Cyril Harold Wolpe
(1925 - 26 July 2011)

Cyril Harold Wolpe was born in 1925 in Humansdorp in the Eastern Cape, and matriculated there in 1943. He entered the medical faculty at the University of Cape Town the following year and graduated M.B. Ch.B. in 1949. Thereafter he first worked as a relieving medical officer at Groote Schuur Hospital and then proceeded to the UK. He obtained a surgical fellowship from the Royal College of Surgeons (Edinburgh) and also worked as a surgical medical officer in Stoke-On-Trent. Cyril returned to South Africa in 1959 to complete his surgical training under Professor J. H. Louw. On completion, he commenced a solo practice in Cape Town as a general surgeon.

Cyril's dictum for success was the three 'A's: ability, affability and availability. In addition to running a busy private practice he held a part-time consultant appointment at Groote Schuur and New Somerset hospitals. During the last two years of his life he was in and out of hospital on numerous occasions, and was always a model of an uncomplaining patient. He died peacefully on 26 July 2011, and is survived by his wife, three daughters and a sister.

Harold Spilg
Private practitioner
Cape Town

Nathan Cirota
(8 December 1944 - 6 June 2011)

The surgical fraternity was saddened by the death of Nathan Cirota, who passed away on 6 June 2011.

Nathan was born on 8 December 1944. He matriculated from Pretoria Boy's High School in 1962 and completed his M.B. Ch.B. at the University of Pretoria in 1970. He undertook postgraduate training in general surgery at the University of Stellenbosch and was awarded the M.Med. in General Surgery in 1982.

Nathan worked for several years as a consultant surgeon/lecturer at Tygerberg Hospital and the Department of General Surgery at the University of Stellenbosch, before commencing private practice as a general surgeon at Constantiaberg Medi-Clinic in Cape Town.

His particular fields of interest were gastro-intestinal, breast and thyroid surgery.

His daughter Jacqui, who recently qualified as a doctor from the University of Cape Town, commented that 'he had a deep appreciation for life and its beauty, and was an avid artist, gardener and all-round life enthusiast'.

Del Kahn
Department of Surgery
University of Cape Town