South Africa: Primary Health Care as a harbinger of democracy

During the 1940s, South African doctors Sidney and Emily Kark, pioneered a progressive social and community-oriented Primary Health Care (PHC) approach. This became the basis for the development of a network of PHC centres across South Africa in the 1940s and 1950s, before this initiative was quashed by the apartheid government. Dr. Noble’s presentation will examine the attempts to train medical students in PHC. When these institutional efforts failed, the quest for PHC became largely associated with anti-apartheid “struggle” activists who worked to provide more equitable and accessible health care services for South Africa.

Joseph Kutzin will discuss the issue from the WHO perspective.

For more information, please contact: GHHistories@who.int