**Charl Dreyer 1957 – 2015**

Charl Dreyer died suddenly in Cape Town on 13th August 2015 while watching his favourite sport, tennis, on television. His death was completely unexpected when compared to the meticulous preparation of all his operating schedules and daily activities.

After matriculating in 1974 he enrolled for an MB ChB at the University of Pretoria and graduated in 1980. His internship at George Provincial Hospital was followed by compulsory military medical service and a senior medical officer post in orthopaedic surgery in Thembisa hospital. In 1986 he started his surgical training in the Department of Surgery at the University of Cape Town, first learning to operate in the trenches at Cecilia Makiwane Hospital and a year later as a registrar at Groote Schuur Hospital. In March 1991 he passed his final surgical examinations and became a Fellow of the College of Surgeons of South Africa.

In 1991 he joined the prestigious vascular firm at Groote Schuur Hospital where he, like many before him, was trained in the finer details and skills of vascular surgery by Professor Ed Immelman. He subsequently honed his skills as a visiting surgical fellow in Addenbrooks in Cambridge. On his return to Cape Town he completed his vascular apprenticeship and then established a flourishing private practice in Christiaan Barnard Memorial Hospital where he worked until his untimely death. He remained closely affiliated to the Department of Surgery and the vascular unit at Groote Schuur Hospital as a senior consultant surgeon and lecturer.

Despite his all round abilities, Charl’s first passion remained vascular surgery and he was one of the local pioneers in percutaneous endovascular intervention. In particular, he was an expert in and advanced the cause of catheter-directed thrombolysis for arterial and venous thrombosis and the endovascular treatment of arterial aneurysms. His surgical skills and bedside manners were exemplary. His innate talents as a surgeon were evident whether as the primary surgeon or as an assistant. He was a longstanding member of the Association of International Vascular Surgeons. At the annual meetings he not only further developed his vascular repertoire but also learnt to ski at exotic alpine vascular congress venues.

Charl had wide-ranging knowledge in medicine, but also loved art, wild life and sport, especially tennis. He was the doting father to his beautiful and talented daughter, Simone. Our condolences go to Simone, Helen, Jane, his friends and family.

Dr Krzysztof Michalowski