**Chairpersons report August 2021 newsletter**

As we continue to navigate our way around the distress and uncertainty the Covid-19 pandemic has caused, we should not relent or lose hope. In spite of all the challenges presented by the pandemic, EASA has managed to remain active.

In our last newsletter, we reported that EASA intends to support early career academics and postgraduate students, by hosting a webinar series on various topics, under the leadership of Prof Funke Omidire. We are delighted to report that this endeavour came to fruition. A very inspiring webinar was presented by Prof Karen Murphy from the Pennsylvania State University on the 17 June 2021. Although the webinar, entitled, “*Traveling the Road to Impactful Publishing: 10 Guiding Principles”* was attended by only 25% of those who registered, we hope for a much better attendance in future. The next webinar is planned for 25 November 2021. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Prof Funke Omidire for taking the initiative and leading this process.

We are also proud to announce that Prof Omidire is the newly elected Incoming Chairperson and she has agreed to serve in both her current and new portfolios for 2021. The outbound chairperson, prof Amin, has requested to be relieved from her duties, due to poor health. The position will remain vacant and the current chairperson has committed to stand in for the remainder of 2021. We would like to thank prof Amin for her valuable contribution and wish her a speedy recovery.

On another inspiring note, Proff Gouws and Dicker has accepted the request to continue as additional members for 2021 and we know that their expertise and experience will stand the association in good stead.

The EASA website has been upgraded and is fully operational – a big thank you Prof Elize du Plessis for all her hard work in this regard.

EASA’s financial position continues to remain favourable, notwithstanding the depressing economic climate of the country. We would like to thank Prof Raj Mestry as treasurer, for the proficient way in which he manages the finances of the association.

Similarly, the South African Journal of Education has continued to maintain its high standing as leading journal in Education research in Africa. Based on its positive standing and success, SAJE continues to make a noteworthy contribution to the financial position of EASA. Thanks to Prof Ronel Ferreira and her team for the diligent work.

The EASA 2022 annual conference that will be hosted by Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) and Two Oceans Graduate Institute (TOGI). The conference will be held from 9 - 12 January 2022, at the Century City Hotel & Conference Centre in Cape Town. The call for abstract is out and the organising committee is hard at work, under the leadership of Dr Candice Livingstone.

EASA EXCO Chairperson

Tony Mpisi