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# EDITORIAL

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## Registering as a Family Physician

Recently a general practitioner said that he thought membership of the SA Academy of Family Practice/ Primary Care was only open to the people with a *further* degree in family practice. The answer, of course, is decidedly **NO**. Membership is open to all who are registered as medical practitioners. The new ruling of the South African Medical and Dental Council creating a category on the register for Family Physicians will make no difference to this.

Any medical practitioner who wishes to help the cause of the generalist, is welcome to join. In times of great change, as is the scenario today, I would say that includes every generalist who is concerned about more than just the next three months into the future.

Most readers will, by now, have received from the SAMDC, an invitation to apply on Form 148, to be recorded in the category for Family Physicians. Only those with a recognised additional qualification in family medicine are invited to apply. This, however, changes as from 1 January 1996, persons applying will also have to submit evidence of approved vocational training in family practice. Only those with an MFamMed, MPraxMed, MFGP or equivalent qualification obtained before 1 January 1995 will be able to register without entering into an approved vocational training programme. Perhaps the College of Medicine will see a rush of procrastinators in the next two years. It's worth a try! Already there are senior posts available in the public sector that are only open to people who have additional qualifications.

Remember, whether you are planning to get into this category on the medical register or not, you are welcome and needed as a member of the Academy.

*Sam Fehsen*

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