Vacancy advertisement

The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) is an independent statutory body of eminent South African scientists. ASSAf's primary objective is to generate evidence-based solutions to the problems and challenges facing South African society.

ASSAf invites applications from outstanding scholars to serve as

Editor-in-Chief

of the

South African Journal of Science,

South Africa's premier multidisciplinary scholarly journal.

The *South African Journal of Science* (www.sajs.co.za) is a leading, diamond open access, multidisciplinary journal, published bimonthly by ASSAf. The Journal's mandate is to publish original research with an interdisciplinary and regional Africa focus and to provide a forum for discussion of news and developments in research and higher education. The Journal is committed to excellence in scholarly publishing, research integrity and the dissemination of high-quality research of regional and global significance.

The Editor-in-Chief leads an editorial team of ten disciplinary-specialist Associate Editors who are responsible for managing the peer review of submissions in their disciplines. The Editor-in-Chief works closely with a full-time publishing team consisting of a Managing Editor, an Online Publishing Systems Administrator and an Online Publishing Administrator led by the Scholarly Publishing Manager. The Editor-in-Chief reports to the Executive Officer of ASSAf and is accountable to the Editorial Advisory Board.

This **part-time, three-year** contract position requires regular hours per week (16 hours) with some flexibility. Candidates can be based anywhere in South Africa and are *not* expected to work from the ASSAf office. The successful applicant will be required to enter into a three-year Service Level Agreement with ASSAf.

Role

The Editor-in-Chief provides editorial and strategic leadership. The successful candidate will ensure the Journal maintains the highest standards of editorial quality, research integrity, innovation and international visibility while supporting ASSAf's mission to advance scholarly publishing in South Africa and across Africa.

Tasks

- Champion excellence in research integrity and publication ethics.
- Ensure adherence to international best practice in scholarly publishing, including COPE principles, open science principles and the responsible use of artificial intelligence in publishing.
- Monitor developments in scholarly communication and recommend innovations that strengthen the Journal's quality, efficiency and impact.

 Act as ambassador of the Journal and work collaboratively with ASSAf to enhance the Journal's national, continental and international profile

 Represent the Journal on ASSAf's Committee on Scholarly Publishing and the Quest editorial board

 Support diversity, equity and inclusion in editorial appointments, peer review and published scholarship

 Set and drive the strategy of the Journal – drive short- and long-term objectives

 Actively promote, market and grow the Journal and enhance the reputation of the Journal

 Lead the Associate Editor selection process, provide training/guidance to and oversight of Associate Editors; assign and balance review workloads

 Actively solicit manuscripts and value-added content such as book reviews and news items

 Oversee peer review and ensure continuous delivery of copy

 Write the Leader, or solicit Guest Leaders, for each issue

 Uphold the policies of the Journal and act as arbiter on disputes, appeals and cases of unethical conduct and conflicts of interest

 Review reports pertaining to metrics and performance

 Call and chair annual Associate Editor meetings

 Report on the Journal to the Editorial Advisory Board

Professional attributes

 PhD

 Internationally recognised and active researcher with an excellent publication record

 Broad knowledge and understanding of multidisciplinary research and the subject fields

 Extensive research networks across the subject fields

 Significant previous editorial experience, specifically in a decision-making capacity

 Demonstrated commitment to research integrity and publication ethics.

 Experience with diamond open access publishing.

 Knowledge of open science policies and scholarly publishing trends.

Personal attributes

 Enthusiastic, energetic, highly motivated and committed

 Effective communicator

 A demonstrated vision for the Journal and be able to communicate that vision

 Strong time management skills

- Strong leadership skills
- Strong mentorship skills and a commitment to capacity building
- Collaborative leadership style and ability to work effectively and inclusively with diverse viewpoints and approaches
- High ethical standards and excellent judgement
- Effectively delegate responsibility
- Effectively resolve conflict
- Firm decision-maker
- Fair and discreet
- Follow through promptly
- Explore and embrace innovative technologies and future directions in scholarly publishing

To apply, please submit a cover letter, a detailed CV and the names and contact details of three references to Ms Lynette du Plessis at **lynette@assaf.org.za** before **16 September 2026**.

Correspondence will only be entered into with shortlisted candidates.

ASSAf is an equal opportunity employer.

For more information contact Ms Lynette du Plessis at 071 687 5241.

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science, technology & innovation
Department:
Science, Technology and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

30 years ASSAf
ACADEMY OF SCIENCE OF SOUTH AFRICA