

# Obituary

## DR EVAN RICHARD SOICHER

12 MAY 1962 TO 5 SEPTEMBER 2015

**Evan Richard Soicher, a quiet, unassuming gentleman who was loved by so many, passed away on September 5th, 2015 aged 53, peacefully at home surrounded by his family.**

Evan believed it was a great privilege to be a doctor. He truly enjoyed both the science and art of medicine and took a very special interest in the lives and well-being of all of his patients. Evan was highly regarded by his colleagues, staff and patients due to his exceptional clinical and surgical skills as well as his kind and friendly nature. He was a man of remarkable intellect with a diverse range of interests including playing the guitar, running, history and current affairs. Most importantly, Evan was a faithful, considerate and caring friend to many.

When he was diagnosed with a life-threatening illness, no stone was left unturned in the quest to find a cure. He was deeply saddened when it became clear he could not continue to practise ophthalmology and to care for his patients.

Evan was born in Johannesburg, South Africa on 12 May 1962, first-born son of Jenifer and Jack Soicher. Already at primary school there were indications of his charitable nature, when as a 7-year-old he walked 21 kilometres to raise funds for his primary school. Keenly involved in sport, debating and drama, Evan showed a determination to complete whatever he started. These qualities were soon recognised with his election as Deputy Head Prefect at Highlands North Boys' High School and Chairman of the Management Committee of Johannesburg Junior City Council.

In his last year of high school, Evan decided to study medicine driven by his passion "to heal the world". He won a scholarship from the Johannesburg City Council. He went on to study medicine at the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa, between 1980 and 1985. In his first year of medicine, Evan was involved in establishing a student-run clinic in the township of Alexandria and helped raised money to purchase the necessary equipment.

Evan worked as a doctor during the difficult era of apartheid in South Africa. It was during this time that he met a young radiographer named Jenny De Jong and there began a story of decades of love. Evan and Jenny were married on 12 August 1990 at the Waverley Shul in Johannesburg and one month before Evan died, they celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.

Evan trained in ophthalmology at St John's Eye Hospital in Soweto, South Africa. In 1994, on the day he graduated as an Ophthalmologist, his first son, Glen, was born. He then undertook advanced training at the Royal Eye Unit in Surrey, UK before joining the Department of Ophthalmology, University of New South Wales at the Prince of Wales, St George and Sutherland Hospitals, as Senior Registrar. He was appointed a Consultant Ophthalmologist in 1999. The previous year, Matthew, the second son of Evan and Jenny, was born.

In April 2000, Evan started Southern Ophthalmology with his life-long school friend Alan Flax. Together with his friends and colleagues, Robert Chong and Harry Leung, Southern Ophthalmology was expanded into a thriving private practice.

Evan was appointed as a Staff Specialist at Prince of Wales Hospital and Sydney Children's Hospital from 1999 to 2005,



*Dr Evan Richard Soicher*

and then as a Visiting Medical Officer (VMO) at Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney Children's, Sutherland, St George and Sydney/Sydney Eye Hospitals from 2005 to 2014. Evan was also a VMO at Bourke Hospital from 1999 to 2008 as part of the Prince of Wales Hospital's Outback Eye Service. Evan led over 30 trips to Bourke Hospital during his time with the Outback Eye Service, consulting and performing ophthalmic surgery under challenging conditions. Evan had a passion for providing care for disadvantaged communities wherever he practised. From South Africa to the Aboriginal communities in Bourke and Sydney, Evan was dedicated to helping the less fortunate.

In addition to delivering eye care, Evan was actively involved in Ophthalmology registrar supervision and teaching. He also taught General Practitioners and optometrists, often using diagrams to share his knowledge.

Evan's family have lost a loving husband, devoted father, son, brother-in-law, brother and uncle. Truly, we have lost a friend - a calm, dignified bastion of strength who showed his support, and commitment behind the scenes, without fanfare.

Evan was an exceptional ophthalmologist and colleague, and he will be sadly missed by those who had the privilege to work with him.

***Dr Alan Flax***