

## THE DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY AND HISTOLOGY 1957 - 2005

*By Prof Don Du Toit*

The Department of Anatomy was situated on the main campus from the beginning of 1957 to 1975. The new DF Malan Building, Merriman Avenue in Stellenbosch was built in order to house the Departments of Anatomy and Physiology. At the head of Medical Physiology was Prof Harry Brink supported by lecturers Prof F Engelbrecht, Dr Nienaber and others. There were, therefore no Karl Bremer Hospital days.



Prof DJ Rossouw



Prof AD Malan



*Prof JF van E Kirsten –first head of Anatomy 1957-1978*



Prof DF du Toit

Prof JF van E Kirsten, Head of the Department of Anatomy, and his staff moved into the brand new Fisan building on the Tygerberg Campus in the beginning of 1975.

The staff consisted of the following: Head: Prof JF van E Kirsten, lecturers Dr Ardon Malan, Dr Bennie Zeeman, Dr Toerien, Dr Koert Grobbelaar, Dr Alwyn Vorster, Dr De Villiers Lamprecht, Dr D Bosman, curator: Ms Linda Le Roux, Technical Officers: Mr Harrington and later Mr Willem Pretorius and Ms Dalene Hendriks.

Secretary: Ms Jeanette Marais and later Mrs Mollie Lochner. Technical Assistants: Dolf van Rensburg (Oom Dolf), Charles Smith, Steven Segals and Daniel Jefthas.

Prof Kirsten retired at the end of 1978 and Prof DJ Rossouw was appointed as the new head of the department on 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1979. He brought the Histology section with him which was part of the Department of Medical Physiological Sciences, and the department was then renamed to Anatomy and Histology. At the same time Dr Ardon Malan was also promoted to full professor in the department. The headship would rotate every 4 years between them. At the end of 1982 Prof Rossouw decided to do the MMed course in Anatomical Pathology. He worked during his first year in 1983 at the Massachusetts Hospital, Boston, America. After that he handed over the headship permanently to Prof Malan but kept the professorate in Histology while he furthered his studies. He later took over the headship from Prof vd Walt at Anatomical Pathology. Prof Peter Wranz took over his post at Histology. After Prof Rossouw's sudden death at the end of 1994, Prof Wranz became the head of Anatomical Pathology and Ms Carol Chase was appointed as senior lecturer in Prof Wranz's vacant post in Histology. On 1<sup>st</sup> of Januarie 1995 Prof DF du Toit was appointed as the new head of Anatomy and Histology.

Through the years several staff members came and left. Lecturers: (Between 1979 and 2005): Dr AJ Vorster, Dr P Hattingh, Dr F Burger, Dr F Rademan, Dr F Melonas, Dr JT Nel, Dr CA van der Westhuizen, Dr JT Booysen, Dr L Wessels, Dr JL van den Berg, Dr PE de Wet, Dr D

Serfontein, Dr K Pienaar, Dr R Swiegers, Dr L Perkins, Dr JJ de Wet, Dr H Vogel, Dr CC Chase (since 1996 - date), Dr BCJ Labuschagne (since 1995 - date), Dr BJ Page (1997 - date), Dr W Vorster (since 2001 - date). Temporary staff (lecturing) consisted of: Dr P van Deventer, Dr R Rossouw, Dr J Marais, Dr J Lotz, Dr H Kamfer, Dr B Bastiaanse.

After the death of Ms Linda le Roux a few people have been appointed for short periods as curator: Ms R Hayward, Ms M Koen and Mr PNB Pretorius (current).

Technical Officers who were appointed: Ms CC Chase as Senior Technical Officer, Dr CJF Muller Senior Technical Officer (current).

Mr J Scheepers, Ms E Barnard, Ms I Rademan, Ms Y van Wyk, Ms KM Geldenhuys, Mr W Vorster, Ms B Nel (later Mrs Mathey), Ms Y Mouton.

Secretaries: Ms J Marais, Mrs S Lochner and Mrs MC de Beer (since 1979 to date).

Technical Assistants: Mr W Fransman, Mr S Segals, Mr C Smith, Mr D Jeffhas, Mr D van Rensburg, Mr A Abrahams, Mr R Lyners, Mr F Sitzer, Mr J Mattysen, Mr R Williams, Mr B Jooste. Last mentioned 5 staff members are still appointed.

Temporary Research Assistants: Ms C Arends, Ms E Arends.

### **Prof Kirsten:**

Prof Kirsten who practised as a general practitioner in Namibia, accepted the position as Professor in Anatomy after he qualified as general surgeon. He was one of the first five professors who were appointed in this Faculty.

Prof Maxi Drennan, author of Drennan's Osteology as well as the previous head of the Department of Anatomy at the University of Cape Town, was a personal friend of Prof Kirsten. He also translated Drennan's Osteology book into Afrikaans. Prof Kirsten was well known for his excellent anatomical drawings which he often drew on the black board. He served on the Language Committee of the Faculty where his service was of inestimable value. All the anatomical terminology (e.g. arteries and muscles) was handled by him for inclusion in WAG (Woorde van Afrikaanse Geneeskunde Terme).

Prof Kirsten also served in 3 Field Ambulance and later became commanding officer of the Citizen Force Unit. He was always very concerned that all army exercises were run according to the army laws and that there was no place for any playing around.

The JF van E Kirsten Anatomy Museum to which he paid a great deal of attention, was named after him as a mark of honour.

After his retirement at the end of 1978 he still kept an appointment in the department and on several occasions still acted as external examiner at all the medical schools in the country.

Over and above the professorate in Anatomy, he was also a famous grape farmer in the Lanzerac region on his farm in Stellenbosch. Typical of the grape harvesting season, was that he would in the afternoons after work, drive through the streets of Stellenbosch with a tractor and trailer full of grapes (to the annoyance of impatient motorists) to deliver it at the Wine Corporation.

He died as a result of a burst abdominal aneurysm which happened while he was driving to Stellenbosch from the Faculty.

### **Prof Malan**

Prof Malan was a clinical assistant in the Department of Orthopaedics, University of Stellenbosch prior to his appointment as lecturer in the Department of Anatomy at the University of Stellenbosch,

He held the post as associate professor at the Universities of Stanford, San Francisco and Miami. When the Dean Rick Ross of the well known Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore approached Prof Andries Brink for the assistance of a lecturer in Anatomy for a period of 1 year, was Ardon seconded and requested to go there. He was very highly rated there for his excellent lecturing capabilities.

He knew Prof Grant from Toronto (author of Grant's Atlas) personally. Grant rated him as extraordinarily competent.

Prof Malan was also a founder member of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa (ASSA) and also served on this society as President. He often acted as external examiner at all medical schools all over the country, as well as the College of Medicine. Other well known people whom he befriended, were: Prof Tobie Muller of Pretoria, Prof Max Drennan and Prof Phillip Tobias.

Prof Malan was well loved by his students. It was nothing unusual to see him playing cards with the students in the old cafeteria on the third floor of the Teaching Block, cigarette in the hand. The cup of coffee was of course always at hand. He was very touched when they spray painted "We love you Ardon" on the bridge in Francie van Zijl Avenue. For years he regularly met Olga his wife, during lunch break to go and drink a cup of coffee at some restaurant. Prof Malan was synonymous with his cigarette in the hand. It did not matter where he went – if it was a lecture hall, dissection hall or oral examination – the cigarette was always in the hand. He always kept a carton of cigarettes in a drawer of his desk. At one time he noticed that they were stolen overnight. He had his suspicions and left an articulated skeleton at his office door for the midnight visitor. His cigarettes were never again stolen after that.

He was an excellent lecturer who lectured extempore. He did not believe in modern technology like transparencies on overhead projectors or slide projectors and wrote down everything on the black board from memory and added excellent drawings. He believed that his students would fall asleep in the class as soon as the lights went out during such a slide show.

After his retirement at the end of 1994 he stayed on in the department for another two years or so as emeritus professor until 1998. At the end of 1998 he suddenly became sick at his well loved holiday house at Boesmansriver and died in April 1999.

Olga received during the 2005 Conference of ASSA a special document which was dedicated to him.

#### **Prof Rossouw:**

Prof Rossouw was appointed on 1 January 1979 at the age of 36 years as the new head of the department. He brought the Histology curriculum which was part of the Medical Physiological Sciences, with him and the department was renamed to Anatomy and Histology.

Prof Rossouw who was a feared Histology lecturer under the students, earned the nick name of "Black September". He was known for his strict discipline and many a student was ordered to leave the lecture hall because he did not wear a tie.

He was, together with Dr Patric Bouic and others, responsible for the establishing of the first flow cytometry facility in the Faculty during 1992. He brought the Broncho-alveolar lavage which he had already started in 1976, with him to the department. It is a free service which is provided to Tygerberg Hospital's lung and paediatric units. On 31 March 1989 the thousandth patient was done and the present figure is 1897 patients.

Prof Rossouw was also invited to give a special lecture at the convocation of the University of Stellenbosch.

After Prof Rossouw's sudden death at the end of 1994 Prof Wranz became the head of Anatomical Pathology and Dr Carol Chase was appointed as senior lecturer in Prof Wranz' vacant post at Histology.

#### **Prof du Toit:**

Prof du Toit joined the department on 1 January 1995 when he took over the headship from Prof Malan. He worked from 1980 until 1990 in the Department of Surgery as Ad hominem Professor (1990) from where he joined the private practice. He brought with him a wealth of experience in the practise as well as research for which he was well known in Surgery. He studied at the University of Stellenbosch and obtained both his under- and postgraduate qualifications as well as a doctorate. He became senior specialist at Tygerberg Hospital (1980-1990), and senior lecturer in Surgery, University of Stellenbosch (1980-1990). His focus area was vascular surgery, especially on the area of aorta aneurysms and bypasses. He did research from 1979 to 1982 at the University of Oxford on the subject transplant immunology, where he obtained a doctorate from Wolfson College. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh since 1977.

He is a productive author of scientific publications and also wrote 8 surgical text books (under and postgraduate), a cycling book (“Ride Your Best Argus Ever”), and an Afrikaans encyclopaedia (“Dokter in die Huis”). At present he runs a unique clinical focussed biotechnological laboratory which is housed in the Department of Biomedical Sciences in the Fisan Building.

He was previously also a member of the SA Academical Science and Art.

He served as an external examiner in Anatomy and Surgery to various universities in South Africa. Don du Toit did the first pancreas transplantation on a diabetic in South Africa (1987).

The department presented many successful ASSA congresses under Prof du Toit and previously also under Prof Malan’s headship.

Since 2002 six D degrees were completed under Prof du Toit as promotor. A further 3 will qualify in 2008. The topics include the following: cartilage transplantation, immunocytochemical aspects by pancreas transplantation, transcription factors by glucose observation in the pancreas, face vascularisation, anatomical aspects for plastic and reconstructive surgeons, diabetic transplantation models, monoclonal anti-body identifications, Kaposi sarcoma incidence after kidney transplants.

Staff who obtained D degrees, include: Mr Christo Muller (2004, Medical Histological Sciences) and Ms Marcelle Geldenhuys (2006, Medical Histological Sciences). Dr Muller is especially involved with the running of a morphological unit with research focussed areas on flowcytometry, cell sorting, immunohistochemistry and laser microdissection.

Dr Ben Page, one of the senior lecturers in Anatomy and Histology, runs a very effective tutor-mentor programme. He was also responsible for the transformation of the JF van E Kirsten Anatomy Museum to a teaching activity

During 1999 the Department of Anatomy and Histology made an agreement with the Vrije University Amsterdam concerning an elective student program in terms of which Dutch medical students visit the Department of Anatomy and Histology at the University of Stellenbosch for research as part of their medical training. This program’s popularity has increased so much that other universities of The Netherlands (University of Leyden, University of Gröningen and the University of Amsterdam) have also participated in this program. The program has expanded further and by the end of 2005, 47 elective students from The Netherlands, Austria, Britain and Germany had visited the Department of Anatomy and Histology.

Professor du Toit is especially active with the presentation of numerous annual accredited workshops, as well as kyphoplasty training to orthopaedic surgeons.

Dr JJ de Wet (Koos) worked in the department for several years. He was a qualified gynaecologist and obstetrician as well as a lecturer in the Faculty of Medicine at Karl Bremer Hospital. He was well known for his committedness to the Ethics of Medicine.

Dr Divan Serfontein was a Springbok rugby captain during his appointment in the department.

Dr de Villiers Lampbrecht, the well known South African athlete who was the first in South Africa to run the mile under 4 minutes (with bare feet), also had an appointment in the department before he accepted a professorate at the Department of Anatomy at the University of The Orange Free State.

Ms Linda le Roux was always through the years part of the department and Prof Kirsten’s right hand. She religiously wrote down each test and statistics of students into a register by hand. Linda was mostly responsible for the drawing of the wet specimens in the museum, which she also dissected herself. She was also the curator of the JF van E Kirsten Museum.

Mr Dolf van Rensburg (Oom Dolf as everybody knew him) was the first full time dissector and articulator of skeletons. Just about the whole Osteology Library and skeletons were prepared and articulated by him.

The department was located in the Fisan Building, Tygerberg-Campus. Originally the department was spread over the basement, first, second and third floors, but the third floor was later taken over by the Department of Family Medicine. There are also several lecture halls.

The basement consists mainly of a preparation room where the cadavers are received, embalmed and stored in fridges. This room is also used to prepare for cremation the remains of cadavers after dissection as well as for defatting and cleaning of skeletons. A workshop where the skeletons are articulated, coffins are put together and perspex containers for specimens in the museum are made, as well as store rooms where supplies are kept, are located on this floor.

The first floor contains the offices of the head, the secretary, several other staff members, computer room, security officer, Facscan laboratory, dissection halls, the Fisan main lecture hall and bathrooms.

Undergraduate lectures and practical classes in both Anatomy and Histology were presented to about 220 MBChB-II and BChD-II students. It used to be a year course with a final examination in November. Over and above the written and practical examination, an oral was also included in this examination. External examiners from all over the country were present during this oral. At the beginning of 2000 the new MBChB and BChD curriculum started and the year course was replaced with modules with semester examinations. In 2005 the Dentistry Faculty was moved to the University of the Western Cape. The department at the University of Stellenbosch still presents lectures to BChD-I and -II at the request of the University of the Western Cape.

Lectures and practical classes in both Anatomy and Histology are presented to approximately 40 BSc Physiotherapy-I and II students. It used to be a year course, but at present it is presented as a module course in the first semester with a final examination in June.

Lectures and practical classes in both Anatomy and Histology are presented to approximately 40 B Occupational therapy-II students. It is a year course with a final examination in November.

Lectures and practical classes in both Anatomy and Histology are presented to approximately 20 B Speech, Language and Hearing-I students. It is a year course, and no examination is written.

Lectures and practical classes in only Neuro-anatomy are presented to approximately 20 B Speech, Language and Hearing-III students. It is a 6 months' course, and no examination is written.

Lectures and practical classes in both Anatomy and Histology are presented to approximately 20 BSc Dietetics-II students. It is a 6 months' course, and no examination is written.

Postgraduate lecture and practical classes in both Anatomy and Histology are presented to M Med and MChD students who write the examination in either June or November. Before 2005 the course was also presented to MChD. The Department still presents lectures to the MChD students of the University of the Western Cape with examinations in June or November.

Honours in the Natural Sciences in Medical Sciences is presented and several candidates have completed their studies.

Masters in the Natural Sciences in Medical Sciences is presented and several candidates have completed their studies.

Doctorate in the Natural Sciences in Medical Sciences is presented and several candidates have completed their studies

The Anatomy component of the Diploma in Nursing Education was presented for several years and delivered several candidates. The department is not responsible for the training of these students any more.