

The role of the doctor in Primary Health Care

Full report of resolutions adopted at a Primary Care workshop – 21/22 March 1983.

Motion

That this workshop on the role of the doctor in Primary Health Care **:-

A. Recognises:

1. that there is a need for accessible, appropriate and co-ordinated health services, particularly in Primary Care, for the under-doctored areas in Southern Africa;
2. that the services provided should be of optimal standards;
3. (a) that the present number of doctors in South Africa is adequate for the population (one doctor per 1 750 people) and (one Primary Care doctor per 3 000 people). However, these doctors are geographically maldistributed and furthermore specific training and skills should be developed that are appropriate for Primary Care according to the needs of the area; (b) and that the number of doctors registered by the SA Medical and Dental Council will increase by 700 annually; thus, logistically, there are doctors potentially available for Primary Care in the aforementioned underserviced areas; and
4. that the doctor is not the only provider of Primary Health Care.

B. Resolves that steps should be taken:

1. to define and identify those "underdoctored" areas and investigate the manpower and other resources already available in those areas.
2. to examine the reasons for the underservicing of these areas.
3. to investigate sources for funding appropriate training and means of redistributing resources more equally than at present.

4. to designate the doctors as vocational trainees in General Practice/Family Medicine/Primary Care.
 5. to create "training" situations in inter-alia, clinics, poly-clinics, community health centres, rural hospitals, etc. for these trainees.
 6. to define a core content of knowledge, attitudes and skills for the trainees.
 7. to define the additional knowledge, attitudes and skills needed for doctors assisting in the delivery of Primary Health Care in specific geographical areas or with specific job definitions:
 8. to suggest ways and means for providing education and evaluation for trainees and trainers; and
 9. to co-ordinate their effort with those bodies directly involved and indirectly involved in the education, legislation and delivery of Primary Health Care and/or inform them of our activities (for example SAM & DC, MASA, The Universities and relevant Departments of Health in Southern Africa, SA Nursing Council, College of Medicine of South Africa and SA Defence Force).
- C. Instructs the organising committee of this workshop to set up a committee to put into effect the resolutions embodied in (B) of this motion.

**Who-Unicef Definition of Primary Care 1978

"Primary health care is essential health care based on practical, scientifically sound and socially acceptable methods and technology, made universally accessible to individuals and families in the community through their full participation and at a cost that the community and country can afford to maintain at every stage of their development in the spirit of self-reliance and self-determination."

The following people attended the Workshop on "The Role of the Doctor in Primary Care", held on 21 - 22 March 1983 (see Comment).

Private Practice:

Drs:

G Brink - Durban,
B Jaffe - Cape Town
J Levenstein - Cape Town
E Murray - East London
B Sparks - Johannesburg

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS OF FAMILY PRACTICE:

Professors:

G S Fehrsen - Medunsa
A P van den Berg - Pretoria

PUBLIC SECTOR - PRIMARY

CARE:

Drs:

M Bac - Gelukspan Community Hospital

G Draper - Cape Flats Methodist Mission
D Hackland - Kwa-Zulu
A Truscott - Baragwanath

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS OF COMMUNITY HEALTH:

Professors:

E Glatthaar - Medunsa
G Watermeyer - UCT

Drs:

P Nel - UCT
T Wilson - Wits

SPECIALISTS IN PRIMARY CARE:

Paediatrics:

Prof M Kibel - UCT
Dr W Loening - Natal University
Prof L Wagstaff - Wits

Obstetrics

Professors:

E L Karlsson - Medunsa
S Ross - Natal University
Dr P Garde - Kwa-Zulu

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE

Prof F P Retief - Director-General
Dr H P Botha - Director of Planning
Ms J S E Berning - Nursing Science

OTHER

Professor J Kriel - Centre for the Study of Medical Education, Wits
Dr J le Roux - Medical Association of SA (Head Office)
Dr E Prinsloo - Medical Association of SA (Head Office)
Professor C Searle - Dept of Nursing, Unisa
Professor W C Grobbelaar - Dept of Nursing, Unisa
Mr A Spier - Planning Consultant, Syncom
Professor H P Wassermann - Associate Dean, Medical Faculty, Stellenbosch



◀ Martin Bec (Gelukspan), Howard Botha (Dept of Health and Welfare), Ms JSE Berning, and Andries van den Berg.

Kwa-Zulu contingent - Daryl Hackland, Pat Garde, and George Draper.



Delegates attending the Workshop 21/22 March 1983

Dr Ralph Berrell, Medical Director of Eli Lilly (SA) (Pty) Ltd presents a cheque for R20 000 for Academy funds to Basil Jaffe, (Chairman of the SA Academy of Family Practice/Primary Care.



▲ A group discussion - Pat Garde (Kwa-Zulu), Andries van den Berg (Pretoria), Bok Wassermann (Stellenbosch), Andrew Tryscott (Baragwanath).



◀ Bruce Sparks (Johannesburg), Garth Brink (Durban), Elliot Murray (East London).