

OBITUARY

**George Dimopoulos, MB BCh, FRCS, FRCSE, ChM, FICA, FCEM (SA),
9 May 1933 - 30 January 2021**



We write this with heavy hearts, reporting on the death on 30 January 2021 of Dr George Dimopoulos, a good friend and colleague for many years. George graduated MB ChB from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, in 1957 and went on to do surgical training in the UK before returning to South Africa (SA), where he was the

former head of casualty and worked as a surgeon at Addington Hospital, Durban.

He joined the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) AEMS Ambulance Services in 1992 as the College of Emergency Care principal, serving in this capacity until his retirement in 2000. Basic, intermediate and advanced Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) short courses (BAC, AEA and CCA) continued to be conducted for aspiring paramedic staff for the entire KZN and Eastern Cape provinces under his watch. With the commencement of ATLS courses in SA from 1992, the training in KZN found a home at AEMS: Natal headquarters at Oldham House. Numerous ATLS courses were conducted there and many of the current ATLS faculty and surgeons were trained there, while paramedic students were also involved in these courses.

At the same time, George was actively involved in the National Diploma in Emergency Care presented at the Natal Technikon, serving also on the – sometimes very vocal – National Standards Sub-Committee of the National Department of Health to create the National Norms and Training Standards for SA emergency medical service (EMS)/

paramedics. He was successful in acquiring the services of the first five community service doctors to join KZN province-wide EMS and helicopter EMS (HEMS). Furthermore, he was actively involved with the Trauma Society of SA, serving as chairman of the organising committee for three very successful trauma congresses held in Durban.

On retirement, George opened his own training Academy of Accident and Emergency Medicine at Entabeni Hospital, Durban, affiliated to the Resuscitation Council of Southern Africa, offering ACLS, PALS and other short courses to more than 3 000 doctors, nurses and paramedics, the latter many of his former students.

Our sincere condolences to his wife Gillian, his sons, and his numerous friends and colleagues.

Rest in peace, George.

Stewart Boyd

*Emergency physician, Private practice,
Amanzimtoti, South Africa*

Timothy Hardcastle

*Trauma surgeon, Inkosi Albert Luthuli
Central Hospital, Durban, South Africa
hardcastle@ukzn.ac.za*