IN MEMORIAM

Lodewyk Adrian Vosloo (Vossie) (4 September 1932 - 18 Februarie 2010)

Vossie is op 4 September 1932 op Harrismith gebore. Hy het met onderskeiding aan die Hoër Seunskool Worcester gematrikuleer. In 1958 het hy as dokter (MB ChB) aan die Universiteit van Kaapstad gekwalifiseer. As student was hy lid van die Medical Residence House Committee, die UCT Rugby Club, en die befaamde Namaqualand Touring Team. Vossie het dikwels gespot dat hy destyds die tweede beste skrumskakel in Suid-Afrika was, want hy het gereeld vir die universiteit se tweede span gespeel omdat die bekende Springbok Tommy Gentles hom uit UCT se eerste XV gehou het!

Hy het sy huisdokterjaar by die Morgenster Sending-hospitaal, in Masjonaland, Zimbabwe, gedoen. Hier het hy onder toesig en mentorskap van die bekende dr. Tommie Steyn, toe hoof van dié hospitaal, waardevolle ondervinding opgedoen. Hier het hy ook sy vrou, Annaleen Steyn, dogter van dr. Tommie Steyn, ontmoet. Hulle is in 1961 getroud, en daar is 2 seuns en 2 dogters uit die huwelik gebore. Later volg daar 8 kleinkinders, op wie Vossie baie trots was.

In 1960 Vossie joined the practice of Dr Marius Barnard in Salisbury (Harare), where he spent a few years before relocating to South Africa to join his brother-in-law, Dr Piet Steyn, in practice in George. This was the birth of the later well-known practice Steyn/Vosloo/Dower that served the George community for many years. During this time Vossie also qualified in aviation medicine, and for some years he was the only doctor in the area who was qualified to do 'flight medicals' for pilots. He had a keen interest in flying and golf.

Vossie continued to practise in George until 2005. For the last 10 years of practice he regularly acted as my surgical assistant during gynaecological operations. For me one of Vossie's most outstanding features was his remarkable memory – he often recalled the minutest details of patients from many years ago, such as their initials, street addresses, medical aids, family relations, and much more.

Vossie was altyd bereid om snags te kom help en hy het 'n lewendige en aansteeklike sin vir humor gehad. Hy was baie lief vir sy honde, en was 'n hartlike familie-mens, vol empatie. Sy pasiënte was lief vir hom en hy het 'n groot vriendekring gehad. Met 47 jaar se goeie herinneringe aan 'n vol lewe op George, sterf hy daar op 18 Februarie 2010. Met sy gedenkdiens in die George NG Moedergemeente op 24 Februarie was die kerk stampvol, en tydens die diens het daar 'n heerlike, harde donderstorm oor die droogte-geteisterde George uitgesak – 'n mens hoef dus nie meer te sê nie.

Opregte meegevoel hiermee aan Annaleen, die kinders en kleinkinders.

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BOOK REVIEW

Andreas Vesalius: the Making, the Madman, and the Myth

By Stephen N Joffe. Pp. 222. Bloomington Indiana: Persona Publishing. 2009. ISBN 978-1-6048-1560-3.

Stephen Joffe has done an admirable job of resurrecting the late Dr Vesalius for me and bringing him back to life. Perhaps my choice of words is not ideal, as Vesalius himself was not averse to digging up the recently deceased in order to dissect the body for the benefit of knowledge, but I now understand so much more about this important Renaissance anatomist – compliments of Dr Joffe.

I already knew the basic tale of the young anatomical upstart from Brussels who was thrown out of the University of Paris for daring to say that the ancient Galenic anatomy texts were inaccurate. What Joffe has done for me is to fill in the context. Vesalius wasn't thrown out of Paris because of his statements, but because he was a foreign national in the war between the Low Countries and France. He was hired by Padua because the city fathers of Padua wanted foreigners to add to the intellectual flowering that was happening elsewhere in the region under the influence of Venice. His first publication, the *Tabulae Sextum*, was actually intended to be a visual aid during dissection, and the great publication, the *Fabrica*, was a *tour de force* greater than I had imagined. I have always envisioned it as a book of illustrations, but it ran to more than 400 pages and was an anatomy text like none other before it. Interestingly, the original woodblocks for the illustrations survived until World War II, when they were destroyed during the bombing of Munich. Joffe also took me past the publication of the *Fabrica* in 1543 and continued the story of Vesalius into his latter years as a clinician. One of the things that I was unaware of was that Vesalius burned all of his anatomical notes when he left Padua in 1544. He lamented his hasty decision in his latter years, but by then it was too late to bring back all that was lost.

If you are interested in the history of anatomy, then I do recommend this work. There are better books on Vesalius, but they tend to be detailed academic histories, and what makes Joffe's work valuable is its accessible style.

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