

FAMILY PRACTICE

Official Journal of the South African Academy of Family Practice/Primary Care
Amptelike Tydskrif van die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie van Huisartspraktyk/Primêre Sorg

ISSN 1025-1979

Volume 20 - Number 1

January 1999

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Response to this issue's editorial . . . 102

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A guide for family practitioners -
J Blitz & M de Villiers 102

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Antimicrobial sensitivities and causative organisms of urinary tract infections in a rural family practice - *D O'Mabony* 106

THERAPEUTICS

Parkinson's Disease: Augmentative and Alternative Communication -
J Bornman & E Alant 110

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Use of analgesic medication among black Africans in an urban general practice -
RS Pillay & MH Cassimjee 113

WONCA NEWS

Preparing for the 16th WONCA World Congress of Family Doctors 116

INFORMATION UPDATE

Pint-size Panic 116

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Notification of pesticide poisoning: Knowledge, attitudes and practices of doctors in the rural Western Cape -
L London & R Baillie 117

ON THE BOOKSHELF

Books for the GP 120
Anaesthetic Guidelines 121

PAEDIATRIC ISSUES

The approach to the child with a febrile convulsion - *DF Wittenberg* 122

QI CORNER

Quality improvement in the care of people with diabetes in Khayelitsha, Cape Town - *B Mash & NS Levitt* 123

JOURNAL CLUB 1

Sore throat - *M Whitfield* 126

ACADEMY NEWS

Application for membership 121
SAFP instructions for authors 125
Academy CME meetings 127

INDUSTRY NEWS

Teen suicide: See the signs 128
Novartis announces award for diabetes research 128

Member of the
Audit Bureau of
Circulations of South Africa



Member of
Specialist Press Association



Official Journal of the South African
Academy of Family Practice/Primary Care
Amptelike tydskrif van die Suid-Afrikaanse
Akademie van Huisartspraktyk/Primêre Sorg

A FAMILY MEDICINE RENAISSANCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

Anyone even remotely involved in academic, organised or medico-political family practice will know that the proverbial "potjie" is cooking, transforming the firewood, ingredients, and spices into a new, hopefully very enjoyable, feast of a "family medicine" meal.

The firewood fuelling the fire of change and transformation comes from many sources. There were divisions in the past, some based on disagreements over monetary matters in the early eighties and some along political and/or racial lines. The meal ingredients were the many organisations in family practice, such as the South African Academy of Family Practice/Primary Care (SAAFP), the College of Family Practitioners (CFP), the National General Practitioners Group (NGPG), the Family Practitioners Association (FPA), and some others.

The spices of change are the harsh realities of our time: financial constraints, limited human resources and, especially, division in the face of a world "hostile" towards family practice. This has slowed down the development of academic family medicine at some of the universities and has resulted in a system of postgraduate vocational training which largely ignores the needs of family practice, almost introduced by the Interim South African Medical and Dental Council (ISAMDC).

Decay has also come on many fronts. The SAAFP faces severe financial constraints as a result of fierce competition in the advertising marketplace. This has led to the closure of its publication division and a declining membership. Similar fates awaited the NGPG and other groups, whilst family practitioners had to pay membership fees to several organisations in order to have their interests adequately served. The CFP was confronted by a weary academic community demanding greater unity since, with limited resources, its members were no longer prepared to support two fellowship exams in addition to their own university exams.

What followed during the past two-and-a-half years was a sometimes frustrating process of talking, lobbying and finally negotiating. The main players were the SAAFP and the CFP, with the university departments of family medicine acting as agreement-broker. Others like the NGPG, the FPA and others adopted a supportive and "wait and see" role. The process gained greater impetus with the formation of FaMEC during 1997, a consortium of university departments of family medicine now acting in greater unity.

The cook was ready; the fire was burning; the ingredients were in the pot and the spices were working. Finally during September 1998, at the 11th Family Practitioners' Congress at Sun City, both the SAAFP and the CFP passed resolutions to merge and form an independent and unified College of Family Medicine (CFM). A period of 18 months was envisaged for negotiation with the College of Medicine of South Africa, the present home of the CFP, about a possible merger.

The new CFM will be open for general membership to all family practitioners and will set the standards for the discipline through a fellowship exam and a programme of accredited continuous professional development (CPD). A grandfather clause is envisaged in the early years to allow all family practitioners presently registered as family physicians with the ISAMDC to obtain fellowship of the CFM. It is envisaged that this new fellowship qualification will in future be the entry qualification into registration as family physician and in years to come, independent family practice in South Africa.

Prof P de Villiers, Guest Editor

GUEST EDITOR:

Prof P de Villiers, Dept of Family Medicine, Stellenbosch University

EDITORIAL ADDRESS:

PO Box 459, Umhlanga 4320

Members:

Prof PJT de Villiers, MBChB; MFamMed; DOM Stellenbosch

LAYOUT & DESIGN:

Angler Publications & Promotions cc Tel: (031) 52-2289

SAFP JOURNAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.kznsa.co.za/websites/safp>

Dr DA Hellenberg MBChB; MFamMed; DOM Stellenbosch

REPRODUCTION:

Hirt & Carter Tel: (031) 203-3333

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

R200 per annum
R100 undergraduate students, interns and allied professions

Prof LA Hiemstra MBChB; MPraxMed, Free State

Prof K Mfenyane MBChB; MPraxMed, UNITRA

PRINTING:

Robprint (Pty) Ltd Tel: (031) 700-3384

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Dr GK Brink (Managing) MBChB, MFGP(SA), MPraxMed

Dr N Naidoo MBChB; MPraxMed; MFGP, DForMed New Hanover

SALES/ADMIN/ACCOUNTS:

Claire de Jongh
PO Box 459, Umhlanga Rocks 4320
Tel: (031) 562-8509

Book Review editor:

Dr Laurel Baldwin MD, CCCFP, FCCFP

Dr G Parr MBChB; MFGP Cape Town