
EDITORIAL

In 1905, on the eve of his departure from the New World (USA and Canada) to the University of Oxford, Sir William Osler gave an address on 'The Student Life – a Philosophy', which covered the medical career of a doctor from the start as a student until retirement.

According to him "the most difficult conviction to get into the mind of a beginner is that the education in which he is engaged is not a college course, not a medical course, but a life course, for which the work of a few years under teachers is but a preparation. The main point in education is to get a 'relish for knowledge'. This should become a way of life."

From the beginning a student starts to collect knowledge and must have the opportunity to continuously update and improve that knowledge. He or she must also be in a position to recognise opportunities and use them.

To be a good doctor you must:

- be a continuous student
- be proud of what you are doing
- share your experiences with colleagues
- stay on top of new developments and ideas.

The above can be done via:

- the Internet
- attending congresses
- attending courses
- scientific journals.

The *South African Orthopaedic Journal* is the official journal of the South African Orthopaedic Association and has been since August 2002.

The journal started on a high note and is currently regarded as an important publication with peer-reviewed articles of a high standard. The journal gives us the opportunity to share our experiences, research and the latest developments in the orthopaedic environment.

The current issue of the *South African Orthopaedic Journal* gives us new information and guidance on infections, tumours and the use of modern technology.

By reading this journal and absorbing all the information given we not only fulfil the wishes of Sir William Osler, but also enrich our knowledge and quality of patient care.



GJ Vlok

*Prof Vlok was given the honour of lifelong membership of the SAOA.
He played an important role in the founding of this journal. The Editor.*
