



locals, Reuter chose not to attend the Rudasa congress as he had just returned from the international AIDS conference in Bangkok and felt it fairer that another colleague should benefit while he caught up on work.

'I only heard about winning after Noyise Kweza (a VCT counsellor colleague) had left for the congress so she accepted on my behalf,' he said.

His reaction to winning? 'I didn't know anybody had entered me, so I was surprised. I was also happy and felt that I'm just part of the team and I hope



they'll all feel proud. My phone hasn't stopped ringing with calls and SMSs, so

there seems to be quite a bit of publicity. This is good for anyone doing HIV work. I feel too few doctors are committed to get involved, so this is a boost for HIV doctors in a way.'

The Pierre Jacques Award is co-sponsored by Rudasa, the South African Academy of Family Practice/Primary Care and the South African Medical Association.

Heinemann publishers donated a set of primary clinical care manuals.

**Chris Bateman**

## The South African Medical Journal

### 100 years ago:

We have received a communication from a member of the legal profession, who asks whether something cannot be done to discipline members of our profession who are addicted to gross intemperance. He suggests that Resident Magistrates should be instructed to report, through the Colonial Secretary, to the Medical Council, with a view of having such men struck off the Register... We see no reason beyond that of maintaining the credit of the profession, and that of securing the sober members of the profession from unworthy competition, why the Medical Council should interfere. The public has no claim upon the Medical Council for protection. It is perfectly able to protect itself if it will. Formerly, when medical practitioners were few and far between the public often had to take any medical man they could get. Nowadays, except perhaps in some of the remotest districts of the Transvaal and Rhodesia, there is no one who has not the choice of two or three medical practitioners within a perfectly reasonable distance. If one of these is a drunkard, the fact is certainly well known to the laity, and if a man likes to call him in preference to a sober medical attendant, the man has only himself to blame. As a matter of fact, unless a medical man is hopelessly incapacitated from going to a case, too many of the public actually prefer the drunkard. For some occult reason, the many headed always assumes that intemperance connotes 'cleverness', and one assumes that the fact of a doctor having to be lifted out of his cart is *prima facie* proof of his being specially qualified to cure a patient.

### 50 years ago: Excerpt from Dr R Lane Forsyth's valedictory address to the Cape Western Branch, 29 January 1954

Develop method in your lives so that you will be able to accomplish more in a day and have time to dawdle by the wayside and enjoy the companionship of your patient and your colleagues. Develop a philosophy early in life - decide, if you can, the standard of living to which you aspire and live well below it; in this way you will avoid temptation... Think about linking up with your colleagues and working in arrangement or partnership... partners will find time for meditation, culture, exercise and hobbies. They will experience the joys of friendship within the profession; and life has no pleasure higher or nobler than friendship. The only disease that can kill successful partnership is the malady of idleness, out of which grows doubt, suspicion and jealousy... Partnerships grow and flourish with mutual understanding and magnanimity, especially in moments of stress when there are changes of fortune or conflict of opinion. I would recommend that you read regularly of the wisdom contained in the writings of Sir William Osler. His words will be a light in the wilderness to guide your feet... I wish you all and individually full days, and much work to keep you busy, and the strength to carry the anxiety that goes with it; courage to fight and overcome your doubts and fears; at the end of the day a bed made soft with the poppies of delicious rest... and finally a happy home where you are loved and trusted, where great things are expected of you, and where they think you are grand even when you have almost lost faith in yourselves.