

## CONTENTS OF THE HASA Annals 2008:

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It has been a year of unnecessary acrimony, with a tsunami of negativity, largely targeting the private healthcare sector. **Kurt Worrall-Clare, HASA's Chief Executive Officer**, presents in [On The Brink...](#) an in-depth overview of the interaction between policy makers and the private health sector.

Understanding hospital inflation in SA is not easy and one can effortlessly get entangled in polemics. [In Inflation, Costs and Comparison of Hospital Services in SA](#), **Mike Schüssler, T-sec's Senior Economist**, offers a well informed economic analysis of the relationship between medical inflation and hospitalisation. This award-winning economist addresses ways to achieve objectivity regarding the measures of hospital and medical inflation.

The political transition of SA is struggling to bring about the desired change in healthcare. **Dr Nkaki Matlala, Presidential Medical Panellist and HASA chair**, investigates this "new apartheid" in [Universal Health Access and Poverty](#) he looks at the interaction between poverty and health outcomes.

Nursing shortages are neither new nor unique to SA. **Dr Eloise van Niekerk, National Nursing Manager of Life Healthcare** argues in [Skills Mix, A Nursing Reality](#) that the problem goes beyond the pressures of supply and demand.

**Melanie Da Costa and others** discusses issues pertaining to the proposed National Health Insurance. [The article](#) investigates universal health systems in 13 countries.

[In Enhanced Transformation and Accessibility](#) **Dr Mvula Yoyo, Medi-clinic**, expertly scrutinises the political economy of transformation of the private healthcare sector in a country consisting of "two economies".

[Is there a doctor in the house?](#) is a provocative analysis of the shortage of doctors. **Dr Clarence Mini, Thebe ya Bophelo and Lucas Malambe, Hasa Annals Editor**, go beyond the vacancy levels and ask a lot of questions regarding skills migration and the reasons SA is failing to use its obvious competitive advantage in attracting skills?

[To change or not to change...](#) is another vexed question. **Neil Kirby, Director at Werksmans Attorneys**, dissects the public and private interests as manifested through the complex interactions of legislations and rights and obligations.

**Little Things in IPC** does make a huge difference in health. **Dr Rose Mulumba, Country Director, John Snow Research and Training Institute in SA** argues that Infection Prevention and Control provides a golden thread that can help balance the disparities between private and public health outcomes.

Do we really understand the underlying cost drivers in our national health system? The answer is in **Ashleigh Theophanides's (Director and Consulting Actuary, Deloitte) Length of Stay and Occupancy**, a Deloitte actuarial investigation into the factors that makes up private hospital fees.

### **Database**

The publication also serves as a database of information concerning private hospitals and medical schemes. There is a complete list of open and closed medical insurers and also private hospitals by the number of beds, theatres and contact details. Past issues of HASA Health Annals are also available, and can be ordered from HASA through this web page. (Currently Available: Annals 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001, 2000).