



commitment to other public health and treatment approaches pending the anticipated and much hoped for favourable outcome of the Tanzanian Virodene studies. Myburgh concludes that to understand AIDS denialism one has to follow the money.

Another failure in this story is that of the scientific and medical community. We have not understood the nature of denialism and the belief systems that make possible the rejection of scientific evidence. We have failed to engage with those who are unconvinced by our argument, and unmoved

by our impatience and sense of urgency. They do not believe our data or interpretation. We have not explained ourselves convincingly nor understood their scepticism. That is a challenge for the scientific community – one that we have hardly begun to address, or even recognise. We are simply baffled. James Myburgh and Nicoli Natrass, while contributing enormously to the record, leave it to the scientists to find the solution to AIDS denialism, and to do better.

Peter Folb

IN MEMORIAM

Martin Gerber

Marthinus Christoffel Gerber is op 5 April 1927 op Touwsrivier gebore. Daar het hy sy eerste lewensjare deurgebring en sy skoolopleiding begin. Hy het in 1943 in die Kaap gematrikuleer en in 1950 sy mediese opleiding aan die Universiteit van Kaapstad voltooi.

Martin het as algemene praktisyn begin werk op Clanwilliam en Sterkspruit, distrik Aliwal-Noord, maar algemene praktyk het hom nie geval nie. Daarna het hy in narkose gespesialiseer aan die Universiteit van die Witwatersrand en Baragwanath-hospitaal.

Hy het by dr. Leo Rautenbach se privaat praktyk aangesluit en vir baie jare in Johannesburg as spesialis narkotiseur gepraktiseer. Hy het veral gewerk by die Brenthurst-kliniek saam met drr. George Kuschke en Koos van der Wat, by die Rosebank-kliniek met dr. Willie de Vos, by die Kenridge-hospitaal met dr. Basie Pieterse, en by die Suidrand-hospitaal met dr. Siegfried Johannes.

Hy was getroud met Mariska (née De Klerk) en hulle het 3 kinders gehad – Maretha, getroud en woonagtig in die Paarl, Marius, 'n tandarts in Londen, en Wynand, met sy eie granietonderneming in Johannesburg. Mariska het hom in 1987 ontval. In 1994 is hy met Maggie de Klerk getroud; sy was egter nie familie van Mariska nie. Hulle het afgetree in Margate aan die Natalse suidkus, waar hy sy laaste lewensjare deurgebring het.

Hy het as narkotiseur seker van die moeilikste krisis denkbare moes hanteer, soos toe die suurstoftoevoerpype na die Boyle-masjien aan die brand geraak en vlam gevat het weens 'n kortsluiting in die nabygeleë elektriese bedrading. Gelukkig kon die betrokke pasiënt vinnig na 'n aangrensende teater verskuif word en die episode het 'n gelukkige einde

gehad. Martin het jare daarna gespot dat sy grys hare te wyte was aan sulke krisisse. Hy het later 'n ontydige terugslag gehad weens 'n beroerte en moes ophou praktiseer.

Martin was 'n stil mens. Hy het intens belanggestel in kuns en het ook 'n groot versameling kunswerke van bekende kunstenaars gehad, o.a. van W H Coetzer, met wie hy bevriend was. Sy eerste eggenote, Mariska, was betrokke by kunswedstryde, en sy tweede eggenote, Maggie, het 'n lisensiaat in drama gehad. As sodanig was hy ten nouste betrokke by die kunste.

Op 31 Augustus 2007 het Martin na 'n kort siekbed op 80-jarige ouderdom gesterf. Aan sy 3 kinders, 3 kleinkinders en Maggie, wat hom getrou bygestaan het tot die einde, ons innige simpatie. Dit was 'n voorreg om hom te ken.

Johan Maritz

Arthur David (Kin) Bensusan (13/06/1921 - 17/03/2007)

My father, Arthur David (Kin) Bensusan, passed away unexpectedly at the age of 85, after a myocardial infarct while on holiday in New Zealand.

Kin was born in Johannesburg in 1921, the son of a physician, schooled at St John's College, and then commenced medical studies at Wits. He joined the South African Air Force on the outbreak of World War II and served in North Africa and Italy as an aerial photographer, having developed a great interest in photography at an early age. He completed his medical degree after the war, graduating in 1950, and entered general practice in Johannesburg. As a child, I remember accompanying him frequently on house calls, as well as patients arriving at our home at all hours of the day and night. Wits graduates may well remember him as 'the residence doctor'. He was a founder member of the College of

1267



Physicians and Surgeons of South Africa, (now the SA College of Medicine), and secretary of the SA Association of Private Hospitals for many years.

He was involved in establishing a photographic unit at Wits Medical School and was able to combine his love of medicine and photography as part-time director of this unit. It was here that he developed the first instantaneous X-rays, a precursor to Xenography, after experimenting on cadavers.

Kin was a man of enormous energy and with numerous and varied interests. He was world-renowned as an amateur photographer and exhibited at numerous international salons. He was a Founder of the Photographic Society of South Africa and traveled widely, lecturing on the subject. He counted amongst his colleagues the renowned photographers Karsh of Ottawa and Parkinson of London.

He collected old cameras, books and photographic equipment, and in 1969 donated these to the City of Johannesburg, which founded the Bensusan Museum and Library of Photography in his honour. He published a number of books on photography, most notably *Silver Images: History of Photography in Africa*. He produced two documentary films; one named 'New Legs' was about an amputee, and cleverly used the amputee's twin brother for filming the pre-accident scenes. Kin was awarded a Cannes Film Festival medal for his film 'Thatch Reflections' – the first South African to receive a Cannes documentary award.

He became a city councillor in 1961 and mayor of Johannesburg in 1973, the first medical doctor to be so appointed. He was pro-actively involved with numerous health issues such as tuberculosis, noise control, drug abuse and pollution, and was an avid anti-smoking campaigner.

In his later years he developed a deep spiritual relationship with Christ, obtained a Master's degree in Theology, and was ordained in the Church of England in South Africa. He was involved with building St Luke's Church in Port Shepstone, and served as rector there for a number of years until into his 70s. He subsequently moved to a farm in Reivilo in the Northern Cape and more recently to Centurion where he continued writing books and articles of religious and photographic interest which were published up until a few months before he died.

Kin was always enthusiastic and optimistic, even through difficult times. He was a remarkable man who attained numerous awards and achievements during his lifetime – too many to mention here. I pay tribute to him as a beloved father, family man, photographer and general practitioner who was an inspiration and example to me. He leaves behind his wife Levina, 4 children, 11 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

Janella Looringh-van Beeck

Cape Town