

**THE FIRST 25 YEARS  
OF THE ACADEMY**

Edited by G S Fehrsen

for the

**SOUTH AFRICAN  
ACADEMY OF FAMILY PRACTICE /PRIMARY  
CARE  
1980 to 2005**

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## **Preface**

We are celebrating the first twenty five years of the South African Academy of Family Practice / Primary Care with this brief history compiled by two participants in the events of these years, Dr Basil Jaffe and Prof Marietjie de Villiers. This book was commissioned by the Academy Council through Prof Khāya Mfenyana, the Chairman of the 13<sup>th</sup> Congress being held in this 25<sup>th</sup> Academy year in August 2005 at Mthatha in the Eastern Cape.

The Academy was born out of a specific context, that of the development of family medicine as a discipline. Basil Jaffe sketches this with great care and skill as he gives us a look at the development of Academic General Practice/Family Medicine in South Africa. The text and the pictures combine to give those of us who were participants the opportunity to reflect on these interesting and eventful years. For others it presents an authentic picture of the beginnings of Family Medicine as an Academic discipline in South Africa.

Both Basil and Marietjie have written personally and as such give a quality to the narrative of the Academy that we as family physicians value so much in our work. Our thanks to them for writing the story and to all those photographers and the various colleagues with sufficient forethought to preserve old pictures! The project started off as a pictorial history but with the quality of the text it has turned into a book with pictures.

**Sam Fehrsen**  
**Editor**  
**Pretoria.**  
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