



## CPD requirements — non-clinical registration

**To the Editor:** I would like to support the sentiments expressed by Dr Lang.<sup>1</sup> I have had a similar experience.

I retired from surgical practice at the end of November 1998, and subsequently attended a few congresses that took my interest. I did not complete any of the CPD questionnaires as I felt it was not necessary because I was retired. I subsequently received a letter from the Registrar of the Health Professions Council informing me that my name would be summarily be removed from the Register as I did not have sufficient CPD points. I considered this letter to be high-handed.

When I claimed expenses from the Receiver of Revenue for congresses attended this was refused on the grounds that I was retired and no longer needed to attend such meetings. I subsequently asked for my registration with the Council to be cancelled. By doing this I have achieved some saving, but I would have preferred to have been able to remain on the Register in a similar capacity to that suggested by Dr Lang. By no longer being on the Register I am even precluded from *pro deo* teaching.

I find the attitude of the Council to be short-sighted and unfortunate. A type of registration allowing some form of practice for a relatively nominal yearly registration fee would probably encourage those who have retired to remain on the Register and participate in medical matters, even if it is to a limited extent, as well as, for example, providing a pool of medical help during a possible emergency situation.

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1. Lang CMF. CPD requirements — non-clinical registration (Briewe). *S Afr Med J* 2003; 93: 10.

**To the Editor:** I concur fully with the contents of Dr Lang's letter in the January 2003 *SAMJ*.<sup>1</sup>

I too have received a notice from the Registrar of the Health Professions Council because I have not obtained points in Ethics, and therefore face de-registration in spite of obtaining more than the 80% clinical points through the *SAMJ* and *CME* journals.

My wife and I have both been put on chronic medication by our medical doctors. This requires monthly prescriptions which I am allowed to write out until we report back to the specialists (gynaecologist, urologist, physician, cardiologist) for yearly renewal if necessary.

Our doctors are quite satisfied and actually welcome the fact that I do not have to make appointments only to have prescriptions repeated.

Like Dr Lang, I too request that I at least retain the right to prescribe for myself and my immediate family.

Does SAMA have any plans to help Dr Lang, myself and other medical practitioners who will find themselves in the same predicament, or does SAMA act on the assumption that we will all fade away and die — problem solved?

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1. Lang CMF. CPD requirements — non-clinical registration (Letter). *S Afr Med J* 2003; 93: 10.

## Aged but not out?

**To the Editor:** I would like to support Dr Lang in his recent communication.<sup>1</sup> I am 78 years of age, and qualified in 1947. Although 98% retired, I still feel fully capable of treating arthritis, acute asthma, bronchitis, mental tension, anxiety, acute angina, pimples and sore throats, etc. I would not choose to do confinements or complicated operations. Surely so long as we don't have Alzheimer's or very poor eyesight, we should be allowed to continue with clinical practice? Surely our experience counts for something?

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1. Lang CMF. CPD requirements — non-clinical registration (Letter). *S Afr Med J* 2003; 93: 10.

## Die klug van sogenaamde VPO-punte

**Aan die Redakteur:** Die oorspronklike konsep en idee agter die verdien van VPO-punte berus op 'n edele motief, nl. die aaneenlopende opleiding van geneeshere om hulle in staat te stel om op hoogte te bly van veranderinge in die mediese profesie en sodoende hul pasiënte van die beste diens te voorsien.

Lank vóór die puntstelsel het toegewyde geneeshere gereeld lesings, kursusse en kongresse bygewoon, en sou op hierdie manier baie meer punte verdien het as wat nou vereis word.

Intussen het daar egter 'n 'gogga' ingekruip, nl. 'n lys wat maandeliks in die *SAMJ* gepubliseer word, waar 'n mens klein blokkies kan invul en sodoende omtrent die helfte van jou jaarlikse puntetotaal kan verdien terwyl jy agter jou lessenaar sit.