IN MEMORIAM

Marthinus Jacobus van der Walt (25/02/1923 - 13/09/2006)

Dit is met innige leedwese dat ons verneem het van die afsterwe van Marthinus.

Nadat Marthinus sy MB ChB in 1945 aan die Universiteit van Kaapstad behaal het, het hy in verskeie plekke in Transvaal as algemene praktisyn gepraktiseer.

In 1952 ontvang hy die Fullbright Beurs om in Amerika in radiologie te spesialiseer. Hy het die eer gehad om onder leiding van die bekende Professor Pendergrass in Philadelphia as radioloog te kwalifiseer. Hy is waarskynlik die eerste Suid-Afrikaner wat hierdie eer te beurt geval het.

As een van die min destyds gekwalifiseerde radioloë begin hy sy praktyk in Pretoria in Van Riebeeck Mediese Gebou. Hy was een van die min radioloë wat behalwe sy kennis van radio-diagnose, ook 'n uitstekende radiograaf was en besondere kennis van die tegniese aspekte van X-straal apparaat gehad het. Sy ontwerp van die sinograaf destyds is onder andere deur een van die X-straal vervaardigers oorgeneem en vir algemene gebruik vervaardig.

Na sy aftrede uit die grootste praktyk in Pretoria het hy vir 'n hele aantal jare as senior konsultant by die HF Verwoerd-hospitaal gewerk. Met sy aftrede hier ontvang hy 'n pentekening waar hy by 'n X-straal masjien staan met die onderskrif: 'Wag eers 'n bietjie ek wil net gou eers die masjien regmaak'.

Martinus het ook sy merk gemaak as bekwame bestuurder, nie net van sy eie praktyk nie, maar ook as voorsitter van die Sentrale Raad van die Radiologiese Vereniging van Suid-Afrika.

Marthinus was 'n hoogs intelligente mens met hoë inbors, op wie jy kon staatmaak. Sy liefde vir sy taal, sy volk, sy kerk en sy medemens was kenmerkend. Radiologie het een van sy grondleggers verloor, en hy sal deur elke geneesheer en veral die radioloë in die land gemis word. Ons kan van hom sê: 'Staan stil hier het 'n man verby gegaan'.

Ons wil graag hiermee ons innige simpatie en medelye oordra aan sy vrou Kate en sy drie kinders Andries, Elsabe, Delia en hulle families.

AG Visser

Radioloog, Pretoria

Cope Khan Khai (19/02/1953 - 30/11/2006)

On 30 November 2006 the Eye Unit at the Polokwane/Mankweng Hospital Complex mourned the death of a respected friend and colleague, Dr Cope Khai, senior ophthalmologist at the Eye Unit.

He was born on 19 February 1953 in Burma, where his father was a chairman of the Chin State Council. In December 1977 he obtained his medical degree from the Institute of Medicine Mandalay, Burma. After qualifying he worked as a private practitioner in Yangon, Burma, until 1982. From April 1982, he worked in an ENT and eye hospital in Yangon, Burma.

On planning to relocate from Burma, he wrote the SA Medical and Dental Council examination and was appointed as Senior Medical Officer at the Jane Furse Hospital in the Lebowa homeland, where he was responsible for the eye services of the homeland. In 2002 he joined the Polokwane/Mankweng Hospital Complex as registrar in ophthalmology and obtained the Fellowship in Ophthalmology in 2004. At the time of his death he worked as senior ophthalmologist in the eye unit of the hospital complex.

We were grateful for the energy and enthusiasm which Dr Khai gave to his work. We appreciate the support and strength he gave us in our challenging tasks.

His passing brought eloquent tributes to his character and accomplishments, which were many indeed. His endeavours left a deep imprint on eye care in the former homelands of Lebowa and the Limpopo province, serviced by the eye unit. His influence touched and inspired many lives. His ability to inspire individuals to work with him and become members of the team was phenomenal. There was only one premise for both him and his colleagues, i.e. better quality care for patients.

During his 15 years of service in the Limpopo province, he performed more than 12 000 eye operations. It was found fitting by the Ophthalmology Society of South Africa to award a humanitarian award to Dr Khai in 2006.

He leaves behind his wife, a medical doctor, and three sons.

Dr IV de Jager and the medical colleagues of the Eye Unit