



IN MEMORIAM

Johnny van der Merwe



Johnny was born on 30 May 1956 in Richmond in the Northern Cape Province, and grew up on the family farm 'Oudeplaats' in the Richmond district. He matriculated at Richmond High School and received his MB ChB degree at Stellenbosch University in 1980.

After an internship at Tygerberg Hospital, and 2 years of National Service, during which he worked

productively at Uitenhage Provincial Hospital, Komga and Rundu, he joined his father-in-law in private practice at Vanrhynsdorp. He worked there until 2000, and came to love Namaqualand and its people. As district surgeon he travelled widely in the region, where he helped to run rural clinics. An active life in cycling and rugby was curtailed by a struggle with rheumatoid arthritis. However, he was an able carpenter, and this hobby gave him much pleasure during times of rest.

After a short stint of locum work in Queensland, he joined a general practice in Citrusdal. Among his other duties was teaching senior medical students from Tygerberg Hospital, who would benefit from his wide experience during their community medicine rotation. He read extensively, and was a thoughtful and caring doctor.

His friends and family were shocked by his sudden death on 27 December 2003, and he will be sorely missed by all of them.

Johnny is survived by his wife Marianne, a son, Stephan, and 2 daughters, Marisa and Lize. To them we offer our deepest condolences.

B R Honeth

Hendrik (Hennie) Muller (1912 - 2003)



Hennie Muller was born in Calvinia, the third of four children. Towards the end of World War I, the family moved to Cape Town and sadly in 1918 his father died. His mother remarried, and the three boys attended SACS. When the time came for university education his stepfather, a member of the legal fraternity, wanted Hennie to study

law. Hennie however wished to study engineering. In the end they compromised and chose medicine as a career. Shortly after commencing his studies in the Faculty of Medicine at UCT, Hennie was awarded a Rhodes scholarship. This saw him move to Oxford to further his studies at Worcester College and he completed his medical training at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London. There he came under the influence of medical icons such as surgeon Sir Zachary Cope and Lord Moran, Churchill's personal physician. He completed his internship at St. Mary's and planned a career in surgery. However, instead he decided to become a physician and completed his training in the UK.

Hennie was due to return to South Africa in October 1939, when war was declared and he enrolled in the Royal Army Medical Corps as a medical officer. In 1943, he met and married Dr Jean Inglis, an anaesthetist, who was also in active service. They were separated by Hennie's posting to Puna, India, and later to Johannesburg. Jean joined him in 1946 and the following year they settled in Cape Town.

Hennie embarked on his career as a physician in private practice, which continued until he finally stopped practising medicine in about 1997. Although he was in private practice, he remained attached and devoted to the Medical School at UCT. He was a part-time physician on the professorial firm and a teacher of 4th-year medical students throughout his working life. He was a good and patient tutor and he is fondly remembered by many doctors whom he taught during their under- and postgraduate years.

Hennie was a prominent and respected member of the medical community in Cape Town, being a long-serving and dedicated member of the Medical Association. He was awarded their gold medal and served as a member of the committee set up in the early fifties to investigate the establishment of the College of Medicine of South Africa.

He had many extramural interests, including golf and woodwork at an almost professional level, as well as being a passionate motoring enthusiast.

Hennie was a devoted husband and father, rejoicing in his children's successes and keenly participating in their activities. His oldest two grandchildren both attribute their choice of medicine as a career to his enthusiasm and encouragement.

Hennie Muller will be fondly remembered by all who knew him for his warmth, compassion and generosity. He had a wonderful sense of humour, a generosity of spirit and an ability to convey his enthusiasm and excitement about his profession. He is survived by his wife Jean, his children Mary, James and Elizabeth, and their families. To them we extend our sympathy.

Zephne M van der Spuy

Patricia Massey

Patricia Massey was born on 5 July 1905 in Graaff-Reinet — the eldest of 3 daughters of Dr David and Helena Massey. She commenced her medical studies at the University of Cape Town in 1925 and qualified MB ChB in 1930. Dr Massey then studied obstetrics and gynaecology in Manchester and was admitted, by examination, as a Member of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in 1933. She was the first South African woman doctor to achieve this honour. Dr Massey was elected FRCOG in 1954.

Following her return to South Africa in 1934 Dr Massey commenced private practice in obstetrics and gynaecology in Cape Town and was also appointed as a Part-time Honorary Lecturer to the University of Cape Town and Part-time Consultant to the Peninsula Maternity Hospital (PMH).

After the opening of Groote Schuur Hospital (GSH) she was made a Part-time Consultant to that hospital and from 1951 to 1970 she was a Part-time Senior Consultant and Head of Firm at both GSH and PMH. After the sudden death of Professor James Louw, Dr Massey acted as Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Cape Town for 1 year.

She retired from her private practice and hospital appointments in 1970, but for many years thereafter gave of her expertise to many family planning clinics in the Cape Peninsula on a voluntary basis. She will be remembered by hundreds of her former medical students for the 'phantom' sessions she conducted on how to perform forceps and breech deliveries; by the many housemen who were fortunate enough to work in her firm for her readiness at any time of the day or night to come out and assist them in a procedure; by the registrars in training for setting meticulous standards of patient care and operating technique for them to follow, and by being not just a colleague but a friend to her fellow practitioners. To all she was affectionately Aunty Pat.

Dr Massey was a Past President of the Cape Western Branch of the Medical Association of South Africa.

She had many interests including grape farming, gardening, painting and theatre and also had a wide circle of friends. Late in life she wrote a book entitled *A Happy Life*. Until her death she was an avid bridge player and solver of cryptic crossword puzzles.

She retired to Graaff-Reinet at the age of 90 and died in the town of her birth on 24 April 2004.