

Justus Gideon Kilian (21 July 1953 - 25 July 2021)



Justus Kilian was born on 21 July 1953 in Barberton, where he was raised on a family farm prior to matriculating from Barberton High School. He went on to receive his MB ChB degree from the University of Pretoria (UP) in

1976, followed by specialisation in internal medicine, which he completed with a Master's degree (MMed) in 1986. He continued to work as consultant in intensive care medicine while contributing to the establishment of the pulmonary division in the Department of Medicine at UP. Following registration as a pulmonologist once the sub-specialty was established, he set up a private practice at the Wilgers Hospital in Pretoria, which he ran up until his untimely passing.

He maintained a life-long interest in academic medicine, contributing significantly to the education of medical students, registrars and pulmonary fellows, from whom he garnered a high level of respect. He served as a board member of the South African Thoracic Society as private practice representative from June 2013 to August 2015, and during the ensuing years I had the privilege of working with him – I will

fondly remember him as a conscientious, knowledgeable and trusted colleague, who despite his achievements remained humble and caring.

He was an astute clinician who upheld uncompromising standards in caring for his patients, whom he served with integrity, respect and humility, while at the same time balancing a fulfilling family life. The level of commitment and availability he offered his patients is seldom matched in clinical practice today. Father to six children, grandfather to seven, he leaves behind his wife, Nerine, of the past 16 years.

Adored by his patients, respected by his peers and most loved by his family, he leaves behind a legacy, and will surely be missed by all who knew him.

P J Viviers

Pretoria, South Africa