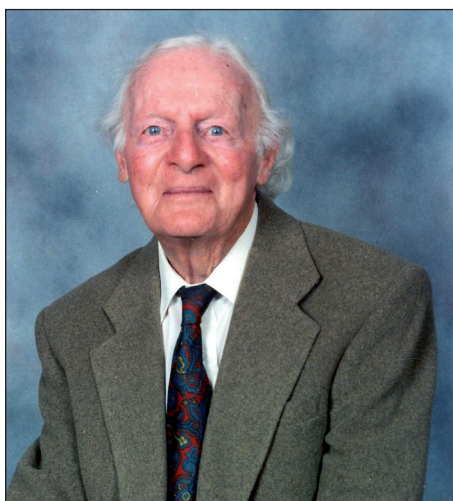




IN MEMORIAM

A R P Walker**(13/09/1913 – 22/05/2007)**

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of Dr Alexander Robert Pettigrew Walker of the Human Biochemistry Research Unit of the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS) and School of Pathology, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

Alex Walker was born on 13 September 1913 in Motherwell, Scotland. He attended school in Gloucestershire, England and graduated with a BSc degree from the University of Bristol with majors in chemistry and physics in 1934, followed by an MSc from the same university in 1937, followed by a diploma in education.

Alex Walker came to South Africa in 1939 and joined the Municipal Department of Health, Johannesburg as an analytical chemist assessing water sewage and eventually the metabolic process and value of various food types. In 1947 he obtained a PhD from the University of Cape Town and during this time his research included dietary, biochemical, haematological and other studies on population groups affected by disorders and diseases associated with malnutrition and prosperity. His contributions to research in nutrition led to him being awarded a DSc by the University of Cape Town.

Since his initial entry into the area of nutritional research, Alex Walker was the recipient of prestigious research grants from many national and international funding bodies and demonstrated an unequalled dedication to his field. He published over 900 articles, letters and editorials that characterised his interests and the motivation and driving force behind his work. At least 500 of these were published after he turned 60, an age when most people seek retirement! Alex was described as the doyen of nutritional research in South

Africa and made seminal contributions towards the better understanding of nutrition and health. His work is highly valued in demonstrating the effects of malnutrition compared with excessive intake of food.

All who had the privilege of working with Alex held him in high regard. He was the recipient of many awards and in honour of his 80th birthday the *SAMJ* published a supplement that included international and local contributions. It is clear that Alex Walker devoted his life's work to establishing a healthier balance for all. He was the epitome of a scientist who was determined that this work should be of value to others and especially to the poor.

Alex Walker retired from the NHLS in 2006 and passed away peacefully in his sleep on 22 May 2007 at the age of 93. We mourn his loss with his family, friends and colleagues.

Ahmed A Wadee

Mahomed Hoosen Hajee Ismail**(5/06/1923 – 9/05/2007)**

Dr Mahomed Hoosen Hajee Ismail was a much respected, admired and loved doctor. He was born on 5 June 1923 in Ranavav, a village in the desert country of Kathiawad in Gujarat, India. He grew up in Bethal in the former Transvaal where his father ran a general trading store.

He attended high school at Sastri College in Durban from 1939. Given the racial split in South Africa, it was the only institution offering high school education to Indian South Africans. He participated in sport, especially football, and was also involved in dramatics. Sastri College, then a single-gender school, produced a select group of young men who went on to higher achievement, including Mahomed Hoosen, or MH², as he was affectionately addressed. Most of his contemporaries