

Keith Payne

(MBChB, MD, FANZCA)

A tribute

Michael FM James

It is with deep sadness that I record the recent death of Dr Keith Attwood Payne following a sudden severe illness. Keith was a remarkable man of considerable achievements who has made substantial contributions to anaesthesia especially, and to medicine in general, in a long career that involved great public service.

Keith attended Rondebosch Boys' High School and then obtained his MBChB degree from the University of Cape Town. After completing his internship and a spell as a medical officer, he started his anaesthetic career as a registrar at Tygerberg Hospital in 1975. He then moved to New Zealand where he obtained the Fellowship of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists in 1978. He returned to South Africa, and Tygerberg Hospital, in 1980 and rose to the rank of Principal Specialist with a particular interest in paediatric anaesthesia, neuro-anaesthesia and regional techniques. During this period, he obtained his doctorate on "Midazolam in paediatric premedication: the pharmacokinetics, clinical efficacy and ability to modulate behaviour patterns post-anaesthesia" from the University of Stellenbosch. In 1999, he left Tygerberg Hospital to take up the position of Chief Specialist and Head of Department at 2 Military Hospital in Wynberg, where he remained until retirement in 2011.

Throughout his career, Keith dedicated himself to the advancement of anaesthesia through his extensive involvement in training programmes not his hospital-based practice and through outreach to various towns in the Western Cape. He was involved in the training of registrars and GP anaesthetists throughout his career and promoted a number of MMed candidates. He also maintained an active academic career with over 50 publications and chapters in textbooks. He served for a time on the Committee of SASA CWB, and was a widely invited lecturer at numerous SASA and other conferences.



Despite all of these considerable achievements, perhaps his most extraordinary contribution has been in the field of medical pharmaceutical regulation. He was first appointed as a medicines evaluator to the Clinical Committee of the then Medicines Control Council of South Africa in 1983. He remained a member of this committee through the transition of the MCC to the replacement body, SAHPRA, and provided remarkable, loyal and devoted service to this critical medical regulatory body until his recent retirement brought about by the onset of his illness. He served as a mentor to many subsequent evaluators and was a crucial member of the Advisory Clinical Committee. His contributions to the public service and to the vital function of medical regulation have been truly remarkable.

He was a pleasant, thoughtful and considerate colleague whom it has been a privilege to know and to work with. He will be greatly missed.

He is survived by his wife, Lynne and their two sons. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to them.