

CIRCULATION

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JOURNAL POLICY

SA Family Practice is published monthly by the SA Academy of Family Practice/Primary Care.

It offers a voice to local family practice, placing original contributions from the research of family practitioners/primary health care workers as a priority. It aims at stimulating original research amongst family practitioners. The length of articles should preferably not exceed 2 000 words. References should be used in SA Family Practice according to the Vancouver system. Three copies of a contribution, typed in double spacing should be submitted. Articles will be sent to expert referees before acceptance for publication. The Journal also has an update or continuing education section, placing review articles that take cognisance of the information needs and frames of reference of primary health care clinicians. SA Family Practice further serves as the mouthpiece of the Academy. As such, meetings are reported on, along with other news. Special topics are discussed in Forum, and future events are published.

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LOSING YOUR MIND!

This month Jacques Kriel says, in the first instalment of a two part article, that medicine has lost its mind! Those who read the article will see that this is not an unsupported statement. Many of us are not familiar with the everyday jargon of philosophy, though we bedazzle the layman to medicine with our own jargon! To help, he has included a glossary of the words that are strange to us as lay philosophers.

The issues are so vital to the future of our discipline and the future of medicine that I would urge you to read the article until it is clear to you and not to give up if it sounds strange at first. It will be good if you are able to respond and debate the issues with Jacques as a culture or paradigm does not change overnight or easily. Medicine, as we practice it today, is hopefully on its death bed ready for resurrection in a form that will not leave it mindless. This can only happen if many people work at creating a new future that is not merely a more sophisticated version of the past.

We need a new way of understanding reality. We need a new clinical method to reflect this understanding of reality in practice. It will happen if we talk about it in the consulting room, the classroom, the pub, our congresses and debate it in the journals. SA Family Practice is open for this debate.

Sam Johnson