
EDITORIAL

SA Family Practice First Decade

We celebrated the first ten years as publishers of *SA Family Practice* at an Editorial Board meeting in Johannesburg from 23 to 24 July. The Academy acquired the journal from Thompsons Publications in mid 1983. That was in the fourth year of the journal's existence. Another reason for celebration was that we were meeting in our own place, ACADEMY HOUSE, 5 Vlok Rd, Bryanston. We bought the house in February 1993 and are thrilled to be able to work from our own and very pleasant property. Please do pop in for a visit if you are in the vicinity.

Our 10 year development has been:

1980. January saw the first issue of Southern African Family Practice started by Thompsons Publications SA with George Davie as editor and, Boz Fehler and Willie Pieterse as assistant editors. For the preceding ten years George had edited ELAN, the newsletter of the Faculty of General Practice of the College of Medicine of South Africa. During the second GP Congress held in Cape Town from 23 to 26 March the SA Academy of Family Practice was formulated by the election of eight trustees who were given the task of drawing up the articles of association.

1981. In January the masthead of the Journal starts to carry the words, Official Journal of the South African Academy of Family Practice/Primary Care.

1983. In March Sam Fehrsen becomes the medical editor and in June the Academy becomes the publisher of the Journal and the name is registered as SA Family Practice.

1987. In June the Academy also becomes the publisher of the

quarterly, Medical Sex Journal of South Africa with Bernard Levinson as the editor.

1990. Was again a year of change. We started publishing the South African Family Practice Manual in February as a quarterly supplement to SA Family Practice. We also moved from a single-room office to larger rented premises in Randburg.

1991. From the May issue Manfred Teichler becomes the editor of the SA Family Practice Manual.

1993. In February we purchased a property in Bryanston. In keeping with modern publishing, Desk Top Publishing in-house was also introduced. From September all our publications will be produced in-house by our production editor Sue Impey who is surviving the adaptation with distinction.

In making a new beginning in 1983 SAFFP was primarily intended to be a journal of record for original work to develop our discipline. We soon also started focussing on CME type articles as this is a real need for practitioners - to read material in continuing education and review articles which are written from their point of view and that are practical for generalists.

During 1992 we placed 11 original research articles. Eight used quantitative and 3 used qualitative research methods. Of the 11 articles 8 were published in English and 3 in Afrikaans. The rest of the articles for 1992 were categorised as: Review Articles - 9, CME - 7, Feature articles - 8, Patient study - 1, Historical article - 2, giving a combined total of 38 articles for the year. As the years have gone by there has been much

more returning of articles to authors after comments from referees. The referees have been most helpful in improving the articles by their comments rather than just declaring them unsuitable for publication. This is important for the development of a cadre of family physician writers.

Due to the fine work of Sue McGuinness, our Advertising and Business Manager, our profitability has steadily increased over the years, since starting with us in 1984, to make all this growth possible. We look forward to a future in which we further improve our service and meet the needs of all generalist doctors in South Africa to better serve our patients and thus give generalists more job satisfaction.

