

The Seventh GP Congress

It is twelve years since the first GP Congress was held in Johannesburg in 1978. In this issue we place a previously unpublished report about that congress, as well as the keynote address of the late Prof HW Snyman. Hy sou waarskynlik verheug wees om te sien hoe ver daar by sekere geneeskundige fakulteite gevorder is met huisartskunde sedert 1978. Aan die ander kant sou die gebrek aan enige noemenswaardige aksie by ander inrigtings hom teleurstel aangesien hy reeds in die laat vyftigerjare hom begin beywer het vir die uitbouing van die huisarts-beroep.

On several occasions now, I have heard the statement at meetings of medical educationists, that those who use the Regulations of the South African Medical and Dental Council to block change, are ignorant of its contents and intent. This Document is forward-looking, progressive and permissive or even encouraging of the best advances in education we dream of! Hennie Snyman had no small part in the formulation of this document. It is perhaps no chance happening that the two first universities to have full and independent departments of Family Medicine were those with which he was intimately related, Pretoria and Medunsa.

The Vital Link is our congress theme. We wish all who are able to attend, a bumper congress. We hope all our readers will enjoy this bumper Congress Edition of SA Family Practice, our largest yet. We hope also to be sending you a post-congress supplement with abstracts and news from the Wild Coast. Thus perhaps being a vital link with all those who were unable to attend and whet your appetite for 1992.

The link in the congress theme

reminds me of the importance of relationship in both the healing and learning process. Nationally we can also do with some growth in the number of people brave enough to forge links across previously forbidden divides. We need better and more productive relationships, if the Health Care System we land up with after the constitutional talks, is to be better than that which we have now.

Sam Felsen