

Concezio Di Rocco

Jonathan C. Peter

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Among the continents, Africa remains the most neglected in terms of the medical care offered to its peoples. The very few neurosurgeons who operate there are faced with tremendous difficulties, practical limitations, and ethical dilemmas. For these reasons, the international pediatric neurosurgical community is proud to be represented on such a continent by a talented neurosurgeon, the 2001/2002 ISPN President Prof. Jonathan C. Peter, who has devoted his life to assuring children of South Africa with neurosurgical problems the same therapeutic opportunities their counterparts enjoy on the other continents.

Jonathan Peter was born in East London, South Africa in 1942 and matriculated with merit at Maritzburg College in Natal in 1958. He received his undergraduate education at the University of Cape Town, graduating M.B., Ch.B. in 1964. After completing his internship and senior house appointments in Neurology at Groote Schuur Hospital he spent 2 years in Toronto with Ron Tasker at the Banting Institute and Bruce Hendrick and Harold Hoffman at the Hospital for Sick Children as part of the Gallie neurosurgical training program. He returned to South Africa to undergo compulsory military service, spending time at the Oshakati State Hospital in Namibia during the Angolan War. In 1970, he obtained the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and commenced neurosurgical training under Kay De Villiers at Groote Schuur Hospital.



After his residency, he embarked on music training, studying the piano with Laura Searle and finishing the B.Mus. (S.A.) with majors in music history and harmony and counterpoint in 1984.

He then returned to neurosurgery and after another year of residency was appointed to the Red Cross War Memorial Hospital as the pediatric neurosurgeon following Warwick Peacock's emigration to the United States. In 1987 he had a short sojourn at the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford, learning epilepsy techniques with Chris Adams and Peter Teddy. In 1994, he was appointed to

the Mauerberger Chair of Neurosurgery at the University of Cape Town following the retirement of Kay De Villiers. Since this time, he has been devoted to the development of all aspects of his department in Cape Town.

He serves on the WFNS pediatric neurosurgery committee, is a past president of the Society of South Afri-

can Neurosurgeons and was recently re-elected President of the College of Neurosurgeons of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa. He serves on the editorial boards of a range of international journals and has published widely on pediatric neurosurgical subjects.