

# EDITORIAL

By the time this edition of the Journal is published, many changes will have occurred both within the SA Society of Physiotherapy as well as in our country at large.

Hopefully members of the Society will have contributed positively to these changes and have actively participated in the improvements proposed. It must be remembered that bad officials are elected by good citizens who could not be bothered to vote, and poor decisions may be made by the few because of the lethargy of the majority. Unless we have given of our time, expense and expertise to the restructuring of the Society or to compiling positional papers of the role of physiotherapy in future health care, we dare not now criticise those who did indeed do so.

An opportunity to discuss the output from the various committees will be given at Council and the decisions taken at the meeting will be published later. Hopefully

Council members will be given more flexible mandates from the Branches this year so that, after constructive discussion, we may compose our differences and prejudices with our fellow councilors in the common pursuit of true judgement. Consensus does not need to be absolute, but sufficient consensus will suffice if all relevant aspects of the matter are considered, resulting in informed judgement. Eastern Province is to be congratulated on its willingness to host a Council Meeting and to run a mini Congress, in spite of being one of the smaller Branches.

This edition of our Journal is devoted to respiratory and cardiac matters. In a pilot study, Eales and Stewart investigated factors that may predict successful rehabilitation in patients who have undergone coronary artery bypass surgery. Important factors such as improvement in the quality of life and acceptance of responsibility by the patients in their own rehabilitation

is stressed.

M Senekal undertook a large study which investigated the optimal physiotherapy approach to penetrating stab wounds of the chest. It was found that an aggressive approach of immediate chest physiotherapy had definite beneficial effects, which are discussed. A literature survey to establish the therapeutic effects of ambubagging was carried out by M Barker, and the author stresses the need for more controlled and reproducible studies. Guidelines are offered in the use of this technique for clinical practitioners. In the study by S Wessels, the effects of mechanical vibrations on gaseous exchange and lung function was investigated. In this study as attempt was made to isolate one modality during two consecutive treatment sessions. It is, however, not always possible to control the many other variables found in patients used in such studies.

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