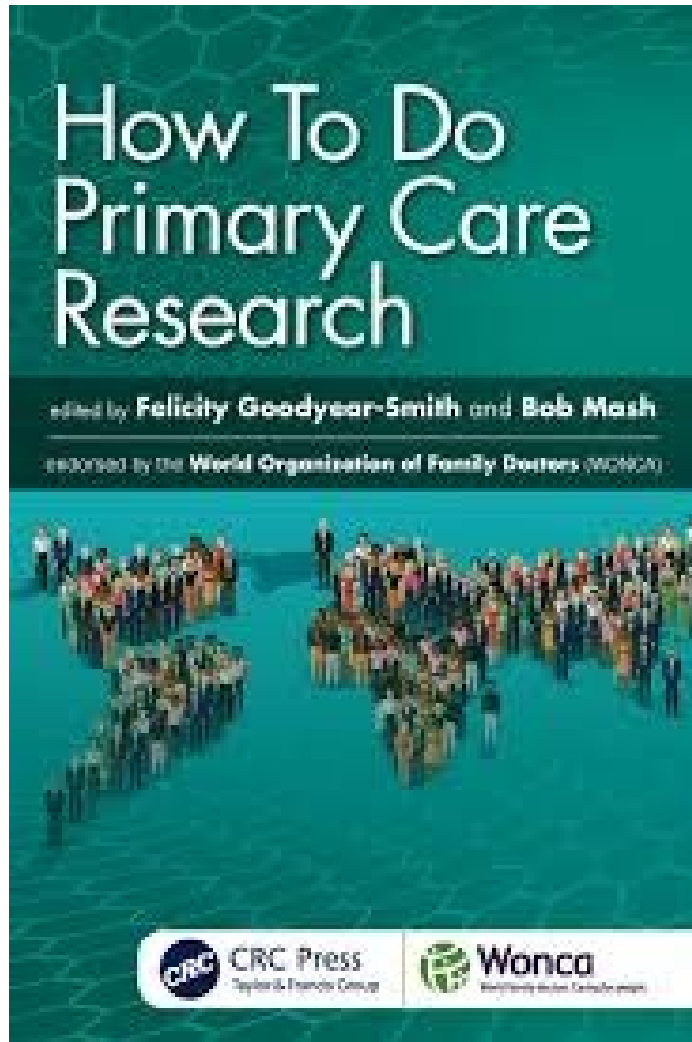
Why do we need to grow primary care scholarship for Southern Africa?

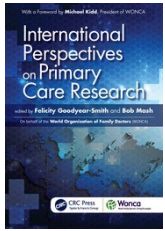


The social and scientific rationale for building academic primary care capacity in Southern Africa

What makes research primary care research?

- *Growing recognition of the need for research that answers questions important to primary care.*
- *Research informs clinical practice, organisation of primary care services and teaching, and developing its own body of knowledge is the hallmark of a maturing academic discipline.*
- *Such research should happen in the primary care context. Evidence generated within the primary care context is more likely to be relevant and applicable.*
- *Unfortunately, much of the evidence applied to the primary care context is generated in other settings such as the tertiary hospital.*





Typology of primary care research

- **Basic research:** focus on the methods used to conduct research in primary care (*What are the ways primary care research networks can be organised?*).
- **Clinical research:** focus on the diagnosis and treatment of clinical problems (*Does long term treatment with azithromycin improve outcomes in asthmatics?*).
- **Health services research:** explores factors that impact the way we deliver care and the organisation of clinical operations (*What are the tasks performed by clinicians in primary care encounters?*).
- **Health systems research:** explores the macro-scale economic and political factors that affect primary care.
- **Educational research:** focus on education for students and practitioners for primary care and the health workforce for primary care (*What is the best training site for medical students for primary care careers?*).

Editorial: A review of published research in the South African Family Practice - A clarion call to action

TABLE 1: Findings from a simple descriptive analysis of original research published during 2020–2022 in the SAJP journal (*N* = 117).

Variable	2020 (%)	2021 (%)	2022 (%)	All (%)
Research publications				
Original research	34.2	29.1	36.8	100.0
Primary care research typology				
Basic research	7.5	32.4	2.3	12.8
Clinical research	47.5	41.2	53.5	47.9
Health services	25.0	17.6	20.9	21.4
Health systems	5.0	0.0	16.3	7.7
Educational research	15.0	8.8	7.0	10.3
Study setting				
Urban or metropolitan	70.0	61.8	55.8	62.4
Rural	12.5	17.6	27.6	19.7
Both	17.5	20.6	16.3	17.9
Study population				
Adults	77.5	67.6	86.0	77.8
Adolescent	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.9
Children	5.0	0.0	2.3	2.6
Combined	17.5	29.4	11.6	19.8
Methods				
Quantitative	75.0	61.8	67.4	68.4
Qualitative	22.5	23.5	23.3	23.1
Mixed methods	2.5	14.7	9.3	8.5
Study design†				
Descriptive – survey	70.0	64.7	55.8	63.2
Descriptive – qualitative	22.5	20.6	23.3	22.2
Experimental or quasi-experimental	0.0	2.9	2.3	1.7
Observational analytic	2.5	0.0	4.7	2.6
Research synthesis	2.5	8.8	4.7	5.1
Mixed methods	2.5	2.9	9.3	5.1

Institutional collaboration				
Yes	22.5	44.1	32.6	32.5
No	77.5	55.9	67.4	67.5
Interdisciplinary research teams				
Yes	47.5	41.2	32.6	40.2
No	52.5	58.8	67.4	59.8

Discipline of the first author				
Family medicine	55.0	32.4	58.1	49.6
Other medical specialist disciplines	17.5	32.4	9.3	18.8
Public health	10.0	8.8	18.6	12.8
Nursing	15.0	17.6	2.3	11.1
Education	0.0	5.9	4.7	3.4
Pharmacy	0.0	2.9	2.3	1.7
Rehabilitation sciences	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.9
Social sciences	0.0	0.0	2.3	0.9
Business discipline	0.0	0.0	2.3	0.9

Country of the first author				
South Africa	77.5	88.2	93.0	86.3
Eswatini	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.9
Lesotho	0.0	0.0	2.3	0.9
Zimbabwe	2.5	0.0	2.3	1.7
Outside Southern African region but from SSA	12.5	5.9	0.0	6.0
Outside SSA	7.5	2.9	2.3	4.3

Student-driven research				
Yes	22.5	20.6	44.2	29.9
Categories of student-led research (<i>N</i> = 35)				
Undergraduate	0.0	0.0	10.5	5.7
Master's	33.3	100.0	63.2	62.9
PhD	66.7	0.0	26.3	31.4

Building on our 2022 workshop

- The workshop highlighted key areas to address to support the research initiatives of clinician-scientists in their everyday environment.
- Sustained investment in research capacity building and its respective support structures at the undergraduate and graduate levels is needed to match the growing interest in primary care research amongst early-career researchers.





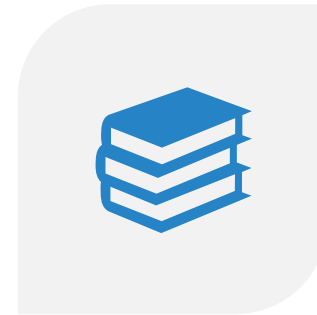
Capacity building portfolio- Author Mentorship group SAFP journal

- Developed from the ideas from the editorial board meeting in May 2022
- *“We need to encourage and support early career researchers and first-time authors- little experience in technical writing & make the publication process less threatening. Consider mentoring our authors and reviewers and look at ways of improving submissions.”*
- Two Author Mentorship meetings: Oct 2022 and June 2023
- **Ideas that are being evaluated:**
 - Mentor pool that can support early career authors and young researchers
 - Formal/informal development opportunities: Retreats, workshops, research days
 - Blogs to share ideas to support authors with their writing; open forum discussions and supplements for sharing thoughts freely
 - Promoting the culture to embed research into clinical practice
 - Research networks and resources for access for clinicians in non-academic settings
 - Understanding common reasons for rejections/non-publications from early career researchers



Two short presentations

20 minutes



PREPARING MANUSCRIPTS
FOR PUBLICATION



UNDERSTANDING THE
PEER REVIEW PROCESS



Group work

30 minutes

Group work focus areas



ENGAGING WITH THE PEER
REVIEW PROCESS



OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW
SCHOLARLY WRITING SKILLS



HOW TO IDENTIFY RESEARCH
PARTNERS AND MENTORS



Group work feedback

30 minutes

Arun and Ramprakash to facilitate

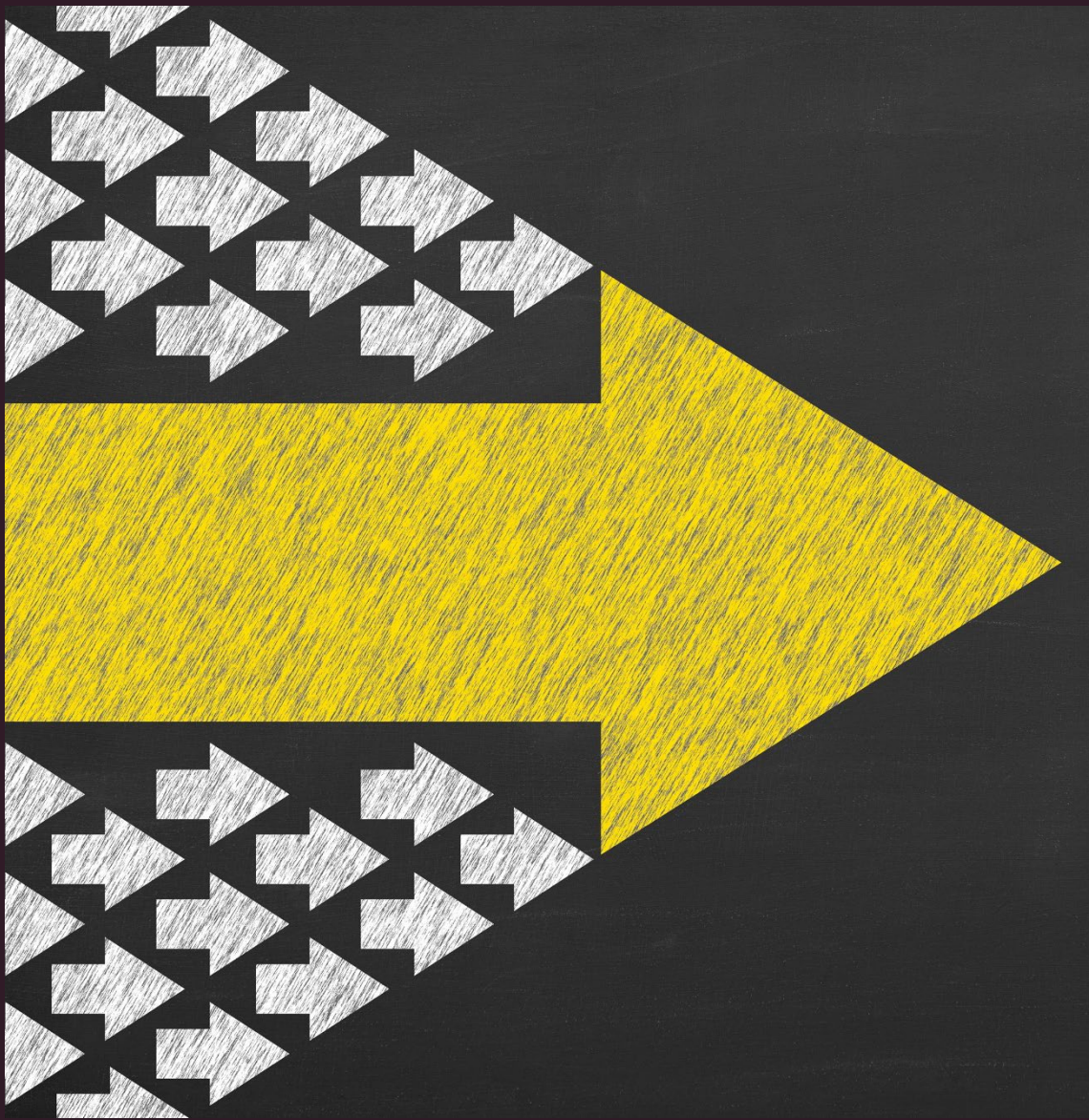


Reflection on the group work

15-minutes

Buzz pairs:

one thing to do in the next 2 weeks



Next steps

Sharing of take-home messages



How to get involved as author and reviewer

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The *South African Family Practice* is the official journal of the South African Academy of Family Physicians (SAAFP), founded in 1980.

- <https://safpj.co.za/index.php/safpj>
- Twitter: [@SAFPjournal](https://twitter.com/SAFPjournal)

Become a peer reviewer

- Keep up with the latest research
- Improve your own writing and research capacity
- Boost your career
- Become part of a journal's community

Some argue that peer reviewing is an essential aspect of scholarship... but hopefully, it will also be a meaningful experience, especially when reviewing articles in your field of interest.

Selected references for further reading 😊

- Von Pressentin KB, Kaswa R, Murphy S, Nair A. A review of published research in the South African Family Practice-A clarion call to action. South African Family Practice. 2023;65(1):a5777. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4102/safp.v65i1.5777>.
- Mash R, Essuman A, Ratansi R, Goodyear-Smith F, Von Pressentin K, Malan Z, Van Lancker M, De Maeseneer J. African primary care research: current situation, priorities and capacity building. African Journal of Primary Health Care and Family Medicine. 2014;6(1):1-6.
- Schneider H, Kredo T, Odendaal WA, Abdullah F. What are health policy and systems research priorities for universal health coverage in South Africa?. South African Medical Journal. 2023;113(2):61-4.
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- Mash R. The contribution of family physicians to African health systems. African Journal of Primary Health Care & Family Medicine. 2022;14(1):1-9. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4102/phcfm.v14i1.3651>.
- Reeve J, Beaulieu MD, Freeman T, Green LA, Lucassen P, Martin C, Okada T, Palmer V, Sturgiss E, Sturmberg J, van Weel C. Revitalizing generalist practice: the Montreal statement. Available from: <https://www.annfammed.org/content/16/4/371>.
- Bierman AS, Tong ST, McNellis RJ. Realizing the dream: the future of primary care research. The Annals of Family Medicine. 2022;20(2):170-4.
- Regional family medicine and primary care websites and journals:
 - WONCA Africa: <https://www.woncafrica.org/> ; PRIMAFAMED: <https://primafamed.sun.ac.za/>
 - African Forum for PHC: <https://afrophc.org/>
 - African Journal of PHC and Family Medicine: <https://phcfm.org/index.php/phcfm>
 - South African Academy of Family Physicians: <https://saafp.org/>
 - South African Family Practice journal: <https://safpj.co.za/index.php/safpj>



The image shows the cover of the South African Family Practice (SAFP) journal. The cover features a photograph of a doctor in a white coat examining an elderly patient. The text on the cover includes 'SAFP SOUTH AFRICAN FAMILY PRACTICE' and '2021'.

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The logo for the South African Academy of Family Physicians (SAFP) is located in the bottom right corner. It features a stylized figure of a person with arms raised, surrounded by a circular border, with the text 'SOUTH AFRICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS' below it.



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