

Family Medicine Journals

I opened the January issue of the Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners today; or so I thought. Only after reading the Editorial did I see that there has been a change of name.

Graham Buckley, the editor¹ says, "In view of the status of the Journal, why change the title? The reason is simple: clarity. The new title – the *British Journal of General Practice* – describes more clearly the scope of the Journal and is an unambiguous statement of its independence." The old title had been in existence since 1958. Prior to that it was called the Research Letter which was started in the early fifties.

In those early days there was also a chapter of the Royal College of General Practitioners in South Africa. In a way we can thus say that we have a common ancestry. Elan, our predecessor, was first the newsletter of the Faculty of General Practice of the College of Medicine of South Africa. The faculty was founded by the incorporation of the British chapter into the College of Medicine of South Africa. SA Family Practice grew out of the successor to Elan, The Southern African Journal of Family Practice.

Not only do we have a common ancestry but we are also indebted to the British Journal of General Practice for the example of excellence it has set in publishing refereed research articles. We often place abstracts from other journals, mostly other Family or General Practice journals. The ones that get selected are mostly from the now British Journal of General Practice, the Journal of Family Practice, The Canadian Family Physician and Family Practice. We salute all these sister publications and wish them

well in this new decade as they contribute toward the building of a better understanding of the issues in primary health care, and hopefully a higher and more effective service to our individual patients and practice populations.

Reference

Buckley EG. New decade: new title. Br J Gen Pract 1990; 40:1.

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