

## EDITORIAL

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As the year draws to a close, we should be reflecting on the changes that are occurring both within our country as well as in our profession. Changes are being made regarding our professional code of conduct which will allow our services to be made more readily known to the lay public. However, this freedom of advertising our profession will require increased self discipline so that we do not take unfair advantages of our colleagues. We will also have to ensure that we continue to improve our standards of clinical practice and management skills in order to provide excellent health care and do not expose ourselves to enquiries and disciplinary action, which can only result in a negative attitude towards our profession.

A workshop to determine the role of the physiotherapy profession in any future health care delivery system has been planned. There will certainly be a change in the national health policy in the new South Africa, which will affect all health care professionals. It was thus decided to attempt to plan how our profession will respond to any such changes so that we will be able to contribute in a constructive and informed manner. The workshop is scheduled for May 1993, and will be facilitated by Mrs Rati Mpfu of the University of Zimbabwe. This is a very important event and physiotherapists from all areas of the country are urged to contribute their advice and suggestions to their regional planners, as soon as possible.

In the article by J Mitchell *et al*, a simple method of measuring the degree of lumbar curvature is described. Use is made of photography and standard equipment found in any

clinical situation as well as in anthropomorphic laboratories.

P Ferrinho *et al* provide a profile of patients attending the physiotherapy department at the Alexandra Health Clinic. The authors found that when planning primary health centres, very little data concerning the types of conditions presenting in the community were available. In the survey conducted between 1988 and 1990, it was found that only 1% of the patients attending physiotherapy, needed to be referred to hospital. The authors recommend that information needs to be collected on an ongoing basis and that any primary health care service must clearly define priorities based on relevant data.

WCPT Africa is going from strength to strength and a most informative newsletter has been drawn up by the President, Mrs Dorcas Madzivire and the Secretary, Mrs Marlene Brand from Zimbabwe. This newsletter contains extracts from the proceedings of the Lusaka General Meeting held in March as well as the WCPT Africa policy on rehabilitation. The latter together with information on Rehabilitation Assistant training in Zimbabwe are presented because of their particular relevance to South Africa. Information regarding the Medic Africa '92 conference is also provided and members of the Zimbabwe Physiotherapy Association have kindly offered free accommodation to physiotherapists from other countries who wish to attend. Perhaps members of Southern Transvaal Branch may like to reciprocate at the next Congress which they are hosting in 1993.

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