



Dr Ralph Leslie Saxe

MBChB, BSc, DipACSM, FAMPA, FNZCAM, FRNZCGP

1960 -2012

On Monday 23rd January 2012 at approximately 10:45 a light aircraft crashed in Fielding killing both occupants, one of whom was Dr. Ralph Saxe

Originally from Pretoria in South Africa, Ralph was a New Zealand citizen having moved to New Zealand in 1996, making his home in Palmerston North.

Ralph's professional experience included General Practice, Rural GP, Community Emergency Medicine, Director of a Pharmaceutical import/export company, Phase I & II drug testing trial for several pharmaceutical companies, Family Planning, Clinical Senior Lecturer -University of Otago and Appearance Medicine

Ralph joined NZCAM in 2002 as an Associate Member gaining his Fellowship in 2006. Ralph had just taken up a role on the Education Committee having committed his time to be actively involved in the delivery of the training programme during 2012.

A man who made a profound professional contribution to his local community, Ralph had served as a Member of the Manawatu PHO Board, MidCentral DHB, and Member of Standards Committee for Accident & Medical Clinic. Ralph was also a Surgical Services committee member and Principal Site Investigator to investigate the safety of 2mg TID Cilansetron.

Ralph's lifelong passion was flying and he owned several light aircraft. He was a very experienced and respected aviator for whom aerobatic flying was the pinnacle. Described as a "fine pilot" Ralph held a passion for older unusual aircraft. Apart from flying Ralph's leisure time interests included shooting, trout fishing, farming, diving and collecting antique firearms.

Close friend and colleague Dr Jack Drummond described Ralph "He was a highly directional, highly progressive man. Absolutely the life of the party- a real fun guy."

Dr Joanna Romanowska was a close friend of Ralph's for nearly thirty years: "Having known Ralph since studying together at medical school, we have continued our close friendship over many years, hemispheres and continents. Ralph's joie-de vivre, enthusiasm and unrelenting positivity were magnetic and charismatic. I will miss his charmingly childish sense of humour and his somewhat edgy dress sense. Ralph had an amazing ability to see the bright side of any situation and get on with anybody regardless of background. While a personal friend I retained a deep professional respect for him both as a doctor and a businessman"

Ralph is survived by his Wife and Daughter in New Zealand, siblings in South Africa and his Father, residing in Spain.

Ralph will be sadly missed by his colleagues and friends in NZCAM.