

THE HISTORY OF THE LECTURERS' GROUP OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY OF PHYSIOTHERAPY (Afr. DOSENTEGROEP)

The Lecturers' Group originated as a result of a meeting between lecturing staff of the Universities of Cape Town and the Witwatersrand, the Pretoria College and the Schools of Physiotherapy of the King Edward VIII Hospital and the Orange Free State. Miss Margaret Roper, Head of the Department of Physiotherapy, University of Cape Town, was largely responsible for the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Miss Jean Blair, Chairman of the South African Society of Physiotherapy and was held at the Medical School of the University of Natal on 6 July 1964. As a result of this meeting the following resolution to the 5th Council Meeting was carried:

That physiotherapists engaged in the training of physiotherapists form a sub-group within the South African Society of Physiotherapy.

The Teachers' Group, as it was then called, met again at the time of the 5th Council Meeting in Welkom in 1965, but it was not until the third meeting, held in September 1966 in Pretoria, prior to the 6th Council Meeting, that the first Office Bearers were elected and a Sub-Committee appointed to draw up a Constitution. The first Office-Bearers were: Mr Jack Stockton (Chairman), Miss Anne Hendry (Honorary Secretary) and Miss Johlyne Crewe-Brown (Honorary Treasurer). Miss de Bruin succeeded Mr Stockton in October 1969 and was Chairman for a decade before being succeeded by Mrs Johlyne Beenhakker (née Crewe-Brown) in 1979. Miss Irwin-Carruthers took over as Honorary Secretary when Miss Hendry resigned in 1970.

The first Constitution appeared in 1968 and the Group was renamed the Association of Teachers of Physiotherapy. Following an amendment to the Society's by-laws in 1971, the name was changed to the Lecturers' Group. The members elected to retain this designation when the by-laws were amended again to allow the use of the name association.

The Constitution was extensively revised in 1979 in order to bring it into line with that of the parent Society.

It is interesting to note that at the very first meeting in 1964 it was agreed to recommend that the Society should write to the South African Medical and Dental Council, offering to act as the examining body for qualifying examinations in physiotherapy. This recommendation, which, if accepted, might have made membership of the South African Society of Physiotherapy compulsory for all practising physiotherapists, came to naught.

From the outset the Group concerned itself with a continuous review and up-dating of syllabi, thus the syllabus for the National Diploma in Physiotherapy was revised several times in the ensuing 16 years. Minimum standards for degree courses were first discussed in 1969, and in 1980 the South African Medical and Dental Council accepted the minimal standards recommended by the Group. When the Group was first formed, only one university (the Witwatersrand) offered a degree course. All seven courses offered at present are four-year degree courses.

The first Master's Degree in Physiotherapy was offered by the University of the Witwatersrand in 1972. The first two successful candidates were awarded their Master's Degrees in 1981. M.Sc. courses are now offered by the Universities of Cape Town, the Orange Free State, Stellenbosch and the Witwatersrand, whilst the University of Durban-Westville offers an M. Physiotherapy degree. Other registrable post-graduate courses now available are the Diploma in Advanced Physiotherapy of the University of the Witwatersrand, the Diploma in Respiratory Therapy of the University of Durban-Westville and the Diploma in Intensive Care Physiotherapy of the University of Cape Town.

B.Sc. Honours courses will be offered by the University of Stellenbosch from 1983 in mobilisation and manipulation, paediatric neurology (neuro-developmental therapy), adult neurology, obstetric physiotherapy and intensive care. Registrable courses in physiotherapy education are offered by the Universities of Cape Town, Durban-Westville, the Orange Free State, Pretoria, South Africa and Witwatersrand.

In order to ensure the standard of training of physiotherapy graduates, the Lecturers' Group maintains a list of approved examiners and has set up task descriptions for both internal and external examiners. The Group has also established objectives for courses in physiotherapy education and has laid down minimal standards for these courses as well as minimal physical requirements for physiotherapy training institutions.

Since 1977, workshops have been held in conjunction with Group meetings. Subjects such as objectives for physiotherapy training, evaluation, clinical supervision, educational programmes for new members of teaching establishments and the use of the poster as a teaching medium have been covered. The Group has also conducted surveys on undergraduate training in manipulation (1971), community medicine (1974), teaching establishments (1976), selection of textbooks (1976) and the use of class and group activities (1977). The 1980 survey on post-graduate study and continuing physiotherapy education has been analysed by the Department of Biostatistics at the Medical Research Council and will be published in 1982. A Newsletter is published quarterly and produced by each training centre in rotation.

The following Honorary Life Members of the Group have been elected by the National Council of the South African Society of Physiotherapy: Jack Stockton, M.B.E. (formerly Principal of the Pretoria College), Miss Jean Blair (formerly Associate Professor at the University of the Witwatersrand)

and the late Miss Margaret Roper (formerly Head of the Department of Physiotherapy, University of Cape Town).

Present Office Bearers:

Chairman: Mrs. J. C. Beenhakker

Vice-Chairman: Mrs. A. McFarlane

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. A. Stewart

Hon. Secretary: Miss S. Irwin-Carruthers

UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA — TOELATING VAN FISIOTERAPEUTE TOT NAGRAADSE STUDIE

Die Universiteit Senaat het besluit dat:

- die Kollege van Fisioterapie van die Transvaal Provinsiale Administrasie as 'n inrigting gelykstaande aan 'n Universiteit beskou sal word, en 'n kandidaat wat 'n Diploma daar verwerf het, sal gelyk aan 'n baccalaureusgraad gestel word, en deur die Dekaan namens die Fakulteitsraad tot baccalaureus honoresstudie toegelaat word.
 - Dat bogenoemde kandidaat wat daarbenewens die *Onderwysdiplomas in Fisioterapie, of die Diploma in Tersiêre Onderrig* verwerf het, deur die Dekaan namens die Fakulteitsraad tot magisterstudie toegelaat sal word nadat hulle, volgens sy oordeel, 'n tentamen op honoresvlak bevredigend afgeleë het.
 - Dat bogenoemde reëlings as oorgangsmaatreël sal geld vir die volgende vier jaar.
- Belangstellende persone kan Mev. Beattie, Fisioterapie Kollege, Privaatsak X169, Pretoria 0001, vir verdere inligting nader.