
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Making a difference

It is easy enough to just accept the status quo. It is a lot more difficult to leave having made a difference. And we can all make a difference.

Nurturing our younger colleagues in respect of research and subsequent publication means that we all benefit from original innovative ideas. And orthopaedic surgeons never cease to amaze in this respect. Some of the greatest advances in medicine have come from orthopaedics. Our at times controversial ideas have often been breakthroughs, and concepts from orthopaedics have been accepted throughout medicine. It is daunting though to convert ideas to well thought-out research projects with well-defined end-points. It is even more challenging to convert the results to properly structured articles suitable for publication. We need to foster a culture of mentorship in this regard, encouraging our colleagues to persevere in their ideals and achieve the satisfaction of seeing their work in print.

In this respect our journal, the *South African Orthopaedics Journal*, has continued to make a difference. It has provided a very suitable vehicle for the dissemination of information, both within South Africa, as well as in the sub-region. We need to pay tribute to our Editorial Board for their role in promoting a culture of mentorship and encouragement, with the resultant impressive collection of articles that appear in each issue.

Yes, we can and do make a difference.

Dick van der Jagt
President: South African Orthopaedic Association

