



Obituary

Dr Alphonse Benjamin Rongap Sr.

The late Dr Alphonse Rongap Sr, was tragically shot and killed on June 25th 2016 on the back road in Lae, Morobe Province, PNG, where he lived and worked for a large part of his life.

Dr Rongap was born at Angoram, East Sepik Province. He spent his childhood, and attended primary school in Angoram. He entered the University of PNG in 1975 and graduated from the Faculty of Medicine in 1980 in a class of 24 young doctors. His classmates included Prof Nakapi Tefuarani, Prof Francis Hombhange, Prof Clement Malau and Dr. Billy Selve. Following his training as a Resident Medical Officer and having decided on a career in Child Health Dr. Rongap enrolled in the Diploma of Child Health, graduating in 1984. He progressed to graduate as Master of Medicine in Child Health in 1987.

Dr Rongap was a kind, gentle and selfless paediatrician who maintained strong personal and family values. After graduation in 1987 his first posting as a specialist paediatrician was to Goroka, where he was also involved in research at the IMR. However it was at Angau Memorial Hospital that he spent most of his career, working there for 25 years. Alphonse was hardworking and practical, and spoke up for the less fortunate people in the community. He made valuable contributions to the training of many young paediatricians and resident medical officers, and to health care in Morobe Province

Within the Paediatric and Child Health Community Alphonse was highly regarded and respected. His smile was infectious. A person of few words, his contributions to discussions were always well considered, wise and relevant. He influenced the Paediatric Society to focus more on newborns when, in a Symposium in 1998, he presented a paper entitled "The plight of the little people" in which he highlighted the lack of resources put into neonatal care in most hospitals in the country.

His daughter Dr Violet Rongap said of him: "What he gained during his training and

whilst serving respective hospitals in the country were for the betterment of the children. Through this, he had a lot of friends. He was so simple and humble”.

Dr Alphonse Rongap Sr. has left behind his children, Dr's Alphonse Rongap Jr and Violet Rongap and his wife and fellow Paediatrician, Dr Theresa Rongap. They will cherish his memory as a loving father and husband. The Paediatric community is grateful to have had the opportunity of knowing Alphonse and working with him and his memory will be honored not only in the Paediatric Society of Papua New Guinea, but also in the Papua New Guinea Medical Society of which he was a Life Member, and by all those who knew him and worked with him.

The Paediatric Society of Papua New Guinea
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