

Editorial

This special issue is the product of the 2nd International Conference of the School of Health Sciences held under the theme: *Towards Achieving 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)* at the University of Venda (UNIVEN) from 1 to 3 July, 2014. The conference provided a platform for local and international students, academics, researchers, policy makers and professional from diverse disciplines to share their experiences, research work and good practices for the realization of the key MDG goals.

A number of abstracts and manuscripts presented at the conference speak to social and developmental issues such as poverty, gender equity and empowerment, job creation and social unrest. To this end, this special issue in the Journal of Social Sciences has covered a range of such issues.

Undoubtedly, this special issue never came easy; it has been made possible through the collective effort, support and dedication of special individuals. We wish, therefore, to acknowledge the debt of gratitude we owe:

- ♦ Prof. JE Crawford (DVC-Academic) and Prof. LB Khoza (Dean- School of Health Sciences) for their material, financial and moral support
- ♦ Authors for their thought-provoking and interesting manuscripts
- ♦ Peer-reviewers for their pains-taking effort to scrutinize all manuscripts in order to ensure quality and, finally, the
- ♦ Editorial team for their enormous effort and for working tirelessly around the clock to make this special issue a reality.

Dr. Takalani Mashau
Prof. Sonto Maputle
Dr. Takalani Tshitangano
(Guest Editors)