



## BOOK REVIEWS

## Fraud and Misconduct in Biomedical Research

*Third Edition. Edited by Stephen Lock, Frank Wells and Michael Farthing. Pp xii + 267. R760. BMJ 2001. ISBN 0-7279-1508-8.*

This is the third edition of a book which was first published in 1993. The need for three editions in less than ten years highlights not only the importance of the topic but also the rapid developments in the field, particularly in the area of setting up appropriate national structures to deal with the problem. The chapters have been extensively revised and new chapters added since the last edition by eminent authors not only from the United Kingdom but also from other European countries and the United States. Topics cover such issues as what is fraud and misconduct in medical science, why do researchers venture into this area of deceit, how common is the problem, and how have various governments, national medical bodies, journal editors and the pharmaceutical industry responded to the problem. Chapters also discuss statistical and other techniques useful in detecting suspected fraud. Perhaps most importantly is a discussion on how to prevent fraud from occurring. It may be argued that South Africa is far from the pressures of 'publish or perish', but the increasing use of health professionals in South Africa to conduct pharmaceutical contract research should make all those concerned with maintaining the name of research in South Africa wary of dismissing the problem as being something that really does not concern us. In fact, the recent much-publicised infamous case of the oncologist in Johannesburg should make this book essential reading for all those who sit on ethics or research committees, or who are members of national structures governing the practice of medicine and research in this country. Although at R760, it may be felt that this is an expensive book for only 267 pages, it is a book that should be in every medical library in South Africa and should be prescribed reading for all who are studying bioethics in our universities. Finally it is a book whose chapters are well written and easy to read, thus making the content readily available to those who may not be well versed in medical jurisprudence or ethical discourse.

John M Pettifor

## Asbestos Blues

*The story of South Africa's asbestos miners and their legal battles with the mining companies. By Jock McCulloch. Pp. xiii + 223. R130. Indiana University Press. 2002. ISBN 1-919930-12-4.*

Asbestosis mining and industries are in the spotlight in South Africa because of ongoing legal battles to obtain compensation for workers and others who have developed asbestosis or

mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos fibre. The appearance of the book *Asbestos Blues* by Jock McCulloch is therefore timely.

McCulloch explores the history of the rise and fall of the exploitation of asbestos in South Africa. His study draws on a comprehensive body of documents from government, industry and medical sources. It was also timeous as he was able to interview a large number of important players and ordinary citizens with experience of the industry.

Europeans discovered asbestos in South Africa in the early 1800s and early production commenced in the latter part of the 19th century. The asbestos mining industry developed in different ways to gold mining in terms of the organisation of labour and regulation of the environment. It was also subject to the vicissitudes of the markets and had many ups and downs, although at its peak it employed tens of thousands of people.

The book provides a fascinating story of asbestos and its uses. But it is the part played in the abuse of people (including women and children) and the environment by government, big industry and others, that is thoroughly documented and makes chilling reading. It will be of particular value to those with an interest in legal, environmental and industrial health fields.

JP van Niekerk

## IN MEMORIAM

## John H Youngleson



With great sadness I report the sudden death of John Henry Youngleson on 4 March 2003. John was born on 8 January 1926 in Harrismith, the son of a farmer. When he was a boy the family moved to Durban, and he was educated at Michaelhouse School where he excelled academically and at sport. During the school holidays Dr Alan Taylor, the superintendent of McCords Hospital (and later first dean of the Natal Medical School) invited him to help in the operating theatre, giving him his first taste of and stimulating his love for surgery.

He started his medical education at the University of Cape Town and was able to complete 2 years of study before he joined the South African Army. He served in North Africa and Italy until the end of World War II. He was a top rugby player and at the end of the war was selected to represent the Army as scrum-half on a tour of Europe. Sadly he had to rush back home



to South Africa to further his medical education. He is remembered at UCT as both a student and an intern playing scrum-half for both UCT and Western Province, until his rugby career was brought to an end by a knee injury.

He met his wife Dawn at Groote Schuur where she was nursing and they were married in 1952. After 6 months' internship in Scottburgh to learn rural medicine they went to Kokstad where he joined a general practice which also ran the local hospital. In 1961, now the father of 4 children, he decided to specialise in plastic surgery. The family had to move several times and drop their living standards while he became a registrar in surgery and plastic surgery in Cape Town, England and finally Johannesburg. He became a Fellow of both the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of Edinburgh and England. He wrote a classic paper on melanoma in the African population, and developed the 'anterior scoring' technique for prominent ears with his fellow registrar Chong Chett. In 1965 John started private practice at St Augustine's Hospital, with sessions at Wentworth, Addington and King Edward VIII hospitals. He became an honorary consultant at McCord Zulu Hospital where he later served on the Board.

About 14 years ago he developed cardiac arrhythmias and was forced to 'reduce' his work. He stopped private practice with the exception of medico legal reports in which he soon became extremely busy as he was in high demand.

Outside of medicine, as a MOTH he was a loyal supporter of his Shell Hole, and he and Dawn ran a flower farm growing orchids and anthuriums, and breeding tropical birds. He also took up bowls with all

the gusto he had when he played rugby.

His passing was sudden. He had been at work an hour before. Our sympathy and prayers go out to Dawn, his 4 children (2 of whom are overseas) and his grandchildren.

It was a pleasure and privilege to have had Uncle John as a colleague and we will all miss him.

Edward Bowen Jones

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**Byk Madaus**



## Hyam Isaacs

MB BCh, MD, FRCP, PhD (Wits)

I lost a lifelong friend on 11 May, when Hyam Isaacs died after a long illness, which he bore with astonishing fortitude. It was a supreme irony that a man of such intellect and immense physical strength should have been felled by a rare and debilitating disease.

We first met in 1945, on our first day as medical students, when he sat immediately behind me in botany class. From then on I virtually grew up in the Isaacs family home. In those far-off days he drove an old Willy's car, which he unstintingly used to transport his friends hither and thither and I never ceased to marvel at his ability to dismantle the engine or suspension, then carry out maintenance and repairs and put everything back together where it belonged. Not surprisingly, he started out as an engineering student but switched to medicine after one year.

Hyam was a late bloomer, evolving from a seemingly average undergraduate student to later become one of the most distinguished graduates of the class of 1950, the class which produced a glut of distinguished graduates, including the current Nobel prize winner, Sidney Brenner. That he was a genius is beyond doubt. Contrary to my expectations that he would branch into surgery because of his manual dexterity, he specialised in internal medicine, soon developing an interest in the physiology of the neuromuscular junction. Working in his own lab within the Physiology Department at Wits, he became recognised internationally as an authority on myotonia, the muscle/nerve motor plate and hyperpyrexia under anaesthesia and for many years he was regularly invited to lecture or chair academic workshops around the world. He would spend literally months abroad, away from his private practice.

Hyam was a gentle man and a gentleman. He was innately modest and soft spoken, quiet, unobtrusive, almost self-effacing, and a marvellous listener. He touched many lives and he will be sorely missed by the many people and friends who were privileged to know him. His appointment as professor in the Department of Physiology at Wits, whilst engaged in private clinical practice, was an eloquent expression of academic recognition by his alma mater. His possession of two PhD degrees was surely unique.

I extend my profound condolences to his wife Ysabel, sons Barry and Michael and his daughter Lorna, to his sisters Jessie and Joan and his nine grandchildren. RIP.

Norman A Blumberg FRCS, FACS, Houston, Texas, USA

## Petrus Jacobus Pretorius

25/4/1939 - 26/1/2003

Dr. Piet is op Springs gebore. Hy het aan die Hoër Volksskool Potchefstroom gematrikuleer en in 1961 die MB ChB-graad aan

die Universiteit van Potchefstroom verwerf.

In 1962 trou hy met Daizy, en met haar sprankelende persoonlikeid was sy 'n groot steunpilaar aan sy sy.

Hy het in 1966 in Johannesburg begin praktiseer. Van meet af aan is hy betrokke by die kulturele, politieke en mediese sake in sy gebied. Sy praktyk het in 1976 uitgebrei tot die grootste groepspraktyk van agt praktisyns in Suid-Afrika.

Dr. Piet was 'n lojale vennoot en was altyd reg vir die volgende uitdaging. Hy word verkies tot voorsitter van die Southern Nursing Home en stig in 1974 die Turf Clinic en South Day Clinic. Sy entoesiasme en visie lei in 1990 tot die stigting van die Mulbarton Hospitaal. Hy dien as voorsitter van die direksie van die hospitaal en het dié pos tot sy dood beklee.

Ook op politieke gebied maak hy sy merk en word in 1983 tot die Johannesburg Stadsraad verkies. In 1994 word hy burgemeester van Johannesburg. Hy en Daizy vervul hierdie rol met groot entoesiasme, en verteenwoordig die stad met onderskeiding plaaslik en oorsee. Hy word ook takraadslid van SAMA.

Gesondheidsprobleme in die familie het die afgelope paar jaar 'n swaar las op hom gelê. Daizy ontval hom in 2001 en sy dogter Annelie 8 maande later. Op 26 Januarie 2003 sterf hy aan longkanker.

Ek eer hom as 'n leier in sy gemeenskap, 'n geliefde en gerespekteerde geneesheer en 'n goeie vriend.

Aan sy kinders, Yolandi en Chris en familie ons innige meegevoel.

Philip Reyneke

## Books Received

*The receipt of these books is acknowledged, and this listing must be regarded as sufficient return for the courtesy of the sender. Books that appear to be of particular interest will be reviewed as space permits. The SAMJ does not publish unsolicited reviews.*

**Paediatric Emergency Medicine - Self-Assessment Colour Review of. Learn • Revise • Reinforce.** By Patricia O Brennan, Janet G Yassa and Stephen Ludwig. Pp. 193. Illustrated. R248.68. Manson Publishing, 2003. ISBN 1-874545-46-4.

**Respiratory Medicine - Self-Assessment Colour Review of. Learn • Revise • Reinforce.** By SG Spiro, RK Albert and D Fielding. Pp. 192. Illustrated. R248.68. Manson Publishing, 2003. ISBN 1-874545-77-4.

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