



## IN MEMORIAM

### David Levy (1927 - 2008)

David Levy qualified in medicine from UCT in 1950.

After obtaining his early postgraduate experience in Bulawayo (in what was then Southern Rhodesia), he went on to study in the UK where he obtained his

MCRP in 1955 while working as a junior doctor in Epping. He returned to South Africa and after completing his training as a Medical Registrar at Groote Schuur Hospital and moved to Port Elizabeth, where he became a much loved and respected physician.

I met him when I went into general practice in Port Elizabeth in 1967. He stimulated my interest in internal medicine. For a year I worked closely with him as a 'registrar' running a general medical ward at the Provincial Hospital. I was guided and greatly influenced by him. David was a soft-spoken, knowledgeable and very thorough physician who cared for his patients with the exemplary manner typical of the best of our profession. Although firm he never forced his view on anyone but was always able and willing to quietly support his medical decisions with reference to the literature. My time working with him was among the best of my training experiences.

David moved to the UK in the early 1980s to follow a career in geriatrics. His contributions are well described by a previous president of the British Geriatric Society (1996 - 1998) with whom David had worked in partnership in Bolton UK. (*BGS Newsletter* December 2008 [http://www.bgsnet.org.uk/dec08/10\\_memoriam.html](http://www.bgsnet.org.uk/dec08/10_memoriam.html)). Dr Banerjee describes David as 'A superb clinician, an excellent teacher, a researcher with an analytical mind, he soon became an asset to the department and to the whole elderly care service. Most importantly, it was his gentle nature and genial disposition that charmed everyone - patients, staff, colleagues and indeed, the community at large. David soon got involved in the ongoing research projects in the department and set up his own "new" study on assessing kidney function in older people - resulted in high-quality publications in the *Quarterly Journal of Medicine* among others. He made an enormous contribution to the service development and educating people on the importance of "early" and "acute" intervention in disease of old age. With Coakley and Lye, he published a small book on acute geriatric medicine. David was deeply interested in his patients and he used to "fight" the adversities and service inadequacies; he could be very firm and assertive when necessary.'



Over subsequent years my admiration for his achievements in the UK and my affection for him intensified despite the physical distance between us. David's sudden and unexpected death on 9 September 2008 was a great loss to all who knew and loved him. He is survived by Shirley, his devoted wife and companion, and three children Ruth, Cathy and Philip.

Solly Benatar

### Gerald Lapinsky (1928 - 2008)

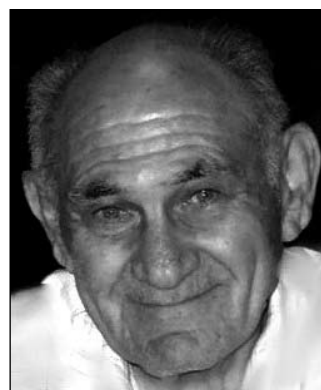
My father, Gerald Lapinsky, was born in Bloemfontein in 1928 and completed high school at Grey College, going on to study medicine at the University of the Witwatersrand. He graduated in 1950, always claiming this to have been the greatest Wits graduating class ever, with such notable names as

Philip Tobias, Sydney Brenner and Priscilla Kincaid-Smith. He worked as a general practitioner in Bloemfontein, before specialising in internal medicine and then cardiology. During the 1960s, after a brief stint in Cape Town with Velva Shrire and Chris Barnard, he headed the new Cardiac Unit at Wentworth Hospital in Durban. Then followed a 25-year career in private cardiology practice at St Augustine's Hospital in Durban, with a transition to non-invasive cardiology, embracing the new technology of echocardiography. I recall a long summer holiday spent in a darkened room with a chest sticky with gel as he honed his skills with his new machine.

He was a life-long learner and passionate teacher, teaching cardiology at King Edward Hospital in Durban, where he was known for his oral simulation of heart sounds and murmurs. His enthusiasm and love of the profession encouraged two of his children to follow him into medical careers. When he finally retired from his cardiology practice he took on a new challenge of insurance medicine. As with cardiology, this became his passion and he developed considerable expertise. Into his 70s he took an interest in computing technology and began using the Internet both to keep in contact with his children in North America (by e-mail and Skype) and to keep abreast of the medical literature. He combined these recent interests and was actively performing Internet-based insurance medicals until his sudden death from an intracerebral haemorrhage on 9 December 2008.

### Stephen E Lapinsky

Mount Sinai Hospital  
Toronto, Canada





## Hayman (Hymie) Solomon Berkowitz



It is with sadness and a strong sense of personal loss that I record the death of my dear friend Hymie Berkowitz. He died on 20 July 2008 at the age of 86 in Sydney, Australia. He was born in Kimberley and at an early age moved to Johannesburg. He went

to King Edward High School and Wits University, where he graduated MB BCh in 1944. He subsequently joined a GP practice in Durban in 1947, gaining his higher qualification (MFGP (SA)) as a family physician in 1974. In 1982 he joined the Academy of Family Practice and was very involved as secretary of the Durban branch and a strong supporter of the Balint Group.

In 1983 he was elected as an honorary life member of the Jewish Old Age Home *Beth Shalom* for his unstinting service to its inhabitants and later honoured by the day surgery being named after him. In 1987 he was granted life membership of the Medical Association.

Hymie was one of the dying breed of general practitioners who were truly family doctors, available for their patients 24 hours a day. He was always calm and collected, no matter how serious the situation. He had a wonderful clinical sense and was an excellent diagnostician. In the 46 years of our friendship I never saw him lose his temper or speak ill of any person or colleague. He was a true gentleman, highly respected and loved by all his patients and friends. He touched their lives with genuine unforgettable and sincere warmth, knowing that he cared about them and would give each of his very best, be they rich or poor.

Hymie married Doris Philips, who was the perfect doctor's wife, giving him much support, care, nurturing and love in his arduous profession as a GP. They were blessed with a love affair which lasted during their 54 years of marriage.

In 1999 Hymie retired from practice and emigrated to Australia with Doris to be near his family and two of their daughters. A third daughter lives and practises as a paediatrician in New York. Hymie was very happy in his new home, adjusted well to his new country and became very involved with the University of the Third Age. He was a keen gardener and no doubt his small garden in Sydney was as beautiful as his garden in Durban.

Rest in peace my dear friend; you will never be forgotten by the many people who loved and respected you.

**Isidore Movson**