



Strengthening the training of family physicians in South Africa

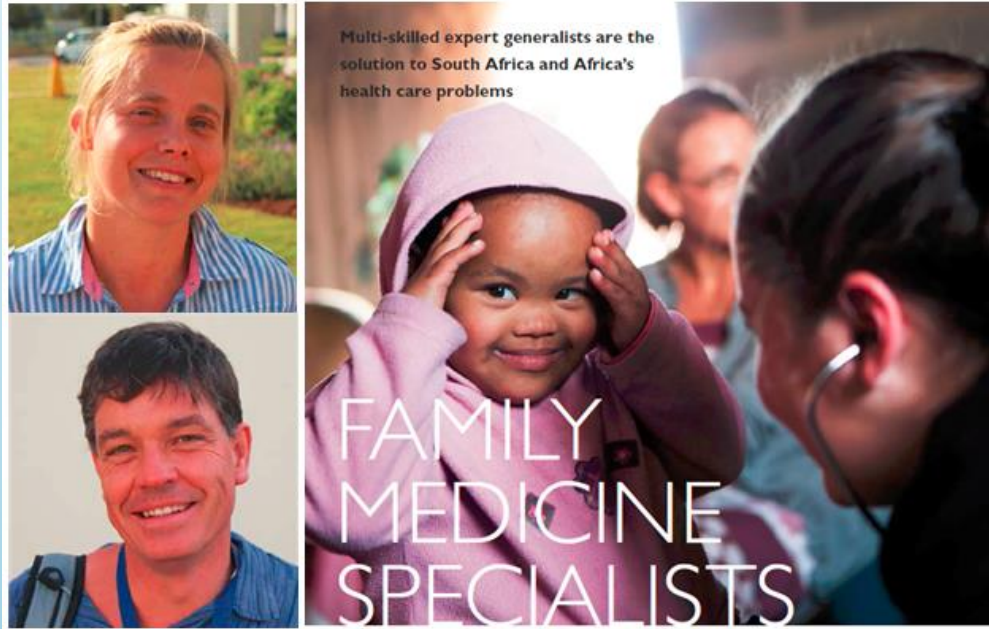
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To present an overview and brief evaluation of the training provided through the EuropeAid-project and RCGP collaboration to South African family medicine clinical trainers and examiners.

Objective

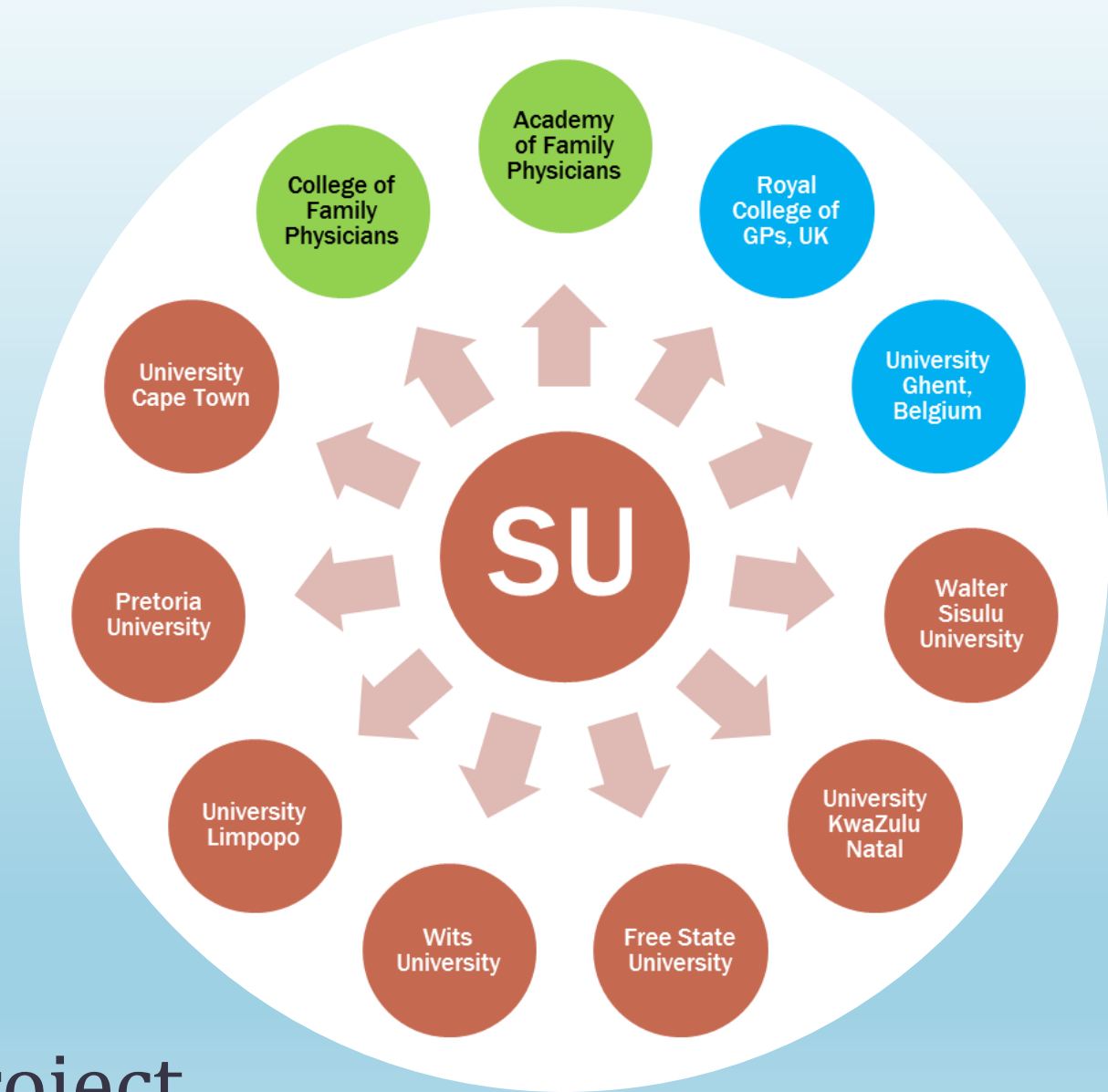




- **Since 2007:**
 - Family Medicine as a new specialty
 - A 4-year postgraduate training programme at all 9 medical schools
 - A newly created national exit examination
- South Africa's **human resource plan** has an initial target of 1000 family physicians (FPs). The majority of doctors available to the PHC system have no postgraduate training or are very junior.
- There is **no tradition of postgraduate training in the district health services** and newly qualified FPs are expected to immediately train and assess registrars.
- The **quality and scale of the training programmes** need to be improved to ensure sufficient numbers of competent FPs.

Introduction

- Since March 2014: a EuropeAid-funded project commenced:
 - Stellenbosch University: lead applicant
- During 2014 and 2015:
 - Training interventions conducted in collaboration with the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP).
[The RCGP's experience with training clinical trainers and developing national assessment is at an international standard.]



EuropeAid-funded project

Strengthening primary health care through primary care doctors and family physicians

- An initial cohort of 34 family medicine trainers attended two 5-day courses: August 2014 and February 2015
- Prof Julia Blitz from SU was a co-facilitator at 2nd course. In future she will lead the training in South Africa.
- Focus on the importance of assessing the learning needs of the learners.
- The emphasis was on personal educational skill development for the delegates with feedback.

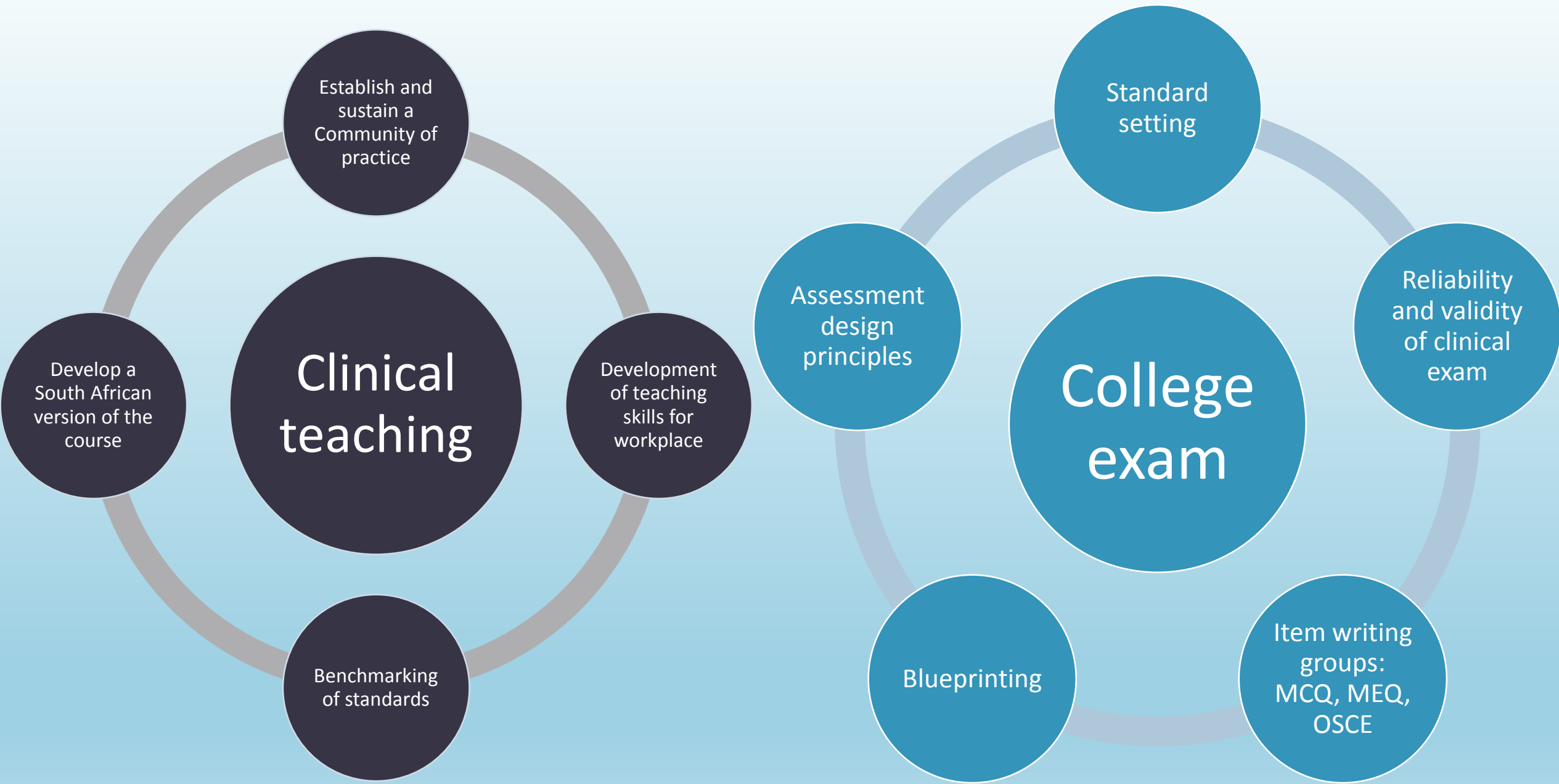


Training of FM clinical trainers

- Three 1-day courses at FCFP(SA) examinations:
May 2014, October 2014, May 2015
- Presented by RCGP assessment experts.
- Focus on training of examiners:
 - To improve their capacity to provide higher quality questions for the national exam (multiple choice, modified essay, critical appraisal, OSCE stations)
 - To assess clinical skills more consistently and accurately

Training of FM examiners





Themes from RCGP reports

Way forward: the THET project - *Strengthening primary health care through primary care doctors and family physicians*

1. The development of a **critical mass of clinical trainers** who have a deeper understanding of their educational role and enhanced capability.
2. The establishment of **an ongoing short course for new clinical trainers** that will in future be facilitated by South Africans.
3. The conceptualisation of a process of initial and ongoing **accreditation for clinical trainers and establishment of a sub-group/society of clinical trainers within the SAAFP.**
4. The establishment of a **national exit examination** that is comparable to an **international standard** and which helps to ensure the quality of graduating FPs for the country.



