

IN MEMORIAM

**Christoffel Petrus
(Staff) Pauw**
(09/05/1947 -
16/03/2009)

Staff Pauw, soos hy algemeen bekend was, is onverwags op 16 Maart 2009 oorlede.



Hy is op 9 Mei 1947 gebore in Plumstead as die tweede van drie kinders. In 1965 matrikuleer hy aan die Hoërskool Punt in Mosselbaai, waar sy vader skoolhoof was.

Na 'n diensplig-jaar as militêre loteling begin hy geneeskunde studeer aan die Universiteit van Stellenbosch waar hy 'n inwoner van Wilgenhof-manskoshuis was. Nadat hy gekwalifiseer het, werk hy eers as huisdokter en later as mediese beampte in o.m. Tygerberg, Paarl, George en Eben Dönges hospitale.

Staff is in 1975 getroud met Vivien Reyneke, en hulle het drie dogters gehad – Jeanne, Nina en Christelle.

In 1979 word Staff 'n vennoot van dr. Alan Blyth en Johan Uys se algemene praktyk in Ladismith. Hy was toe reeds 'n gryskop en het die wysheid van die grysheid gehad. Sy mensekennis, mediese vaardighede en jarelange ondervinding het hy graag gedeel. Staff was 'n dokter van die 'ou skool'. Hy kon alles doen – van narkose tot chirurgie tot obstetrie. Hy was die een vir wie ons in moeilike situasies geraadpleeg het vir hulp en raad. Hy het 'n voorliefde gehad vir chirurgie en het menige inguïnale breuke herstel, karpale tonnensindrome geopereer, hidrosele gedreineer, mangels uitgehaal, frakture geplaas en keisersnitte gedoen.

Staff se pasiënte was vir hom besonder belangrik. Elke bevalling wat hy gehanteer het, het hy opgeteken en jare later die kinders (toe al volwassenes) gebel op belangrike verjaardae. Deeglikheid was nog 'n kenmerk van Staff. Hy het nie halwe werk geduld nie, en wee jou as daar spelfoute in jou notas was of jou handskrif onleesbaar was! Hy was 'n toegewyde dokter, en vir baie pasiënte was hy ook hul vriend en vertroueling.

Staff het van jongs af uitgeblink in sport, en rugby en krieket vir Wilgenhof en Medies.

Tot in sy vyftigerjare het hy nog vir die Ladismith-dorpspan krieket gespeel, maar toe die wilgerlat vir golfstokke verruil en ook in golf uitgeblink. Staff se ander groot liefde was filatelie – hy het 'n omvattende versameling seëls opgebou. Hy was vir 19 jaar voorsitter van die beheerliggaam van Hoërskool Ladismith.

Kort na sy 60ste verjaardag in 2007 het Staff besluit om 'af te tree' en Suid-Afrika tydelik vir Kanada te verruil om in Creston, BC, by 'n algemene praktyk aan te sluit. Selfs in die verre vreemde het Staff vinnig diep spore getrap en baie pasiënte en dorpenaars se lewens aangeraak.

Staff was op besoek in Suid-Afrika vir sy dogter, Nina, se troue toe hy 'n stil diep-veneuse trombose opgedoen het –

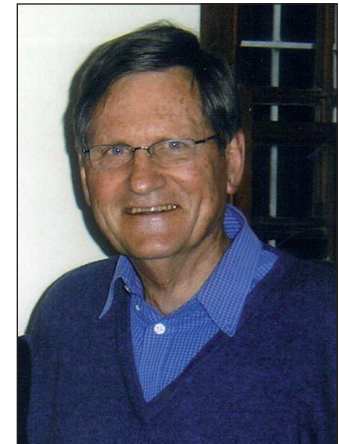
waarskynlik vanweë die lang vlug – en 'n pulmonale embolus tot sy skielike dood gelei het.

Ons groet 'n toegewyde kollega en goeie vriend. Aan Vivien, Jeanne, Christelle, Nina en Gert – ons diepe meegevoel met jul verlies.

**Jaco Denkema
Pieter Blignaut**

**Louis Frederik
Coetzee (1940 -
2009)**

Louis was born in Standerton and spent his early years there. His father, to whom he was devoted, was a general practitioner in the town, and from a young age Louis was determined to follow the same profession. Sadly, his father died when Louis was 15, and his further education was as a boarder at King Edward VII School in Johannesburg, where he was deputy head boy and captained the second rugby team. (He later played in the UCT Medical School team.) Rugby remained a life-long passion, and he was a staunch WP/Stormers supporter.



In his first year at UCT he met Jessica (daughter of Dennis Fuller, a thoracic surgeon, whom many will remember). They married in 1964. Much of his post-graduate education years were spent at Edendale and Baragwanath hospitals and Wits. He often spoke with esteem and affection of his mentors, Leon van Dongen, Dennis Lavery and Don Lithgow, and he carried their surgical skills and techniques into his practice.

In 1973, when I was in solo practice in Johannesburg, Louis asked whether he could join me. I was delighted and we immediately formed a partnership, with rooms in Jeppe Street and Rosebank, later consolidating practice at Sandton Clinic. It was a pleasure to work with him, and I was sad when he decided to move to the Eastern Cape after a holiday at Hamburg, near East London. For three years he took up general practice in Cathcart; then when his children reached high-school age he relocated to East London and took up a post at Cecilia Makiwane Hospital, before settling into private O&G practice, which he continued for some 25 years. He developed pancreatic cancer early in 2009.

He is sorely missed by his devoted patients and staff at St Dominic's Hospital, where he always had a joke and a reminiscence to share.

When I retired from practice in Sandton in 1986, Louis lured me and my wife to East London, where I ran the maternity unit at Frere Hospital for some 12 years. What a favour he

did us, bringing us to this beautiful area where we have been so happy. After I retired from Frere, Louis kept me busy with assisting, so we remained in close touch. I was introduced to his wide range of musical delights, as he always arrived in the operating theatre with a stack of CDs, which were played throughout the session. (His tastes at home ranged from opera to langarm and 'Hier kom die Bokke', but we were spared these in theatre.) He loved the Lowveld and his second home in Knysna, and would visit there as often as he could.

And so to a dear friend and colleague we bid farewell. His faith and the love and care of his devoted family carried him through the final months as his strength ebbed away.

Our sincerest condolences go to Jessica, their four children Anna, Jenny, Jonathan and Daniel, and six grandchildren Emma, Meghan, Jethro, Justin, Callum and Luca (Louis was so proud to have delivered three of them) and the extended family.

Beorn Uys

Ralph Lawrence (1920 - 2009)

Professor Ralph Lawrence, born in Durban in 1920, died on 17 December 2009 after a long career in forensic medicine. As one of the first black doctors to graduate from the University of Cape Town, he worked actively to end racism in medicine, even after he left South Africa in 1948 to pursue postgraduate studies, driven overseas by the racism of the new apartheid government.

Ralph Lawrence recounted in 2008 that he knew from a young age that medicine was his career of choice. 'At the age of 10 or 11 when people in the playground hurt themselves they would come to me for help.'

After matriculating in 1938, he applied to study medicine in the UK, but was told to apply the following year. Alas, that year war broke out and these plans were again postponed. In the interim, he worked as a bricklayer's assistant and in an advertising agency before being accepted to study medicine at UCT.

Travelling to Cape Town from Durban by train for a person classified as Indian was not easy. He was excluded from the university's residences because they were reserved for 'white' students, and had to stay in a District Six hotel where 'conditions were basic and the food was poor'. When he complained, he was asked to leave the hotel and found accommodation with an Indian family.

Once Ralph started his medical studies, he was not sure if he would be allowed to complete them at UCT. In those days, black students were enrolled for pre-clinical studies and were



then required to complete the clinical years at universities overseas. However, with the war raging, there was no possibility of overseas travel. Along with others, he petitioned the authorities to allow black students to complete their medical studies at UCT. The university bowed to the pressure and allowed them to register for the clinical years on condition that they not enter 'European' wards or be present at any examination or clinic where white patients were seen.

On 13 May 1944 Ralph was suspended from classes pending a disciplinary hearing for being present at clinics where white patients were present, in 'violation' of the condition of his registration. He was acquitted on a technicality as he had not been formally notified of the race-based conditions of his registration.

In September 1944 he was elected to the Students' Representative Council (SRC) of UCT. He was the first person of colour to serve on this council. Attempts were made to remove him from the SRC and he suffered the indignity of having SRC members walk out of the annual dinner because of his presence. He was also barred from the official SRC photograph in case the vice-chancellor, Jan Smuts, was offended by the presence of a black student. In a speech made at the end of his term of office on the SRC, Ralph called on students to make a firm stand for democracy and to fight for a better South Africa.

Ralph obtained his MB ChB in 1945, one of three who were the first black students to graduate as doctors from UCT. In September 1948 he left South Africa to further his studies in the UK. In 1950 he married Bronwen Arthur and they had three sons. He served as the principal forensic physician to the Derbyshire Constabulary from 1953 to 1998. As a member of the British Panel of Expert Witnesses he continued to conduct forensic examinations well into his 80s, remaining intellectually active virtually until his death.

His career in medical politics in the UK included representing the Derby region for 23 years at British Medical Association (BMA) annual meetings, chairing several BMA committees and serving 14 years as a member of the BMA Council. His pioneering work in general practice, forensic medicine and medical politics started at the birth of the UK National Health Service. His 2006 autobiography, *A Fire in His Hand* (Athena Press), contained sharp insights to the history of social medicine in the UK.

In May 2002 Ralph returned to witness the signing of a faculty charter at UCT highlighting non-discrimination and equality as part of the Health Science Faculty's commitment to reconciliation, and was appointed visiting professor to the Faculty in 2003. He had an extraordinary career and will be remembered by many in South Africa for his pioneering role in highlighting the unacceptability of racial discrimination in medicine and his life's contribution to rectifying injustice. We may never see his like again.

Gonda Perez
Leslie London
Hugh Lawrence