

The South African Journal of PHYSIOTHERAPY

Die Suid-Afrikaanse Tydskrif FISIOTERAPIE



MAY 1985
VOLUME 41 NO. 2

EDITOR: Miss L. M. Davids, B.Sc (Physiotherapy), B.A.Hons., Dip. Ed. Physio.
EDITORIAL BOARD: Mrs. J. A. C. Gilder, B.Sc (Physiotherapy), Dip. Ed. Physio.
Miss S. H. Irwin- Carruthers, Nat. Dip. Physio., Dip. Ed. Physio.
Mrs. P. Versfeld, Nat. Dip. Physio.

Indexed in BLDoc

CONTENTS

Selective Posterior Rhizotomy for the Relief of Spasticity in Cerebral Palsy — W. J. Peacock and Leila J. Arens	37
Early Physiotherapy in Selective Posterior Rhizotomy — S. H. Irwin Carruthers, L. M. Davids, C. K. van Rensburg, V. Magasiner, D. Scott	44
Assessment of the Severity of Primary Respiratory Muscle Failure — M. Klein	51
Die Kiemdodende Effek van Ultra-violetlig op Geinfekteerde Druksere — A. Burger, M. J. Jordaan, G. E. Schoombee	55
Obituary	57
Book Reviews	58
Professional Advertisements	60
Correspondence	61
News of Courses and Congresses	62

*Official organ of the South African Society of Physiotherapy.
Published quarterly by the Publications Division of the Medical Association of South Africa on behalf of the SASP*

All correspondence to be addressed to the Editor, SA Journal of Physiotherapy, Private Bag X1, Pinelands 7430



EDITORIAL

SOME EDITORIAL PROBLEMS

When this editorial appears, the 16th General Meeting of the National Council of the S.A.S.P. will have been held at Johannesburg. Your present editor will have held her position for almost two years. We thought it might be of interest to the members of the S.A.S.P. to learn about some of the problems that have been encountered during this period.

The major problem inherited from the previous editor was the shortage of unsolicited articles sent to the Journal. It is interesting to discover that this is a universal problem in the developing world. "The 500 doctors in the country don't always produce enough copy to fill the journal; much of what they do produce has to be heavily edited; ... and, as a final insult, many of the Sierra Leone doctors who write a good paper would rather have it published in the *Lancet*, the *BMJ* or the *East African Medical Journal*".¹ It may be comforting to know that others have similar difficulties, but this knowledge does not solve the problem!

Another factor which is rapidly becoming a severe headache is the contributors' lack of knowledge of the whole editorial process.

Theoretically, on receipt of a paper, the editor should read it for appropriate interest, current relevance and the article's worthiness for publication.² If satisfactory on these points, it is then sent to a reviewer who is generally a member of the Editorial Board, but may be a specialist in the specific field. The paper is then returned to the editor with a critique. The editor then decides whether to accept or reject the article. If accepted, but in need of correction, it is returned to the author for the suggested amendments. With the return of the paper to the editor it is then prepared for printing ie. copy edited.

This brief outline of what should happen to an article before going to the printers does not tally with reality. None of the contributors seems to understand the very

tight schedule that is followed in order to produce a journal on time. Most of our copy is solicited and rarely arrives at the time requested. As a result reviewers are forced to do a rushed job. The editor then rereads, corrects, shortens, checks on references, etc., all within the space of a week or two in order to get the copy to the printers a month ahead of the publishing date.

This tight schedule does not allow time for the authors to correct the galley proofs before publication. The editor does this as well as the final correction of page proofs before the Journal is ready for printing.

If you want a journal with relevant content of a high standard arriving regularly in your post box, please make writing part of your professional programme and give us ample time in which to process the copy.

L. M. Davids

References

1. Smith R. Medical journals in the Third World: problems and possibilities. *Br Med J* 1984; **289**: 1684.
2. Fulginiti VA. On the editorial process in the medical literature. *Am J Dis Child* 1984; **138**: 337-339.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1985

- A. MEMBERS
All categories of members: **Enquiries:** Gen. Secretary, P.O. Box 47238 Parklands 2121.
- B. NON-MEMBERS
Surface mail R18,00 p.a.
Airmail rates on request
Enquiries: Circulation Manager, S.A.S.P. Journal, Private Bag X1, Pinelands 7430.
- C. SINGLE COPIES — R5,00
Enquiries: Circulation Manager, S.A.S.P. Journal, Private Bag X1, Pinelands 7430.
(The above amounts include tax)

SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY OF PHYSIOTHERAPY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS SECRETARIES

Lecturer's Group: Ms L. Kraus, Physiotherapy Department, University of the O.F.S., P.O. Box 339, Bloemfontein 9300.

Manipulative Therapists' Group: Ms T. Macnair, P.O. Box 93059, Yeoville 2143 Johannesburg.

National Hospital Group: Ms P. Duke, Physiotherapy Department, Johannesburg Hospital, Private Bag X39, Johannesburg 2000.

Obstetric Association: Mrs L. Hack, 519 Lukas Street, Lukasrand, Pretoria 0181.

Private Practitioners Association: Mrs O. Ison, 6 Maytime Centre, Lyngarth Road, Kloof 3600.

SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY OF PHYSIOTHERAPY
P.O. Box 47238, Parklands, Johannesburg 2121
Telephone 646-5098

President
MRS. K. M. LEVY

Honorary Life President
PROF. J. J. CRAIG

Honorary Vice-Presidents
DR. J. DE BEER
PROF. J. C. DE VILLIERS
PROF. J. GEAR
PROF. G. J. PISTORIUS
PROF. H. P. WASSERMAN

Honorary Life Vice-Presidents
MISS LOIS DYER
MISS JEAN BLAIR
MR. A. ROTHBERG

Chairman
PROF. J. C. BEENHAKKER

Immediate Past Chairman
MRS. A. MATHIAS

Vice-Chairman
MRS. S. H. IRWIN-CARRUTHERS
MRS. J. MORTON

General Secretary: Miss E. M. Botting, P.O. Box 47238, Parklands, Johannesburg 2121.

General Treasurer: Mrs. B. J. Victor

Journal Editor: Miss L. M. Davids, c/o Publications Division, MASA, Private Bag X1, Pinelands, 7430.

National Executive Committee: Mrs. R. Bernstein, Mrs. M. J. L. Butler, Mrs. F. M. Glauber, Mrs. J. A. C. Gilder, Mrs. S. D. Hansen, Mrs. M. E. Klemp, Ms. T. H. A. Kolobe.

Appointments Information Secretary: Miss P. Blake, South African Society of Physiotherapy, P.O. Box 47238, Parklands, Johannesburg 2121

BRANCH SECRETARIES

Border: Mrs. P. Morar, P.O. Box 1419, East London 5200.

Eastern Province: Mrs. M. J. L. Butler, 6 Jutland Crescent, Park Drive, Port Elizabeth 6001.

Goldfields: Mrs. M. L. Bagley, P.O. Box 1515, Welkom 9460.

Natal Coastal: Mrs. E. H. L. Burnett, P.O. Box 4543, Durban 4000.

Natal Midlands: Mrs. J. Gush, 25 Fettes Road, Pietermaritzburg 3201.

Northern Cape: Mrs. E. D. Olivier, 10 Vermaas Ave., Linde, Kimberley 8301.

Northern Transvaal: Mrs. I. Nowosenetz, P.O. Box 27804, Sunnyside, Pretoria 0132.

S.O.F.S.: Mrs. T. van Rooijen, 20 van der Linde Ave., Fichardt Park, Bloemfontein 9322.

Southern Transvaal: Mrs. H. M. Joughin, 14 Kerry Road, Parkview, Johannesburg 2193.

Western Province: Mrs. D. Basson, 14 London Road, Observatory 7925.