IN MEMORIAM

Jacobus Gideon Louw Morrison (1945 - 2010)

Jac or Jacques or Jack, as he was known to his many friends, was born on 6 June 1945 in Frankfort, in the then Orange Free State. The son of a family practitioner, Dr Simon Padley Morrison, Jac grew up on a farm in Northam district, north of Pretoria. His mother, Magdalena Louw, a musician, bestowed on him a lifelong interest in music. He went to school in Rustenburg and, after his compulsory army service, studied medicine at the University of Pretoria, qualifying with distinction. He went on to complete his dermatology training under Professor George Findlay at the University of Pretoria.

He was awarded an ICI Scholarship and pursued his lifelong interest in dermatopathology, working with Edward Wilson-Jones at St John’s Hospital for Diseases of the Skin in London. Here he established great friendships with Mac MacDonald, Arthur Knight and Robin Marks. During his brief time in ‘academic dermatology’ Jac authored or co-authored 21 papers. He is perhaps most remembered for his detailed analysis of papulonecrotic tuberculides.

He established a very active dermatology clinical practice and continued to read all his own dermatopathology. He never withdrew completely from academic life, but remained an active participant at the regular weekly clinicopathology meetings at the University of Pretoria. His knowledge of dermatology was encyclopaedic and his experience and skill as a dermatopathologist was well recognised. He served as the consultant’s consultant, always ready to give an opinion or advice. He was never overbearing and in meetings his opinion often had to be specifically requested. He was a man of great integrity and professionalism.

Jac was not only an outstanding dermatologist, but also a very successful farmer. Having taken over the family farm in Northam, he acquired further farms and also established a large game farm. Farming was always a passion that he enjoyed sharing with his young family.

Jacques played tennis and it was here he met Ingrid (née Slater). They were married in 2000. They had 2 children, Shannon Kelby (9 years old) and Jacques-Scott Ainsley, who is 5. Jacques became a devoted husband and very proud father. His family brought him great joy and fulfillment.

Jacques was diagnosed with pancreatic carcinoma and, after an immensely brave struggle, died on 12 August 2010 at the age of 65.

Peter R Hull

BOOK REVIEWS

Woordeboek vir die Gesondheidswetenskappe/Dictionary for the Health Sciences

The first edition of the Woordeboek van Afrikaanse Geneeskundeterme appeared in 1979, and has seen 8 reprints. The phenomenal increase in knowledge over the past 30 years necessitated a revision – hence this updated, extended, explanatory and bilingual Woordeboek vir die Gesondheidswetenskappe/Dictionary for the Health Sciences. This edition was revised under the supervision of Professor J de V Lochner (Stellenbosch University), with the assistance of at least 30 experts over the entire spectrum of the various medical disciplines.

A number of the fundamental sciences, e.g. medical physiology, genetics and pharmacology, were almost unrecognisably modernised, while others were almost completely transformed over the past three decades. The principles of medical ethics have also changed extensively, while biostatistical and epidemiological considerations are commonly applied in medical practice and research. The applied health sciences, e.g. physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and audiology, as well as nursing science, have also enlarged their nomenclature.

These new terms have all been included in the Dictionary, which consists of two parts. Part 1 is translational and descriptive (Afrikaans – English) with Afrikaans explanations. Where necessary the Greek or Latin origin of a word is given, or biographical detail if a word is related to a person. In Part II the English – Afrikaans does not merely reflect translations of word lists, but also includes synonyms or short explanations in Afrikaans. To enhance user-friendliness, thousands of comprehensible Afrikaans synonyms and even short phrases have been added.

This new edition updates and expands a valuable and cultural treasure. It contains about 10 000 more entries than the previous edition, and about 8 000 terms are re-defined.

The Dictionary is invaluable to under- and postgraduate students, all practitioners of health sciences, translators, language practitioners and journalists, both English and Afrikaans.

Marijke Maree

A Unique Migration: South African Doctors Fleeing to Australia

The most recent major source on medical migration from South Africa is this study by Peter Arnold. The book is thoroughly researched with an extensive literature review, and it is profusely illustrated with graphs and figures. However, it is the insights and understanding of South Africa’s unique political and ethnic make-up that make this interesting reading and a must-have source for those interested in medical migration. See ‘From the Editor’ in this issue of the SAMJ for further details and comments on this unfortunate – and ongoing – trend.