

EDITORIAL

WCPT-Africa

Congratulations to Dele Amosun on being elected the new Chairman of WCPT-Africa. Pam Hansford will act as Secretary of the Region and this team will steer the Region through to the WCPT 1999 General Meeting and Congress to be held in Yokohama, Japan. In accepting this onerous task on behalf of himself and Pam, Dele thanked the meeting for the honour bestowed on themselves as well as on the SA Society of Physiotherapy. Members of the SASP are urged to support the Secretariat who will operate from Cape Town.

The next WCPT-Africa General Meeting and Congress will be held in 1998 in Johannesburg and we need to be planning for this international event now. We need to ensure that the standard set by the Zimbabwe Physiotherapy Association in September this year is met and that the Congress attracts a large number of international participants as well as local physiotherapists. In order to make sure that the Congress is supported locally, the SASP must make every effort to recruit all practitioners to the Society, so that we will represent every field of interest and cater for the needs of all.

Journal Changes

The year is drawing to an end and the restructuring of the Society is now a reality. The Journal too is undergoing changes and the Review Committee set up by Council has completed its task. It is suggested that the Review Panel be enlarged to include academics, representatives from the various interest groups and other experienced clinicians. A form obtained from APTA is being used by the reviewers which should make this task a little easier.

It is planned that the slightly changed Editorial Board will meet regularly during the year in order to evaluate members of the review panel and to control the standard and content of the Journal. A new Scientific Editor will be appointed who will co-opt a small committee whose task will be to screen the scientific standard of the submitted manuscripts. Letters will be written to all prospective members of the Editorial Board and of the Review Panel confirming their commitment to these tasks.

Journal continuity

However, for the Journal to continue to grow it is important that our physiotherapists do regularly submit articles. As has been mentioned on numerous occasions, every practising physiotherapist should be able to write up a case study or review the literature in his or her own field of interest. We had promised that articles would be published explaining how to write a scientific article, the way to present case studies and how to tackle a literature review. Unfortunately the promised articles have not been forthcoming but they will be published whenever they become available. We had also agreed to revise the Instructions to Authors but pressure of work has prevented the volunteer from completing this task.

Articles Appearing

In a study conducted by M Uys *et al*, various facets of Orthopaedic Manipulative Therapy (OMT) were investigated including pre- and post-graduate courses offered in this field. Participants were also asked whether they have ever written articles for publication and if not, their reason for not doing so. The results of this study, which is published in this Journal, are well worth noting. Hopefully the Journal will soon receive many articles from members of the OMT Group. We also appeal to members of the very large and active Sports Group to share their knowledge and information in the Journal. With all the national and international events taking place, which are served by physiotherapists, there must be a wealth of information available.

Lynn Fearnhead's review article provides a good overview of a condition which has been neglected in Physiotherapy literature. The article examines the presenting features and management of Guillain-Barré in the acute stage while the patient is in intensive care. Suggestions regarding further studies are presented and a useful reference list is provided.

The effects of visual feedback and verbal encouragement on peak torque and on total work measurements during maximum isokinetic concentric contractions were studied by van Herp. Although most physiotherapists do use verbal encouragement when treating patients by means of resisted exercises, it was found that, by including visual feedback, performance was enhanced. It is suggested that manufacturers of isokinetic apparatus should include standardised visual feedback and verbal encouragement in their manuals.

In the article by van Wyk and Smith the importance of efficient supervision in all areas of personnel management is highlighted. If done correctly, it will lead to quality services being rendered and to job satisfaction.

Referees

The Editorial Board is most grateful for the few willing referees who have given of their time and expertise to review the submitted manuscripts during 1996. These are:

Carol Cunningham
Sielie Eales
Sheena Irwin-Carruthers
Muriel Goodman
Linda Hunter
Mariëtte Uys
Larry Cohen
Jo-anne Potterton
Jenny Hendry
Tom Paulsen

We wish our members a blessed Christmas and may 1997 be a happy and successful year for the Society and for the Journal.

■ J C Beenhakker