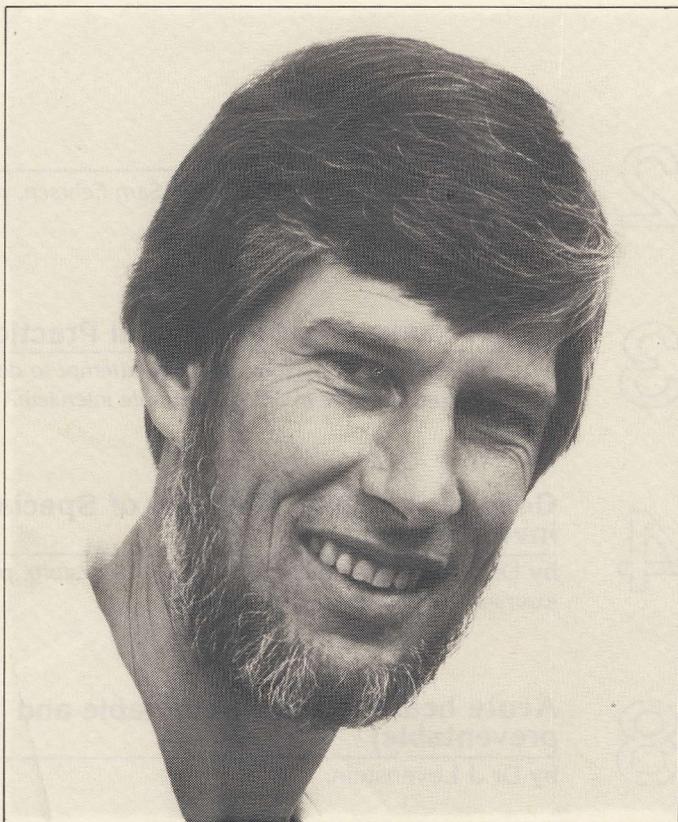


Guest Comment

by Dr Basil Jaffe



Professor Sam Fehrsen – New medical editor of *Family Practice*.

With the emergence of family medicine as an academic discipline numerous publications have appeared in this field. It is fitting that we as General Practitioners should write about our own discipline and define what is relevant to us in other disciplines.

However, this has placed a heavy burden on the editors of our publications for they have all been actively engaged in patient care, so necessary for maintaining perspective and credibility in their writings.

A change of the medical editor of *Family Practice* presents an opportunity to acknowledge our debt of gratitude to the pioneers of G.P. journalism in this country.

Seymour Dubb edited the Cape of Good Hope Newsletter with wit and distinction for several years.

George Davie brought to his editing of *Elan* and *Family Practice* his inimitable style and flavour. Often provocative with tongue in cheek he made a stimulating contribution to General Practice journalism.

The SA Academy of Family Practice/Primary Care has a

Dr G.S. Fehrsen is Professor and head of the Department of Family Medicine at Medunsa (Medical University of Southern Africa at Garankuwa).

After qualifying at UCT in 1962, he served his internship at McCord Zulu Hospital. Later, he worked as Medical Officer at Rietvlei DRC Mission Hospital at Livingstone Hospital, Port Elizabeth; Rietvlei Hospital and Mount Ayliff DRC Mission Hospital.

He became Medical Superintendent at Mount Ayliff DRC Mission Hospital in the Transkei in January 1966 and served there until December 1974.

From 1975 until 1976 he worked at the Hans Snyckers Institute and Department of Family Medicine at the University of Pretoria. In September, 1976 he went to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to study epidemiology and medical statistics. He returned in April 1977 and assumed his present position at Medunsa.

Prof Fehrsen is a member of various scientific and other bodies.

diverse membership. It includes urban and rural, private and salaried practitioners as well as our university based academics.

A major task of our journal is to create a link between our varied and widespread membership and to offer a forum for exchange of views.

In this issue Professor Sam Fehrsen takes over as medical editor. He will be assisted by an editorial board representing all the regions of the Academy.

Sam Fehrsen is head of the Department of Family Medicine at Medunsa where he has created an academic department closely linked to the provision of primary care in the community.

This may well be a model to be emulated throughout our country. Thus Professor Fehrsen brings to his new post much academic and administrative expertise.

Let us help him to create a journal which will be a credit to Family Practice in South Africa.

Basil Jaffe - Chairman: SA Academy of Family Practice/Primary Care