

# World Medical Journal



OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION INC

VOL. 48 NO 4 & 5. July/August/September/October 2002

## NEW INTERNET PORTAL

<http://www.DoctorsHobbies.com>

Well, there might be a lot of prejudices about doctors and their way of spending their free time. One fact is that the medical profession requires not only a logical analytical scientific capability but also a good part of „wholistic“ thinking, sort of making a „first-sight-diagnosis“ with the „right side of the brain“. On this basis the probability for creative hobbies among the health care professionals is fairly high. More than a tendency is recognizable that doctors do not only have their hobby but organize them-

selves on regional, national and even worldwide international level.

So did you know that beginning of July 2002 there was a world medical soccer championship has taken place in Barcelona/Spain? And have you heard or better read of the World Union of Writing Physicians? Or were you familiar that every year in Germany there is a chess championship for docs? In 10 years of this activity 14.000 players had 7.000 games! Or did you

know that there are doctors' orchestras in many countries? Germany seems to be the leader with 12 (or more) orchestras in several cities up to the German Doctors' Orchestra having production phases with concluding concerts once or twice a year. There is even a pediatrics orchestra in Germany conducted by Vienna violin professor Eduard Melkus! Doctors' Orchestras are also in Spain, Taiwan and Japan.

Some of the HobbyDocs are real multitalkers: So some of them have up to 24 hobbies with some of them on professional level! Many of the members of the German Doctors' Orchestra have even done a degree in medicine as well as in their instrument in music. The famous surgeon Sauerbruch has said: "Medicine is a jealous lover!". He played the violin very well, too. And the Russian Alexander Borodin was doctor, composer and last not least an important politician in his country.

So what is it about? Is there anything different from other professions? Maybe that medical doctors are very exposed doing their job because it is a great responsibility to work on the health of people. So being used to work in the public presence they are not too shy to present themselves with their hobbies.

Most of them have an extreme lack of time and so they are only active in the regional area around their home city. Many of the music docs have done CD-recordings, but where can you get them? Not too often pharmaceutical companies are sponsoring these free time activities. So several CDs have been made this way. A German company has organized a piano competition for doctors for four years now with piano professors of the Cologne music academy in the jury. Every year a CD has been brought out of the winners and has been distributed by the pharmaceutical representatives to the colleagues. Because the changes in the health laws with the „aut idem“ -principle this series has been finished now. Another German pharma company organizes a national art exhibition every two years and presents pictures and sculptures of about 90 doctors from all over Germany.

More and more doctors are present with an own homepage in the internet. Regulations



about professional „behaviour rules“ are setup by the professional organisations, like well done by the American Medical Association readable on their homepage. Doctors Hobbies.com provides useful links to these rules by the American Medical Association and the German officials.

The internet is going to provide always more information also in this field. Recently a German doctor and active professional concert pianist has set up probably the very first internet site about Doctors and their hobbies, presenting his first eBook „Travel Diary Of A Concert Grand Piano“ (<http://www.travel-diary-of-a-concert-grand-piano.docwebs.com> ) Already at the start of this very informative portal there is a rich

variety of hobbies reported with many relevant information for insiders and tips and tricks for free software and many adresses or e-mails of doctors hobbies organisations.

So it seems to become a meeting point for all interested doctors who want to enrich their free time and bulid a worldwide international community. So far about 50 different hobbies are represented. We may wish this portal to grow fast by contributions from more and more HobbyDocs from over the world. Come and visit it under <http://www.DoctorsHobbies.com> and discover creative free time spaces! The first 100 subscribers to a FREE newsletter can even win 10 MB webspace right away.