

# Note from the editor

*"If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got."*

Henry Ford

For the first time ever, I am reusing an old quote! Taking up Henry Ford's challenge above, in February last year the editorial team held a strategic session to discuss the journal's positioning, and how we might better serve our authors and readers. So I can now report how we have performed against these goals:

- We are pleased with the positioning of the journal as a fully accredited ISI- and Scopus-indexed journal. Authors are using it as a learning platform to give our younger authors the necessary exposure to the world of academic publishing. However, we would also like to remain a preferred publication for the more seasoned South African authors. With the drive now in universities to increase the exposure of academics in international journals, we have noticed that our more seasoned local authors are not using SAJIE as often as in the past.
- According to ScimagoJR, the journal is at the high end of a Q3 journal, and we aspire to work to improve our ranking to that of a Q2 journal. However, our relatively large special edition, in which we publish the best conference articles, is working against this at the moment.
- The journal would like to publish 16-20 articles per edition. To achieve this goal, we have identified bottlenecks in our current editorial process, and have already implemented changes that are speeding up our process significantly. Our review process is now significantly faster, with most articles now being accepted within six months.
- Thanks to the faster review process, we will not only publish more per edition, but we have also intended to move the target dates for the first two editions a month earlier, with edition 1 towards the end of April and edition 2 towards the end of July.
- Unfortunately, we were not able to reach the target for the first edition of 2023, owing to software updates. The journal is published using open-source software (OJS), and we were using an old version of the software that was no longer state-of-the-art. At the end of February we upgraded to a newer version of the software, which functions very differently from the old version; and so we had quite a migration process to align our processes using the new version, resulting in delays in publishing this edition.
- Since the journal is owned by the South African Institute for Industrial Engineering (SAIIE), one of the SAIIE Annual Awards is for the best paper published in the SAJIE; another is a SAJIE editor's award, recognising the individual who has made the largest contribution to the journal. Both awards were presented for the first time at the 2022 SAIIE Awards and Gala evening.

This edition has a total of 12 articles, with 8 from authors with South African connections and the balance from international authors.

Our feature article in this edition is from three young authors from North-West University, who wrote the thought-provoking article: **Could digital ubuntu be the South African version of Industry 4.0?**

If you have suggestions on how we could take this journal forward, please let me know.

Corne Schutte  
Editor