



## **The SA Academy of Family Practice/Primary Care** National Chairman's Annual Report Annual General Meeting, Nov 6, 2004 Bryanston Country Club, Johannesburg



SOUTH AFRICAN ACADEMY OF  
FAMILY PRACTICE/PRIMARY CARE

Dear colleagues, Academy members, and friends.

It gives me great pleasure to deliver my first and 2004 National Academy Chairman's Annual Report to you, here in Gauteng, this afternoon. Special thanks to Bruce Isley, the Gauteng Provincial Chairman for hosting this year's AGM. In my acceptance speech last year, I highlighted the challenges as well as opportunities coming our way in the coming years. Sponsorship of our meetings remains a problem but in spite of that, Western Cape branch continued with its programme of monthly CPD meetings and a mini-congress in May this year. I had the privilege of attending a combined SAMA/Academy Congress in Pietermaritzburg in June 2004 and I would like to thank Dr Neethia Naidoo for forging cooperation with SAMA to enable us to continue in our role of providing quality CPD for our members. I am pleased to note that here in Gauteng; you have opted for weekend afternoon symposia such as this one. I strongly believe that each region must explore possible options of providing CPD activities to suit their region and the needs of their members.

We continue to provide you with a quality Family Medicine publication: the SA Family Practice Journal together with Today's Doctor to cover hot Managed Healthcare issues. We applaud the Journal team headed by Professor Pierre de Villiers for outstanding work. We continue to be a major player in CPD accreditation. There has been a problem with CPD points handling by the HPCSA and I am pleased to say this is being looked at and in addition, the entire format of the CPD system is under review by the HPCSA. We look forward to a more efficient system next year. Work on the project to update the SA Family Practice Clinical Skills Manual is progressing well under the able leadership of Professor Bob Mash. A contract has been signed with van Schaik Publishers.

The Rural Health Initiative (RHI), an important project of the Academy continues to make a difference to our members in rural areas. The continuing difficulty in attracting funding for projects, however, has forced us to review its role

and future scope of activity. I am working very closely with Professor Jannie Hugo, the RHI Director, to ensure that we do not make rush decisions regarding the future of the project. What does the future hold for the Academy? The future of our organisation is very much tied up with the future of the discipline of Family Medicine. We have just entered a deciding phase for Family Medicine in South Africa. Last month, Professor Bruce Sparks was inaugurated as the President of WONCA, the World Congress of Family Doctors, for the next three years. Our hosting of WONCA in Durban in 2001 put us firmly on the map of the world community of family doctors. Bruce's inauguration this year, puts a seal on it, so to speak and our role in developing the discipline of family medicine for South Africa is to be extended to the rest of the African continent. I have pledged to Dr Abra Fransch, the Africa region President of WONCA, the Academy's commitment to promote family medicine to the betterment of health care on the continent.

The most exciting development for the Academy and our discipline is the decision by the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) to give us the go ahead to develop Family Medicine as a Specialist discipline. Professor Jannie Hugo is leading the process of consultation and planning for the implementation of the training for Family Physicians. The Academy is working closely with FaMEC and others to this effect. We have participated in two workshops here in Gauteng. Successful implementation of this will boost the ability of the Academy to attract more members and more scope for the Academy to plan and organise more truly educational programmes. My vision is that family physicians form the back bone of primary care in this country and well structured post graduate training and a clear career path for family doctors will ensure realisation of this vision.

In our endeavour to plan for the future of the Academy, a strategic planning meeting took place at Birchwood here in Gauteng in April this year. National Council members including Professor Julia Blitz (representing FaMEC) and Dr Norman Mabasa, Chair of the

Society for General/Family Practitioners deliberated over a weekend. It was a very energising weekend and a lot of good ideas came up. We hope to start working on some of these in the New Year.

The Academy turns twenty five next year and the 13<sup>th</sup> National Family Practitioners Congress 2005 will take place at Umtata, Transkei in the Eastern Cape. The Congress will form part of our celebrations and we hope you will all join us there for this important landmark in the history of the Academy. I extend my appreciation to Professor Kaya Mfenyana for taking up the hosting of this historic event.

Lastly, I would like to thank Council members for giving up spare time they don't have to the Academy. Professor Gboyega Ogunbanjo, the treasurer and Dr. Neethia Naidoo, the secretary deserve a special salute for putting up with me calling on them on day to day running issues of the Academy. I thank our hard working Rivonia office staff - Lucille Pick, Jeanette Pritchard, and Penny Bryce for the administrative support they give. Charmalin Simpson, the new Secretary of our Western Cape Office in Cape Town is single handedly shouldering the responsibility of that Office admirably and I would like to thank her for that. The RHI work has resulted in my having to be in close contact with Professor Jannie Hugo and he is doing splendid work for RHI and planning future training in Family Medicine. Thank you my brother.

Let me conclude by congratulating Professor Gboyega Ogunbanjo on his appointment as President of the College of Family Practitioners and Professor Kaya Mfenyana who has just taken up the Chairmanship of FaMEC. I look forward to working closely with you in the coming year and would like to remind you of our shared responsibility in shaping the future of Family Medicine in South Africa.

Colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your attention. See you in Umtata on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2005.

**Dr Shadrack Mazaza**

National Chairman

6<sup>th</sup> November 2004