

---

# Comment Komentaar

---

*by Dr Bruce Sparks*

## The third General Practice Congress, 8 - 12 August 1982

The third General Practice Congress to be held at Sun City, Bophuthatswana on 8 - 12 August 1982 promises to be the most exciting and academically fruitful event in the 1982 CME calendar of the South African Primary Care Practitioner.

Some four hundred delegates from South Africa and abroad are expected to attend.

The Congress is being organised by the Southern Transvaal Region of the South African Academy of Family Practice/Primary Care in association with the National General Practitioners Group of MASA.

Once again Eli Lilly (SA) (PTY) Ltd have generously supported the congress as they did at the previous two in Johannesburg (1978) and Cape Town (1980).

The theme 'The Family in Crisis' concerns 'the family' in its broadest sense, and encompasses not only the psychological aspects such as counselling of crises of various forms in the family setting and crises and the health team, but also the physical crises such as surgical, cardiac and respiratory emergencies.

For those who choose to be involved in a peer-learning situation with an

opportunity for personal involvement there are workshops on Cardiopulmonary resuscitation, death and dying, crisis intervention, General Practitioner/Specialist relationships among others.

The academic committee has also planned a broad program of sessions for those who prefer a more 'meaty' didactic lecture on practical clinical issues and problems in the family practice or polyclinic.

A highlight of the program will be a series of 'Update Lectures' by a team of specialists who will be specially flown in from Johannesburg by "Eli Lilly helicopter." These will include updates on diabetes, neurology, dermatology, paediatrics, gastroenterology and radiology.

The congress committee have been overwhelmed by 'free papers' submitted by General Practitioners from all over South Africa. This once again emphasises the enormous amount of original research and academic activity within the primary care sector.

In their belief, therefore, that we only learn about 'family practice' from other general practitioners, the academic committee has once again

included many papers by general practitioners.

The wives of delegates will also have a very active program. Although the venue itself has many exciting attractions, a special program of workshops for a limited number of women with a wide choice of topics such as 'family dynamics', 'anger and me' and 'stress and distress' has been arranged, as well as many other activities.

The social aspect of such a congress has not been neglected and will include a 'sports day' program, opening cocktail party, and a night at the 'Sun City Extravaganza Show'. Sports will include fun-runs, golf, tennis, water sports, squash, tenpin bowling and bowls.

Registration forms were posted in March and delegates are urged to book early - about seven hundred people are expected to attend!! Enquiries should be directed to Congress Office, Miss Jonker, Johannesburg 788-9903.

Special flights are being organised from major cities.

Hope to see you there! — Patients are advised that no general practitioners will be available in South Africa from 8 - 12 August 1982!!! □