



IN MEMORIAM

Larry Margolius

Dr Larry Margolius, our esteemed colleague and friend, died in the early hours of the morning of 16 January 2005. Larry qualified in 1979, having obtained a first-class pass in medicine. In 1984 he obtained the Fellowship of the College of Medicine (South Africa) and in 1992 he was awarded his Master of Medicine degree. Thereafter he took up a consultant post in the Department of Nephrology at Johannesburg Hospital. In 1990 he became a senior physician and was in charge of the medical division of the transplantation unit. Larry also served as a senior consultant in the renal unit of Johannesburg Hospital from 1985 until he left for private practice in 1999.

Dr Margolius was an outstanding teacher of both undergraduate and postgraduate students. He excelled in research and was awarded the Master of Medicine degree with honours, for which he received a distinguished prize reserved for an outstanding research thesis. This work on Kaposi's sarcoma and its link to HIV in renal transplant patients was a 'first', for which he gained international acclaim.

Dr Margolius was an active and outspoken member of the National Health Committee whose task it was to set ground rules in the fields of dialysis and transplantation in South Africa. Likewise, Dr Margolius became a pivotal member of the Board of the National Kidney Foundation of South Africa and more recently was elected a member of the Executive Committee of this Foundation.

These are the basic facts, but what about the man? His last illness epitomises all that he stood for. Larry worked up to the day before his admission to hospital. Even there, and in considerable distress, he consulted telephonically for as long as he could. One week after admission Larry died. He steadfastly refused any drastic treatment for cancer which he knew would not help.

Larry's whole life has been one of devotion to duty, to his calling and to his patients. He was a champion of the poor, the disadvantaged and of all sick people rich – or poor. His ethics and moral standards were incomparable. He bore his own life-long medical problem with the same courage which he showed in his medical practice, in his social behaviour and during his terminal illness. His patients revered him, his colleagues loved, admired and respected him and his achievements were many. He had an outstanding mind and was one of the doyens of nephrology and kidney transplantation in our country.

Although in full-time private practice from 1999, Larry never cut his ties with the University or with academia. He attended and often organised and participated in all the local renal seminars, both in the private and public sectors. He attended all departmental general medical rounds and was always up to date with the latest advances in medicine. He was the immediate Past-President of the South African Renal Society

and distinguished his term of office by holding one of the most successful congresses in the history of that Society.

Although he died just before his 48th birthday, he had, in his shortened life's practice, achieved more than any of us could have done in twice that time. We salute his memory, we will all miss him, for Larry indeed 'the good was the enemy of the best'.

A M Meyers

Tielman Johannes Marais

Tielman Marais is op 27 November 1921 op Ceres gebore, waar sy pa 'n onderwyser was. Tielman het daar skoolgegaan en in 1940 by die Universiteit van Kaapstad sy mediese studie begin, wat hy in 1945 met welslae voltooi het. Hy was akademies sterk en het ook aan verskeie sportsoorte deelgeneem – stoei, swem en rugby.

In 1946 is hy na Pretoria waar hy vir die res van sy werkende lewe sou bly. Eers was hy intern by professor Boet Kloppers, en daarna in die Departement Chirurgie, waar professor Besselaar hoof was. Die volgende jaar was hy senior huisdokter in chirurgie. Met sy toewyding en skrandtheid het hy gou 'n kliniese assistentskap gekry, wat hy onder professor Julius Bremer voltooi het.

Daarna het hy 'n privaat praktyk in Pretoria begin, maar het vir baie jare ook 'n deelydse aanstelling by die akademiese hospitaal gehad waar hy 'n waardevolle bydrae gemaak het. Terselfdertyd het hy 'n aanstelling by 1 Militêre Hospitaal gehad. Met verloop van jare het sy bydrae hier al hoe belangriker geword, totdat hy hoof van die chirurgiese dienste geword het, met die rang van brigadier. Menige ernstig gewonde soldaat het sy lewe te danke aan Tielman se eie vaardighede as chirurg, of omdat hy jonger chirurgie praktiese, waardevolle wenke gegee het voor hulle in oorlogsgebied moes werk. Gedurende hierdie tyd was dit ook tipies van Tielman dat, wanneer ander kollegas nie kans gesien het om na die front te gaan nie, moontlik weens verliese wat hulle sou ly, hy altyd bereid was om 'n ekstra beurt daar te neem. So het hy uiteindelik sy privaat praktyk laat vaar en aangebly in militêre diens.

Na sy aftrede het hy hom op Stellenbosch gevestig waar sy seun Tielman 'n algemene praktyk gehad het. Op Stellenbosch het hy prostaatkarsinoom ontwikkel, en mettertyd het metastases erge pyn veroorsaak. Hierdie lyding het etlike maande geduur. Nogtans, veral toe hy nog goed by sy bewussyn was, as ek hom gevra het hoe dit gaan, was sy antwoord: 'Baie om voor dankbaar te wees'. Hy is op 15 November 2004 oorlede.

Sy vrou, Hermien, 'n mediese dokter, en sy kinders het hom met groot toewyding en liefde tuis versorg. Aan hulle dra ons ons meegevoel oor.

Paul Bremer

