



GPs have nothing to offer

“There is nothing a general practitioner can teach an undergraduate student that a specialist cannot teach better”.

1. Do you agree with the opening statement of the editorial?
2. If you feel you can teach undergraduate students something better than specialists can, please list them shortly in order of priority; a maximum of three.

In December 1986 we published the above statement and asked for reactions from readers of *SA Family Practice*. One hundred and seventy-three responses have come in to date. We give you the first feedback from the answers received.

The first answer is a resounding NO. GPs have something they can teach well according to 162 of the 173 respondents, 6 agree that they cannot teach anything better than specialists can and 5 made no response to this question.

Looking at what respondents feel they have to offer as undergraduate teachers we have the following areas of expertise ranked in order of frequency of responses:

GPs can teach:

The family in medicine/therapy and homecare	= 102
Out of hospital disease pattern	= 61
Appropriate/cost effective care/clinical judgement/procedures in practice	= 55
Patients as people	= 43
Doctor patient relationship/communication	= 40
Holistic approach	= 40
Other	= 36
Practice management	= 31
Continuity of care	= 20
Caring/refuge/empathy	= 19
Community issues/environment/context	= 18
Psychosomatic reactions/stress	= 18
Comprehensive care	= 16
Use of consultation/management/common sense	= 15
Relationship with specialists	= 14
Establishing the reason for consultation/problem solving	= 13
No response/not applicable	= 8
Counselling/open commitment	= 4
H/education/understanding ill-health	= 2

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