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Free Open Access

We are pleased to announce another major innovation in the history of *Medical Principles and Practice* (MPP): the new service of *free open access* from any location, to begin with Volume 22, Issue 1, January 2013. Making this service available is consistent with the Journal's mission statement 'to be a publication of international repute that will be a medium for the dissemination and exchange of scientific knowledge in the health sciences'. All manuscripts submitted to the Journal will remain peer-reviewed. While some journals charge a fee for publishing a paper in a free open access journal, this service has been made possible to the international community of authors and readers by Kuwait University. When MPP introduced one year delayed open access in July 2008, a modification of the open access model, the result was a dramatic rise in reader interest, as evidenced by its online hits. Because of this enthusiastic response to delayed open access, from that time the Journal's goal has been to upgrade to a complete open access model. Working with its publisher, S. Karger, and sponsor, Kuwait University, MPP joins the league of journals that provide research information in the health sciences to the international community *without financial obligations to the readers*.

For several years, MPP has been adapting to new practices in publishing in the health sciences. In October 2011, the Journal offered its *Online First Articles* feature, which made possible access to accepted papers before the print edition, thereby shaving several months off the duration of the publication process. In January 2011, the Journal transitioned to online submission through its publisher S. Karger. Online submission provides authors with a unique site for their submission activity, where they can view and access the manuscripts they have submitted and check on the progress of their manuscripts in process. MPP is committed to continual improvement and continues to work with its publisher S. Karger to ensure its online submission experience is effective and user-friendly. In 2010, at the suggestion of one of its International Advisory Board members, the Journal introduced a column in Volume 19, Issue 5, that features the latest developments in the health care field, the 'What's New' column. We hope authors and our readers will take advantage of our latest innovation: *free open access*.

Azu Owunwanne, Editor-in-Chief