

Prof. Johannes Marinus (Hanno) Boon



Prof. Johannes Marinus (Hanno) Boon, a member of the Department of Anatomy at the University of Pretoria passed away on 13 December 2004, at the age of 34. His passing is deeply felt by all who were fortunate enough to know this exceptional man as colleague, teacher, researcher, medical practitioner and friend. Hanno was born on 8 June 1970. After he graduated as medical doctor from the University of Pretoria and finished

his internship, he completed a degree in Family Medicine at the same University, while working in the Emergency Rooms of both Pretoria Academic and Mamelodi Hospitals. He received a PhD degree from the University of Pretoria, under guidance of Professor Peter Abrahams from Cambridge University and Professor Jan Meiring from the University of Pretoria in April 2003. The thesis, *Procedures performed by family physicians in hospital practice in a developing country (South Africa) – an evaluation of clinical anatomy competence*, was based on the most common procedures performed in emergency units and in general practice, and the anatomy essential to those procedures. He received a Commonwealth Scholarship for this study. Based on procedures identified during his PhD study he developed a multimedia CD-ROM called *The Virtual Procedures Clinic*, which was published by Primal Pictures and distributed and used worldwide.

Among his achievements was his intense involvement in both pregraduate and postgraduate student training. He was a frequent recipient of the Lecturer of the Year award, which is an annual award presented by second year medical and dentistry students to the most outstanding lecturer in the department. Between 2002 and 2004 he was course leader for 12 BSc (Hons) and MSc students. As mentor to these students he always maintained an open door policy and, under his guidance, they received numerous prizes and laurels at both national and international conferences.

By the end of 2003 and beginning of 2004 he embarked on a post-doctorate research program in Maastricht in The Netherlands, by invitation from Prof H van Mameren at the University of Limburg. The title of the project was: *The functional anatomical basis of injuries to the ligamentous and other soft tissues around the elbow joint*. During his short career as researcher he has published close to twenty international peer reviewed articles and served on the editorial panels of two ISI indexed journals, and often reviewed articles for other international journals. Since 2002 he also acted as an Associate Editor for the journal *Clinical Anatomy*, and as Associate Editor for *Surgical and Radiological Anatomy* since 2003. Because of his standing among international Clinical Anatomists, he was twice invited as visiting professor to the St George's University in Grenada in the West Indies during 2004. During this time he gave a series of lectures on the *Clinical anatomy of practical procedures* to medical undergraduate students. He was also invited as co-author for the 6th Edition of the textbook, *McMinn's Color Atlas of Human Anatomy* (Elsevier).

Hanno was a recipient of both national and international research grants since 2000. The list of various prestigious academic acknowledgements and prizes that he received for his research include, among others:

- The Wellcome Trust Travel Grant to visit Cambridge in 2000.
- The Conrad Lewin prize for best scientific paper, awarded to him at a meeting of the British Association of Clinical Anatomists in Glasgow in 2001.
- An award for Educational Innovation from the University of Pretoria for his CD-ROM (*The Virtual Procedures Clinic*, Boon *et al.*) in 2002.
- During 2003 he received the Exceptional Young Achiever Award, a prestigious research award from the University of Pretoria.
- The Presidential Travel Award for the best presentation given at the 21st Annual Conference of the American Association of Clinical Anatomists (AACA) meeting in San Francisco, USA (8-11 June 2004).

Hanno was a dear and respected colleague, both to the members of the Department of Anatomy and the international community of Clinical Anatomists. He was a person with whom colleagues and students wanted to associate and work, not only to experience his enthusiasm and love for his subject, but also to share in his extensive knowledge about anatomy and the medical field. He was also a keen ornithologist and nature lover.

Hanno was a Christian and family man in the true sense of the word. He was married to Sietske, a neonatal ICU sister. They have three small children, Germien (6), Julia-Marie (4) and Joel (2), about whom he could relate with wonder and appreciation. Sietske is expecting their fourth child in May of 2005.

In his short career, Hanno achieved much more than most people achieved in a lifetime. In the words of the rector of the University of Pretoria, Prof Pretorius, Hanno was one of the shining new stars at the University. He will be truly missed.

Prof Jan Meiring
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