

## **HISTORY OF THE DIVISION OF NEUROSURGERY**

### **Compiled by Prof HB Hartzenberg.**

This division was formally initiated in March 1972 under the leadership of Dr A P Rose-Innes at the Karl Bremer hospital. He was soon to become the first Professor of Neurosurgery at the University of Stellenbosch. Prior to this historic occasion Dr HL de Villiers-Hamman a private practising Neurosurgeon rendered a Neurosurgical service on a part time basis from 1956 to 1971 at the Karl Bremer hospital. Following the appointment of a full time Neurosurgeon Dr AP Rose-Innes in 1972, the speciality of Neurosurgery began functioning as a more independent division. In April of 1972 the Management of all head and spinal injuries was taken over from the Division of General Surgery.

When the division moved across to the Tygerberg Academic hospital on 12 June 1974 it rapidly expanded in terms of staffing, work volume and complexity of surgical procedures. In April of 1973 the first Neurosurgical registrar passed the primary surgical examination.

Prof Rose-Innes built and expanded the expertise of this academic division. He developed the MMed-Neurosurgery Post Graduate Degree; the late Dr E Ackerman was the first Neurosurgeon to graduate from this university.

In 1995, after 23 years of dedicated service Prof Rose-Innes retired. He can without any doubt be considered the **father of Neurosurgery** at the University of Stellenbosch and Tygerberg Academic hospital. Almost a year went by without a full time head of the division. Dr HB Hartzenberg came out of private sector and accepted the chairmanship of the Division of Neurosurgery in October 1996 and is the present day head of Neurosurgery. Prof Hartzenberg had the honour of becoming a Neurosurgeon under the leadership of Prof Rose-Innes and completed his Neurosurgical training at the University of Stellenbosch and Tygerberg Academic hospital in 1988.

The massive service requirement of this speciality at the Tygerberg Academic hospital continues to be overwhelming and has always impacted negatively on this division's research activities. Another major negative factor has been the variable full time Consultant availability, which has continued to be inconsistent from the start of this division to date. This fact is in the main a result of the huge gap in remuneration in the State sector versus Private Sector.

Despite many negative factors we have continued to grow. Today we have 5 registrars in training as compared to 1 in 1973.

Amongst the biggest challenges is keeping abreast with modern day first world Neurosurgical practices in a land that is in a developing phase as is ours'.

To date the division of Neurosurgery has trained 14 Neurosurgeons. The division is proud to have produced Neurosurgeons with a strong academic background and practical expertise to serve the greater community of South Africa with confidence and pride.



Prof AP Rose Innes Head of Neurosurgery  
1972-1995



Prof HB Hartzenberg Head of Neurosurgery  
1996-to date