

A call to support the new KBS journal

After more than a year of preparatory work, it is gratifying to see the first issue of the new Kettil Bruun Society (KBS) journal, the *International Journal of Alcohol and Drug Research* (IJADR). As someone who lives and works in Africa, I am also heartened to see that the focus of the first issue is based on a KBS thematic meeting held in Kampala, Uganda, in November 2010—the first KBS meeting ever to be held in the continent.

My first thought on hearing in August 2010 that KBS was intending to support the establishment of a new journal was to ask myself whether, with all the journals around, we needed another one. On further reflection, I do believe that there is a place for a new journal that among other things will assist authors, particularly those from developing countries, with good material who need help in getting it “publication ready.” There is also a need for researchers, service providers and policy-makers in developing countries and elsewhere to have access to quality, free, online journal articles, and also for authors to be able publish their work in open access, online journals without having to pay publication fees.

KBS is a prestigious society that comprises a broad grouping of researchers and others from around the world, who attend regular meetings to present their work in an open forum. Having a journal linked to KBS will increase the likelihood of more material presented at KBS meetings getting into print.

I have several other hopes for IJADR. First, I hope that it will open the door for more researchers whose first language isn't English to get their articles published in English. If this happens, it will have the potential to enrich the field of substance abuse research and debate. Second, I hope that IJADR will not take articles away from existing journals aimed at audiences in developing countries, such as the *African Journal of Drug & Alcohol Studies*, but rather that it will support the publication of material that might not have been published elsewhere or that would have gone to

existing journals that are not open access. Finally, I hope that not only will the journal publish empirical articles, but that it will also be a vehicle for debate, and that over time it will develop a unique flavour—just as has occurred at KBS meetings, with their distinctive format, which supports simultaneous presentation and engagement with the presentation.

In closing, I would like to commend Kate Graham and John Clapp for their efforts in bringing this new journal into being, and I encourage researchers and others to submit articles, to assist in reviewing material, and even to give up time to aid authors needing help in getting their material ready for publication.

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IJADR Advisory Board

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