IN MEMORIAM

William Edwin Basil Edge

Basil Edge was a man for whom many colleagues, patients and friends had great admiration. He passed away in Durban on 8 June 2007.

He was born in Witbank on 25 September 1923. Virtually all his years at school were as a boarder, which he disliked intensely. He was *that* keen to get out of school that he managed to matriculate at the age of 16. He graduated from Witwatersrand Medical School in 1947, having interrupted his studies for 2 years to serve in the Armed Forces of WW II.

In the UK he obtained the MRCP, Diploma in Child Health and the D(Obst) RCOG in quick succession. This was followed by a stint in an American Army hospital in France, where he met and soon thereafter married Suzanne.

On returning to South Africa he worked as paediatric registrar under Professor Harry Wallace at Addington Hospital in Durban.

It was during those years that he achieved some 'firsts'. In South Africa he was the first to ventilate a neonate, to do kidney biopsies on children and to develop the world's first neonatal respiratory alarm monitor.

In 1958 he went into private practice as a paediatrician and also became a part-time lecturer at the University of Natal Medical Faculty. His colleagues in the private sector as well as at the Faculty regarded him as an excellent clinician. Moreover, he was a very popular lecturer and participant in academic meetings. When the College of Medicine of SA was established he became one of the founders of the Faculty of Paediatrics within the College, thereby ensuring that paediatrics became a discipline in its own rights and no longer a sub-branch of internal medicine.

Apart from being the editor of a medical newsletter for many years, he was the author of several books aimed at providing parents with authoritative information regarding their children's growth and development, illnesses and a range of behavioural difficulties. *You and Your Child*, *Encyclopaedia for Southern African Child Care* as well as a booklet on allergies were widely read publications that are of value to parents to the present day. Furthermore, he received the Hamilton Maynard Memorial Award for an essay titled 'Some Paediatric Fables, Foibles and Sheer Bad Habits' in the *SAMJ*.

Basil served the Medical Association of SA with great distinction: he was the Natal Coastal Branch Secretary for 3 years and eventually became the Branch President. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Award in 1991 and Life Membership in 1992. The community at large also benefited from this man by his contribution to the Durban Child and Family Welfare Association that considered him worthy of a Certificate for Distinguished and Committed Service, particularly for his commitment to the adoption sector in particular.

Retirement did not mean a restful and tranquil life for him; he returned to the university for a BA degree, which he was awarded *summa cum laude*. He then saw fit to set the University of the Third Age (U3A) into operation in Durban and became the first president of the local branch.

Basil Edge will be remembered by many of the younger generation who benefitted from his passion for mountaineering in the Drakensberg. For those who knew him well he will live on in our memories as man of integrity, honesty and an exceptional, dry sense of humour.

Our sincere condolences go out to Suzanne, his wife of some 55 years and his three children Francine, Marion and Phillip. It was gratifying that the whole family could be with him during the last days of his illness, which he bore with fortitude and determination that it would not be prolonged by any 'heroic interventions'.

Walter Loening

M A de Kock

Professor M A (Attie) de Kock was 'n veelsydige mens wat hom entoesiasties verdiep het in verskillende rigtings.

Geneeskunde was sy grootste liefde. In 1949 het hy sy eerste kwalifikasie aan die Universiteit van Pretoria behaal. Hy was 'n mediese beampte by die Sending Hospitaal by Saulspoort. Daarna het hy aangesluit by dr. Slabbert se algemene praktyk in die Paarl – sy tuisdorp, waar hy 'n bekwame en hoogs gewaardeerde algemene praktisyn was vir meer as 5 jaar.

Reeds vroeg in sy professionele loopbaan was sy hoof-belangstelling in die pulmonologie. By die Paarl Hospitaal het hy narkose toegedien vir chirurgiese prosedures.

In 1958 het hy 'n opleidingspos as kliniese assistent in interne geneeskunde by die toe pas gestigte Fakulteit Geneeskunde, Universiteit van Stellenbosch, aanvaar. Sy hoofdoel was om internis te word en hom veral op die longe toe te spits.

Dr. De Kock het sy opleiding suksesvol voltooi en sy kundigheid op die gebied van pulmonologie is spoedig erken.

Verdere opleiding in pulmonologie is onderneem in San Francisco by die wêreldberoemde professor Julius Comroe. Attie de Kock het verhoudings opgebou met vooraanstaande buitelandse kundiges, veral ook met professor Hertzog in Switserland.

Hy het die eerste longeenheid in Suid-Afrika ontwikkel en kan met reg as die pionier en vader van gespesialiseerde longfunksies en -siektes beskou word.

Sy sterk punt was veral longmeganika. 'n Studente-handboek *Hart- en Longsiektes* deur Brink en De Kock is in 1973 deur Nasou gepubliseer. As een van die vroegste Afrikaanse geneeskunde-handboeke het dit in 1974 die Rapportryers-toekenning verwerf. *Dynamic Bronchoscopy*, uitgegee deur Springer Verlag, Berlyn, is ook in Spaans en Japannees vertaal.

Attie het ook 'n internasionale konferensie, 'Mechanisms of airway obstruction', gereël. Die verrigtinge is deur Balkema gepubliseer. Sy wetenskaplike publikasies het in plaaslike en internasionale joernale verskyn.

In 1972 het hy hoof van die Departement Interne Geneeskunde, US, geword. Dié pos het hy tot sy aftrede in 1988 beklee. Toe hy na sy aftrede as internis in Vredenburg gaan praktiseer het, het pasiënte van heinde en verre na hom gekom.

Attie was 'n vriendelike en joviale mens. Hy kon stories en grappies vertel soos min, en het 'n onuitputlike bron eie en vinnige sêgoed gehad. Hy was selfs op die televisieprogram 'Maak 'n las'.

Sy veelvuldige belangstellings en aktiewe deelname sluit in: lid van die Paarl Bergklimklub (hy het dikwels gehelp met reddingsaksies in die berge); 'n kranige voëlkyker; 'n jagter (hy het nie gerus voordat hy al 5 die grotes platgetrek het nie); en hy het dinge self gedoen (bv. jagpatrone gelaai).

Attie het die Diploma 2 in Wynkunde by die Wyn-Akademie voltooi.

Na sy aftrede het sy liefde vir perde ontplooi, hy het sy eie perde aangeskaf en veelvuldige perdetogte onderneem. Sy kennis van perde was verstommend, en hy het ook vir homself en sy vriende saal en toom uit leer vervaardig.

Intellektueel was hy verknog aan wiskunde en die kennis van groot wiskundiges en wetenskaplikes.

Attie was eerlik, menslik en reguit. Hy sou nooit agteraf iets teen iemand sê of doen nie. Hy het 'n vol lewe gehad wat hy met waardigheid en respek uitgeleef het. Sy nalatenskap aan die geneeskunde is iets besonders.

Vir sy gesin was hy altyd beskikbaar en hy het hulle gedien en bygestaan, sodat hulle sonder huiwering kon sê: 'Dit is my pa.'

Andries Brink

Corretha van Heerden

Met die heengaan van professor Corretha van Heerden op 15 Augustus 2007, het die Departement Kindergeneeskunde, Universiteit van Pretoria, een van sy geliefde dosente verloor.

Tot met haar dood was sy nog deeltyds verbonde aan die Department. Haar entoesiasme vir haar vak en die gemak waarmee sy met studente kon kommunikeer, is bevestig deur die feit dat studente haar meermale benoem het as die beste kliniese dosent van die jaar. Hierdie eer het sy met groot beskeidenheid ontvang. Sy was op haar gelukkigste in die saal langs die bed van 'n pasiëntjie, omring deur studente. Sy was ook die mentor van vele aspirant pediaters. Baie van hulle beklee tans belangrike posisies in die akademie en in privaat praktyk.

My huldeblyk aan Corretha is egter op 'n meer persoonlike vlak. Nie net was sy 'n kollega nie, maar ook 'n lojale en liewe vriendin van my en my vrou vir meer as 40 jaar. Sy het gedeel in al die lief en leed van ons familie. Daar het nie 'n naweek verbygegaan dat ons nie beurtelings met mekaar telefonies of per sms in verbinding was nie.

Corretha het ook hartseer in haar persoonlike lewe geken. Dit het egter nooit haar lewensvreugde ontneem of haar verbitter gelaat nie.

Hoewel haar onverwagse dood 'n skok vir haar familie en vriende was, dink ek dit is soos sy dit sou verkies het. Sy het meermale aan my genoem dat sy bang is om baie oud en hulpbehoewend te word.

Mooi loop liewe Corretha, ons gaan jou skerpsinnigheid, jou sin vir humor, jou omgee en bowenal jou vriendskap mis.

Neels Schoeman

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