

PHYSIOTHERAPY IN AFRICA AT THE BRINK OF THE 21ST CENTURY.

Physiotherapy in Africa has come a long way in the 20th century. We succeeded in establishing the importance of the profession in the delivery of health care services. We also made significant in-roads in health promotion and community based rehabilitation. In the last year of the last decade of this century, we need to look back in order to empower ourselves for the future.

Once, we assumed the success of our treatment was ensured with our clients *passively* involved. However, the success of physiotherapy demands increasing *active* participation by the client. Once, infant mortality rate was very high. This has greatly improved that the increasing

number of older persons is now a challenge. This year is the International Year of Older Persons, and the focus is on Healthy Aging. Unfortunately, the increasing number of people infected with the HIV virus threatens the increase of life expectancy. Once, congenital factors contributed mostly to physical disabilities. Currently, physical disabilities are acquired as a result of increasing rate of violence, wars, motor-vehicle accidents, industrial accidents, etc. The role of physiotherapy in rehabilitation in these and other areas of challenge cannot be overemphasised.

With these challenges, the curative, preventive and promotive roles of phy-

siotherapy must be emphasised. The African culture of *ubuntu* in which we freely share life should propel us to share our expertise and experience with one another, other professions, and the international world. In this issue of the South African Journal of Physiotherapy, our rich African heritage of *ubuntu* makes us to freely share information about few of the challenges to physiotherapy in Africa. Collectively, we can overcome these challenges and much more in the next century.

DELE AMOSUN
Member, Editorial Board

REVIEWERS THANK YOU

The editorial board wants to thank the following persons who reviewed articles for the South African Journal of Physiotherapy in 1998. Without your input we would not have been able to produce a journal of such diversity and quality.

R Bester	L Hunter
S De Charmoy	L Jacobs
P de Witt	M Morrell
I Diener	T Paulsen
C Eksteen	J Potterton
K Ermann	M Riley
M Farquharson	G Shead
M Faure	T Skinstad
L Fearnhead	J Sklaar
L Hale	A Stewart
J Hendry	M van der Velde

We intend to publish a list of reviewers who have contributed annually.