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 drr. 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 tonnelsindrome geopereer, hidrosele gedreineer, mangels uitgehaal, frakture geplaat 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 gespeel 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