On behalf of the Editorial Board, it is with great pride that I wrote this editorial to present the first issue of the *Wits Journal of Clinical Medicine*.

The idea for this journal was born about 5 years ago when I realized that a vast amount of research work in the School of Clinical Medicine gets “lost”. I estimated that only a small fraction of the research findings of all the Masters and PhD theses in the School of Clinical Medicine are published in local or international journals. A major reason for this is that the landscape to publish many of these works is very limited. Thus, after discussions with colleagues, the idea was born to establish a Journal within the School to create an avenue for some of the research to see the light of day in a journal publication. In some respects, the seeds for this new Journal were planted in our Faculty many years ago. Some may recall that the Wits Medical School used to publish a local magazine called the “Leech”, which highlighted review articles and other articles of interest. For reasons unknown to me, the publication of the Leech ceased but, it being a print edition, the cost may have been a major factor.

Thus from the onset, it was decided that the *Wits Journal of Clinical Medicine* would be an open access peer reviewed online journal. After investigating publication on other national online platforms, it was decided to associate with Wits publishing which has had a long and successful history of publishing at Wits. It so happens that Wits publishing was also looking at expanding its horizons into online publishing. Unlike many open access journals, there will be no cost to authors to have their work published in the *Wits Journal of Clinical Medicine*.

The *Wits Journal of Clinical Medicine* aims to provide a common platform for researchers in all disciplines in Clinical Medicine to share their research findings. The editorial policy will be guided by scientific quality and integrity, and all publications will be peer reviewed. The aim of the new journal will be a quarterly publication.

Launching this new journal would not have been possible without the valuable contributions and assistance from Prof Raquel Duarte, Prof Sarala Naicker and Dr Caroline Dickens. A huge gratitude to Andrew Joseph from Wits publishing, who walked this journey with us from our very first meeting to this inaugural issue. I also thank Prof Mac Lukhele, the previous HOS, who enthusiastically believed in the idea and supported the initiative. Prof Daynia Ballot, the current HOS, has continued her support, and the editorial team values this greatly.

The birth of this new journal comes from a long process, and we have taken the necessary steps to make it a quality scientific publication. We are relying on the collaboration of all our editors, editorial board members, reviewers and contributors to make it a contemporary, lively and relevant publication.

This inaugural issue features five scientific papers and abstracts from the Research day in the Department of Surgery. I hope you will enjoy reading our first issue of *Wits Journal of Clinical Medicine*, that you find the articles stimulating and invite you to submit your best papers for publication.

Pravin Manga
Editor-in-Chief
University of Witwatersrand