

## Crisis Management

How many people still have to walk out before change comes in the attitude of government at all levels toward the training of health care professionals?

Senior academics, even those who support the party in power, have warned for some years that academic medicine is in a dangerous crisis. A crisis that cannot be remedied by the stroke of the treasurer's pen once it has developed to its full catastrophe. It takes, for some research jobs and subspecialties, up to 20 years to develop new trained staff for the gaps, if you can find someone who can train them.

Two heads of departments with some of their key support staff have just resigned from the University of Pretoria. The head of cardiology and the head of cardio-thoracic surgery. The newspapers have gone to town on this. Perhaps this is a crucial step? It has caused such momentum that the Honourable Minister of Health and Population Development inspected the hospital with the University on a Sunday to investigate the problem. Does this mean that we in Family Medicine/General Practice/Primary Health Care are going to be worse off when more money has been given to this highly emotive subspecialty of the heart?

Dit lyk vir my dat ons nou meer dringend as ooit tevore 'n nasionale beleid en 'n vir-almal-verstaanbare-plan nodig het waaronder sulke probleme in ons gesondheidsdiens en opleidingssisteem hanteer kan word. Ek herrinner my hoe daar sumier binne een week 'n hele departement van huisartskunde geskep is by UP nadat die hoof stil-stil bedank het. Hy is gesê dat dit nog agtien maande gaan neem om te gebeur. Hierdie

keer was die koerante nie nodig nie. Eersdaags verloor ons waarskynlik een van ons voorste akademiese huisartse na die buiteland omdat daar nie plek is vir hom by ons mees onderontwikkelde universiteit wat huisartskunde betref nie. Miskien moet ons almal loop voordat daar 'n doelgerigte primêregesondheid-sorgplan en 'n doelgerigte opleidingssisteem daarvoor geskep is in Suid Afrika!

*Sam Feleisen*