

A TIME FOR REFLECTION

EDITOR:

- C.J. Eales, PhD
University of the Witwatersrand

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

- A. Stewart, PhD
University of the Witwatersrand

EDITORIAL BOARD:

NATIONAL MEMBERS

- S.L. Amosun, PhD
University of the Western Cape
- P. Gounden, PhD
University of Durban-Westville
- M. Papadopoulos, MSc
University of Pretoria
- M. Faure, MPhil
University of Stellenbosch
- N. Mbambo, MSc
MEDUNSA

INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS

- A. Akinpelu, PhD
University College Hospital,
Ibadan, Nigeria
- T.H.A. Kolobe, PhD
University of Illinois, Chicago
- K. Shepard, PhD
Temple University, Philadelphia
- C. Partridge, PhD
University of Kent, Canterbury

REVIEW PANEL 2003:

- Bester, Ria
- Bischof, Faith
- Bowerbank, Pat
- Crocker, Jenny
- Crous, Lynette
- David, Helen
- Diener, Ina
- Eisenberg, Masha
- Eksteen, Carina
- Fearnhead, Lynn
- Frieg, Annette
- Giraud, Jill
- Hunter, Linda
- Irwin-Carruthers, Sheena
- Jelsma, Jennifer
- Kemp, Stephanie
- Krause, Tiney
- M'Kumbuzi, Vyvienne
- Mothabeng, Joyce
- Mpofu, Ratie
- Naidu, Prinola
- Paulsen, Tom
- Potterton, Joanne
- Puckree, Lina
- Van Rooijen, Tania

The year 2003 is nearly over and as always so much has happened in this relatively short period of time. There have been changes in the SASP and we have a new President, Zola Dantile, and we are excited at the prospect of where this new leader will take us. We are confident in her vision for the future of physiotherapy in South Africa. I believe it will be somewhat different to what we have known but there-in lies the excitement of new things to come in the future. Certainly physiotherapy in South Africa cannot be the same as physiotherapy in Norway or Canada or anywhere else in the world, because we are dealing with totally different populations and disease profiles. It has to have its own unique flavour.

But I am confident about the future of Physiotherapy and I do know that the profession is alive and well. The great Cicero said that "Confidence is that feeling by which the mind embarks on great and honourable courses with a sure hope and trust in itself". Confidence imparts a wonderful inspiration to its possessor (John Milton) and so I am wonderfully inspired by our profession. I believe physiotherapy has developed into an exclusive and independent profession that absolutely meets the requirements of the future medical model. With rehabilitation taking a primary role in the management of chronic diseases and with the emphasis being progressively moved to empowerment and involvement of patients in

their own care to the extent that they have to take the responsibility for themselves in the chronic phases of disease, the physiotherapist will be there to guide and to facilitate the patients through these phases. So we have undoubtedly embarked on a great and honourable course with a sure hope and trust in ourselves. And we will be successful even though we are often fearful and unsure when things around us are changing constantly!

We will provide quality services to all South Africans, and we have already embarked on this path when we established compulsory community service for all newly qualified physiotherapists. It was especially rewarding to see how professionals rallied around to assist those who were newly qualified to render appropriate and valued services. Thank you all for your remarkable effort and most of all our thanks and appreciation to those young professionals who were the first to embark on the role of community physiotherapists! We hold you in high regard.

We now move on to the new year 2004 and we are excited to meet the challenges that this year will bring. From all of us at the Journal we want to thank you for your input this year and for the enthusiastic way in which you responded to the CPD questions in the Journal. May the new year bring much happiness and success to all of you.

**Celie Eales
(Editor)**