

OBITUARY

Jacques Cilliers, 25 May 1942 - 7 August 2019



Prof. Jacques Cilliers was born in Rivier-sonderend and matriculated at D F Malan High School, Bellville in 1960.

He studied medicine at Stellenbosch University and completed his MB ChB degree in 1966. He worked as an intern at Karl Bremer Hospital, Bellville, in 1967 and as a medical officer at the same hospital in 1968.

In 1969, he did his military service before becoming a lecturer in the Department of Physiology at Stellenbosch University, where he worked from 1970 to 1976. During this

period, he received two degrees cum laude, BSc Hons and an MSc in Physiology.

From 1977 to 1980, he worked as a registrar in the Department of Dermatology at the same university and completed the MMed (Derm) degree cum laude. He received an ICI bursary and in 1981 began research on inflammation in atopic skin under the mentorship of Prof. M Greaves at St John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin in London.

He returned to South Africa and worked as a consultant in the Department of Dermatology at Stellenbosch University from 1982 to 1993, when he became head of the department. In the same year, he received an MD degree from the university for his thesis on 'Aspects of inflammation in atopic skin'. He was awarded a professorship and remained head of the department until he retired in 2004. He entered private practice in Durbanville, retiring from dermatology in 2014.

Prof. Cilliers was a passionate teacher and expected dedication and commitment from his students. He lived by example, publishing 18 articles in peer-reviewed journals and presenting numerous papers at regional and national congresses and meetings. He was involved in several clinical drug trials

and reviewed applications received by the Medicines Control Council. From 1993 to 2003, he was a visiting dermatologist at Rössing Hospital, Swakopmund, Namibia. He also served on the executive committee of the Dermatology Society of South Africa for many years, including a few years as secretary.

Prof. Cilliers was a dedicated husband and father, and his hobbies included woodwork (many of the pieces in his home were made by him), cycling (he completed several cycle tours, including one in Europe), photography and music (he played the piano).

He passed away after a long illness, leaving his wife, Peri, his daughter, Erica, a general practitioner, and his son, Jacques. He will live on in the hearts of his family, his dermatological colleagues and the students who were taught by him.

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