

*editorial*

## FROM CAPE TOWN TO ... ?

The 9th Family Practitioners' Congress held in Cape Town from 10 to 14 April was a resounding success. The accompanying *Congress Times* will give those who were unable to come, an indication of what happened. Those who were there are sure to enjoy the reports and photographs. No one was physically able to attend all the excellent sessions. So many said to me that they had difficulty choosing between all the available sessions. Chris Ellis, together with Sue Impey, our Sub-editor, put together a very successful overnight newspaper, *Congress News* with sponsorship from Roussel Laboratories. Most of these reports are also included in the *Congress Times*.

The new format and extensions to *SA Family Practice* were spontaneously praised by all we met at the Congress. We, who have worked on it, are all very thrilled with this response. However, no one can get things 100% right, and we would be delighted to receive feedback from as many people as possible. It does not even have to be "constructive criticism", just say it as it is for you.

S O U T H A F R I C A N  
FAMILY  
PRACTICE

I am writing this editorial just after the Bree Street car bomb and before the election days. By the time you read this, we will hopefully be working hard to establish the new structures that will build our country and our health service anew. We are not starting from scratch and we do not have unlimited resources, so the inequalities in standards and provision of services will not disappear without a concerted effort from all of us. To make a meaningful contribution, we will have to get out of our consulting rooms. Let us take part in the various organisations that are working for a better deal for our patients through the contribution that can best be made by family physicians.

I do hope you and I will not allow complacency and the spoilers to keep us from making a major contribution to a better future. Very few people in history are afforded the exciting opportunities that we have ahead of us!

*Sam Felsen*