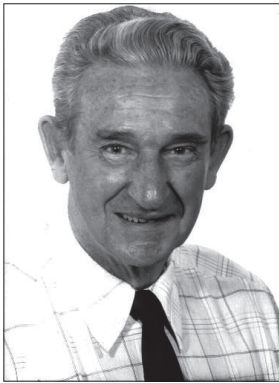




## IN MEMORIAM

**Willem Johannes Bam**

Willem Johannes (Willie) Bam is in 1921 uit eenvoudige ouers gebore. Sy vader sterf aan tering toe Willie 14 jaar oud was en sy moeder moes die gesin onderhou. Sy begin 'n vis-en-skyfies winkel by die Germistonmeer waarmee sy haar seuns se onderwys betaal. Willie slaag matriek in die eerste klas en verwerf daarmee 'n onderwysbeurs. Hy begin skoolhou by Jeppe Boys High

terwyl hy deelyds klasloop by Wits. Hy verwerf 'n dubbele meestersgraad in sielkunde en aardrykskunde.

Hy vergesel gereeld skooltoere, en in 1948 ontmoet hy aan die suidkus van Natal sy toekomstige eggenote, Mercedes van der Merwe, wat toe net as medikus gekwalifiseer het. Dit motiveer hom om in 1950 aan die Universiteit van Pretoria geneeskunde te gaan studeer. Hulle tree in 1950 in die huwelik en gaan woon in Rietfontein in Pretoria. Hy kwalifiseer in 1955 en hulle vestig hulle op Ventersburg. Die Vrystaatse platteland was egter te stil en hulle verhuis na Springs. In 1958 word hulle enigste seun gebore.

In 1961 begin Willie met opleiding as internis aan die Universiteit van Pretoria. Hiervoor trek hulle terug na hulle huis in Rietfontein. Hy kwalifiseer as internis in 1963, en begin werk by die destydse TPA. Hulle bou in 1964 'n huis in Murrayfield in die ooste van Pretoria, waar hulle tot Maart 2007 woon.

Willie Bam begin in 1965 werk as mediese direkteur van Roche in Johannesburg en hy pendel tot in 1975. Met die stigting van Medunsa aanvaar hy die pos as hoogleraar in interne geneeskunde aldaar. Hy kwalifiseer hier ook in sy stokperdjie as rumatoloog. Vir meer as 20 jaar dra hy aktief by tot die opleiding van swart geneeshere en interniste in ons land.

Willie Bam was baie betrokke by sy gemeenskap. Hy het gedien op die Murrayfieldse Waaksaamheidskomitee, die Voortrekkers, die Geloftefees reëlingskomitee, die Moreletaspruit bewaringsaksie en die Nasionale Veldtrust. As waardering vir sy insette is 'n straat in Murrayfield na hom vernoem.

Met sy aftrede in 1985 tree hy in waarnemende hoedanigheid op as mede-professor by Medunsa vir 'n verdere 10 jaar. Na die tydperk werk hy by verskillende artritis klinieke in o.a. Ga-

Rankuwa, Kalafong en Pretoria-Wes. Hier tree hy vir ongeveer 'n jaar op as superintendent.

Sy gesondheid begin vanaf 1996 drasties agteruitgaan, wat hom noodsaak om sy aktiwiteite te begin inkort. Hy bly egter op die hoogte van ontwikkelinge in sy gebied. Eind Februarie 2006 roep hy finaal halt na die soveelste embolisme tydens 'n kliniek by Kalafong. Die kanker waaraan hy sinds 2001 gely het begin die oorhand kry en hy sterf op 4 September 2007 op die ouderdom van 86 jaar. Hy word oorleef deur sy eggenote en sy seun Willem Andries.

Eienskappe van hom wat altyd onthou sal word is sy nederigheid, betroubaarheid, integriteit, sterk karakter en sy mooi voorbeeld wat hy as vader en gesinshoof gestel het. Ons eer sy nagedagtenis.

**C F van der Merwe****Sam Wayburne**

I was saddened to hear that my mentor, teacher and a most wonderful and caring human being, Professor Sam Wayburne has passed on. He was Professor of Paediatrics at Baragwanath Hospital.

I was an intern in his department in 1968. When I applied to be a registrar, the TPA informed me that only whites could be given that post. But Professor Wayburne said to me, 'I am Jewish and I know what racial discrimination is. I will fight for you.' He went to Pretoria and convinced the TPA Head Office to grant me the post. And so I became the first non-white registrar in the Department of Paediatrics. Under his leadership the department was like one family.

At tea time my senior Avroy Fanaroff, Bernie Kaplan, Dave Sapire and our own Professor Peter Thompson would take me to the 'Whites Only' tea room, where professor Wayburne would give me a smile of welcome. All four of these 'giants of paediatrics' were Professor Wayburne's special contribution to North America and the paediatric world.

Professor Wayburne's special interest was newborns, and he would spend many long hours in the nursery speaking kindly to each mother, whom he always addressed as 'mama'.

He was the first to congratulate me when I obtained the Fellowship in Paediatrics. During my orals for the Membership in Edinburgh my examiners asked me where I had come from. When I said, 'Johannesburg', they asked 'How is Sam Wayburne?' I will never forget the warmth with which he greeted me when I returned with the Edinburgh Membership.

May God bless you, Professor Wayburne, you served His creation with love, kindness and dedication.

**Goolam M Moosa**