
Chairman's Message

Dr Basil Jaffe



THE appearance of this issue of Family Practice represents an important landmark in the development of general practice in this country. For the first time we own our own journal which will reflect our opinions and our philosophy. It will provide us with the opportunity to publish academic papers on subjects on which we are the experts. In this respect it will differ from most current journals in which articles are written by specialists on subjects they deem appropriate to our needs. Our journal will provide us with a forum for opinions and discussion on a wide range of issues important to the general practitioner. In essence it will be a journal of general practice, for general practitioners by general practitioners.

For the Academy, ownership of our own journal is but one example of the great strides we have made in the three years of our existence. We now have 1 200 members from all areas

of Southern Africa. We are recognised throughout the medical profession as the representative and authoritative voice of academic family medicine in the Republic. We have brought together our academics and practising GP's, doctors in private and state employ and those who practise in town and country. We have discovered that the principles of family medicine are not influenced by the situation and circumstances in which we practise. We are linked together by a common language and a common purpose.

This purpose is to raise the standard of general practice by providing educational opportunity at undergraduate, vocational and continuing educational stages.

We wish to provide for all our peoples a system of medical care which represents the best in our field. Primary care must be personal, continuing and comprehensive if it is to meet the needs and expectations of our patients.

We aim to achieve equality for our discipline in all the medical institutions of this country.

One of the most important achievements of the Academy has been the workshop held in Pretoria last year on medical care for the under-doctored areas. The Academy has undertaken to set up vocational training schemes in these areas. In this way a much-needed service will be combined with the training of family physicians. Significant progress has been made in this worthwhile project which will be fully reported in future issues of Family Practice.

The Academy policy of small group formation has brought to light several men and women of quality. Not only are they fine doctors but they have a deep understanding of the principles of family medicine. It is from the ranks of these young people that the future leaders and teachers of general practice will be drawn. The Academy will give them every chance to show their mettle.

Once again I appeal to all those outside our ranks to take this opportunity of joining us to create a truly powerful academic body of general practice/family medicine/primary care in Southern Africa.

Dr Basil Jaffe
Chairman