

Obituary — Dr Tobie Rossouw

Tobie Rossouw and I first met in 1996, when he took over senior tutorials following the death of Professor Eric Samuel. His vast knowledge and enthusiasm for radiology impressed and immediately commanded respect. He was a hard taskmaster, dedicated to radiology and teaching and yet he retained a sense of empathy for his students. He honoured the responsibility that teaching carries at all times, despite the added burden it brought him. In time Tobie became my good friend and mentor, an ever-present source of wise counsel and advice with regard to difficult cases and practice problems.

Three of Tobie's most outstanding attributes were perfectionism, humility, and above all, generosity. He gave of himself beyond requirement, never allowing personal problems to detract from his duty toward his students or to hamper his willingness to help all who cared to ask.

Tobie's passion was the practice of Radiology, no question, but he had other talents and interests too. He enjoyed motorcars and engines. He had a fascination for the chemistry of engine oils and conducted experiments with these. He has a passion for the outdoors. He was also an excellent cook and loved wine and biltong. He and his wife, Lona were not blessed with children, but he often spoke of

his sister's children and loved them as his own. Tobie was also a deeply religious and God-fearing man.

Tobie practised radiology at Union Hospital and later at Krugersdorp before joining the team at Sunninghill, where he worked, taught and thrived for the last 16 months of his life.

Tobie Rossouw was a man I came to know, love and admire. His untimely death has left a deep sense of loss and pain and the realisation that he significantly affected my life and indeed, the lives of all he touched.

Sheldon Codinho

Tobie Rossouw joined our practice in mid 2000, but the short period of 18 months with us led to a quantum leap in our knowledge, our level of expertise and our enthusiasm for radiology. He gave us a fresh view of our profession and, although MRI was his true love, his contribution to any aspect of radiology was always innovative, practical and topical. He read extensively, spent hours on the internet, and much time preparing lectures and teaching students.

Tobie was a true academic with a brilliant mind, but he had a unique ability to reach the level of his patient's

problems and the referring clinician's needs.

His understanding of MRI physics and his ability to manipulate the MRI scanner to suit each problem set him apart from us ordinary radiologists, who use MRI superficially and mechanically.

Tobie's untimely death has been a severe blow to our practice, but more importantly it has created a void in the practice of medicine in our hospital and in areas far beyond. A dark cloud has descended on us all and tears have been shed without shame by our entire staff, by doctors, nurses and staff members throughout the hospital who loved, respected and admired Tobie without exception. It is small consolation to know that Tobie spent the happiest 16 months of his medical life in our department and that he died doing what he always wanted to do. I have come to know Lona quite well since Tobie joined us. Their marriage was clearly built on a deep love and respect for each other and we know that our loss pales into insignificance alongside hers. Perhaps her knowledge of our immense regard for Tobie will help her a little in the weeks and months ahead and we collectively wish her and her whole family strength and healing.

Tobie, you can rest in peace in the knowledge that you touched the lives of many diverse souls during your short life, and that you truly made a difference.

Dr Farrell Spiro
