
FLASHBACK

The First GP Congress

A look-back at August 1978 in Johannesburg and the Renaissance of the Family Practitioner by the late Professor HW Snyman reported by George Davie.

Introduction

The Faculty Committee of the College accepted the fact that the time was ripe for the first Congress for General Practitioners. It was suggested that the organisation should be shared by all groups in the Republic interested in the furthering of good general practice.

A representative committee of active bodies in the northern part of our country was constituted, and Lilly/Dista Pharmaceuticals, who offered to partially underwrite the Congress costs, was also represented.

This committee consisted of:

Dr B Fehler
Dr G Davie
Prof D van Staden
Dr P Cusins
Dr R Berell.

This Congress was the first to be organised solely by General Practitioners, and most of the papers delivered were by General Practitioners, many in active practice.

The Congress was the first of the combined efforts of:

- * The Faculty of General Practice of the College of Medicine of South Africa.
- * The National General Practitioners Group of the Medical Association of South Africa.
- * The Department of Family Practice of the University of Pretoria.
- * The Division of Continuing

Medical Education of the University of the Witwatersrand.

- * Lilly/Dista Laboratories.

We have been questioned as to why we organised this Congress. Well, first we wanted to have a Congress for our own discipline, and then those of us who have been fortunate enough to attend the World Conferences organised by WONCA (that is the World Organisation of National Colleges and Academies of General Practice) realise the vital and important role South African General Practitioners have played in this international body. Our contributions to the political and scientific fields have been immense, so much so that two of our members are on the World Council, and one is a member of the Executive Committee.

Thus, up to August 1978, the General Practitioner in the Republic and the neighbouring territories have coped exceptionally well in surviving the modern changes and attitudes towards General Practice - but what of our future needs?

Will we be able to justify our present international standing?

The advances made in the delivery of primary and continuing care by General Practitioners throughout the world over the past two decades has been tremendous, thus we realised that there was an urgent necessity for General Practitioners from South Africa and neighbouring territories to gather together to discuss important issues which directly affect our relationships with our colleagues, our patients, and at the same time, improving our own standards.

Hopefully at the conclusion of this

Congress, legislators for the future of General Practice in South Africa will be aware of our discipline's urgent requirements - the two most important issues being: Firstly, the establishment of Departments of General Practice (or Family Medicine) at each of the Medical Schools in the Republic of South Africa, for, at the moment only one such Department is effectively in existence - at the University of Pretoria.

Secondly - the Republic must be one of the few remaining countries of the world where the doctor just out of Medical School, or having completed a year of internship, can commence practice as a General Practitioner without having had any vocational training whatever, thus the establishment of vocational training centres is essential for our future.

These essential issues for the future General Practitioner in South Africa, and many other problems, were considered.

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CONGRESS PROGRAMME AUGUST 1978

Opening address by Dr BM Fehler, Convenor of the Congress Committee

Die Renaissance van die Huisarts
Professor HW Snyman

The Pharmacist and the GP
Mr R Pogir

Standards for Undergraduate & Postgraduate Training
Professor GR Beaton and Dr Peter Cusins

Verwysing na Spesialiste en Paramedici
Professor ADP van den Berg

Detecting Neonatal Abnormalities
Professor SE Levin

Die Bestek van Huisarts-chirurgie
Dr EW Turton

Abnormale Ontwikkeling in die Kleuter
Dr JA Erasmus

Cardiology in General Practice
Dr G Clennar

Die Nuwe Gesondheidswette
Dr J de Beer

A Practical Approach to Alcoholism & Drug Abuse
Dr S de Miranda

Medicine and the Media
Mr W Bernard

Standaarde in Hedendaagse Praktijk
Dr PJ Schutte

Psychodynamics of General Practice
Dr S Levenstein

Learning Problems of the Child
Ms Freda Muller

The Normal Confinement
Professor ET Mokgokong

Problems of the Adolescent
Dr DR Gurnell

The General Practice Laboratory
Dr G Davie

Handling the Emergency
Dr JH Levenstein

The Role of Primary Health Care Nurses
Professor L Wagstaff

The Cost of Medical Treatment
Ms Margaret Lessing

Continuing Patient Care
Dr B Jaffe

Vocational Training
Dr EL Murray

Sexual Counselling
Dr BLW Sparks

Die Moderne Standaard-Narkose
Professor MJ Ungerer

Die Waarde van Gereelde Fisiese Ondersoeke
Professor AM Coetzee

Diagnostic Radiology in General Practice
Dr G Meyer

Die Rol van Distriksgeneesheer in die Gemeenskap
Dr NJ Schepers

Die Huisarts se Gelde en Mediese Fondse
Dr WJ Pieterse

The Psychodynamics of the Life of a Doctor's Wife
Mrs Yvette Fehler

Closing Address by Professor F Daubenton