

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE DR WILHELM STEPHANUS NEL



(27 October 1940 -06 October 2022)

Dr Wilhelm Stephanus Nel was born on 27 October 1940 in Graaff Reinet (Great Karoo). He was the only child in the family.

He was a man who had determination and believed in academic excellence.

He attended primary in the same locality. Had his high school education at Hoer Volksskool Graaf-Reinet where he excelled as a student. This enabled him to get admitted to Medical School.

His academic excellence manifested when he enrolled for his medical studies at the University of Pretoria where he completed his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery. He later at the same University specialized in Obstetrics and Gynaecology qualifying with A Fellow in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. He also obtained a specialist qualification with The Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology obtaining his (Fellowship of the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology)

He gained a lot of respect from his colleagues in the academic sector and in the private sector. He was regarded as a legend by the young colleagues.

As a professional he was also highly respected by his patients. His bedside manners indicated his respect for patients. During his tenure as a gynecologist/obstetrician he helped in the delivery of many children. His patients always enjoyed his special treatment and care. I remember him as a neatly dressed doctor always with a tie when coming to work.

Over and above his private practice he participated a lot at the Academic activities at The Pretoria academics Hospital (now Steve Biko Academic Hospital) where he was involved at the Colposcopy Clinic where he also assisted in Registrar training. He also participated a lot in student examinations. He still participated in student examination in May 2022 few months before his death. (This is evidence of his commitment). His belief in professional

excellence is manifested in the fact that he always had more CPD points than that required by law.

He was a proud member of SASOG and SAMA. Organizations he believed in and supported.

He got married to his lifetime wife Anita on 01 April 1966. The marriage was blessed with three children (Anja, Lilette and Wilhelm). An unfortunate incident happened where Wilhelm died at the age of 22 years from a motor vehicle accident. At all times for the rest of his life this brought tears to his eyes whenever he talks about his late son.

Wilhelm was a family man. He always talked about Anita and his children. He loved talking about his grand children who he regarded as blessings from God

Wilhelm was a great believer in God and belied that God is always on his side. Lilette (His daughter) said that his Bible is the most read book that she has ever seen. He belied in reading the Bible and praying. He valued Christmas day.

Wilhelm was full of life. He loved playing Golf and believed in walking when playing golf. A longstanding member of Pretoria Country Club (PCC). After his retirement he would play golf most of the Saturdays taking the early Tee-off time to be home for lunch. During the time when he had his holiday house in Scarborough (Cape Town) his joy was also playing golf at Clovelly Country Club and Westlake Country Club.

He was a member of the Dining Club. A social dining club started by few Gynecologist (Old Guard) in the Pretoria area as a form of periodic get together inviting speakers to give talks on any topics of interest and not medicine. This was accompanied by a meal and other general discussions. This he also enjoyed a lot as a break from the hectic life of a gynecologist.

He believed in uplifting others and sharing. Believed in knowing people by name. He was a man full of empathy.

He is survived by his wife Anita, daughters Anja and Lilette, grand children Brennan, Anika, Megan, and Kara to whom we pass our sincere condolences.

May His Soul Rest in Eternal Peace.

OSCAR SHIMANGE