

# MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

The United Nations' Secretary General Koffi Annan launched the Health Interwork Access to Research Initiative (HINARI) in January 2002, HINARI is part of the Health InterNetwork. The program was created to bridge the digital divide in healthcare between rich and poor countries, ensuring that relevant information – and the technology to deliver it – is widely available to health personnel. It has been described by WHO Director-General, Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, as "perhaps the biggest step ever taken towards reducing the health information gap between rich and poor countries." **Public institutions** can sign up for HINARI. The list of eligible countries is based on gross national product (GNP) per capita (World Bank Figures, 1988). Institutions in countries with GNP per capita below \$1,000 are eligible for free access to the literature, whereas institutions in countries with GNP per capita between \$1000 and \$3,000 may have access at reduced prices. Eligible institutions are as follows: medical, nursing, public health, and pharmacy schools; universities; health and medical research institutes; government offices working in the health sector; and medical libraries. Countries can benefit from HINARI and a special registration form is available on the website [www.healthinternetwork.org](http://www.healthinternetwork.org)

Saudi Medical Journal is committed to this program. In addition, it offers free subscription to all countries in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region (**Table 1**) benefiting partially or completely from HINARI.

Table 1 - Countries in Eastern Mediterranean Region benefiting from HINARI.

Countries
Afghanistan
Algeria
Djibouti
Eritrea
Iraq
Jordan
Morocco
Somalia
Sudan
Syrian Arab Republic
Tunisia
West Bank and Gaza
Yemen

**If you would like to join HINARI please provide all information below.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_

TEL NO: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX NO: \_\_\_\_\_ MOBILE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this by e-mail or fax or complete the online registration at [www.smj.org.sa](http://www.smj.org.sa)*