



R.K. KHAN KRONIC(LE)

# Seasons Greetings

DECEMBER 2004



**MULTI SKILLED TEAM PREPARING STAFF YEAR END LUNCH.**



**STAFF ENJOYING THE LUNCH**

**THANK YOU TO ALL STAFF THAT MADE THIS A SUCCESSFUL FUNC-**

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## HOSPITAL MANAGERS MESSAGE

It is with pleasure that I write a message for the 2004 Christmas edition of the R.K Khan Kronic(1e).

Once again you all need to be congratulated for the dedication and hard work throughout the year. As an example the staff in the Pharmacy have been working extended hours since April to ensure that patients do not have to come back to hospital the next day for their medication.

The appointment of the assistant nursing managers has greatly assisted in the efficient functioning of the nursing division.

We once again had great difficulty in filling clinical posts in 2004. The fact that this hospital did not qualify for the inhospitable allowance added to our difficulty in attracting and retaining staff. Indications at this time are that 2005 will be a much better year in terms of staffing.

It is unfortunate that the hospital appears to be the target for vandals and other mischief-makers increasingly frequently over the past year. We have bolstered hospital security as much as possible within the financial constraints. All of us need to also take ownership for the areas in which we work. There is a need to take action or report to the relevant people if things are amiss.

The hospital has commenced with the rollout of ARV in October. Medical and nursing staff that have been appointed specifically to the ARV clinic. At present there are approximately 100 patients on ARV and more than 400 patients have been screened.

I am also pleased to announce that the tender for the renovation of ward D1 has been awarded. The work involves the building of additional ablution facilities in the sunroom, the renovation of the existing ablutions and the renovation of the

existing ward. The contract is for a 5 - month period. There will be some inconvenience, as the ward will need to be closed for this period. I consider this a small price to pay for the upgrade to our physical facility.

I wish staff well over the festive period, have a blessed Christmas, to all those going on holiday enjoy the rest and come back refreshed to tackle the old and new challenges in 2005. **Dr P.S. Subban**

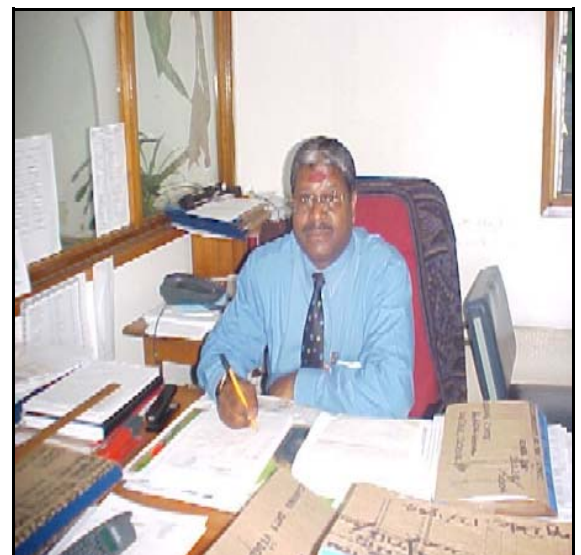


Mr. Logan Govender is a progressive, motivated employee. He has been recently promoted to Chief Administration Clerk in the Supplies Division.

His humble beginnings started in 1977 as a non-white domestic, to Switchboard Operator, Clerical Assistant, seconded to Clairwood Hospital during the cholera epidemic, promotion to Senior Admin Clerk in 1982, transferred to the Staff Office in 1984 and has been with the Supplies Division since 1986. Quite a lengthy history of 27 years of service.

Logan is known to his colleagues for his sternness, and no nonsense approach. His policy is hard work, respect for your seniors and mentors and a fixation with punctuality.

**CONGRATULATIONS AND WELL DONE !**





## EDITORS MESSAGE

Reaching the end of the year brings a flurry of activity, a sense of urgency, family functions, parties, gift hunting, shopping and plenty of frayed tempers. A lot of anxiety for parents and students awaiting exam results.

Lets take some time to reflect on the year and see if we have succeeded in attaining all our goals for 2004. My answer is a certain big fat no, there has not been enough hours in the day, hence a carry over to 2005.

Activity in our hospital has not slow down. All staff need to be acknowledged for the contribution and their ability to perform despite the odds. Working with people especially those who are ill and coping with emotional family members can be most stressful. I had the opportunity of observing an exchange between an irate parent and a doctor . Though the staff had some difficulty in explaining due to the language difference he remained professional.

It is sometimes sad that staff do not receive acknowledgement or thanks for their efforts. We can beat this by remaining positive and working together as a team. Teams guide and support one another. It is this spirit that enabled us to host a successful year end lunch. It is a fantastic feeling to to see staff working together and giving of their best for their colleagues.

I sincerely hope that this spirit will prevail at all times. Thank you to all my colleagues for your assistance, guidance and co-operation.

## SEASONS GREETINGS



## STAFF COMMEMORATING WORLDS AIDS DAY—1 DECEMBER 2004 AND SUPPORTING NO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN



## THE GOOD GUYS

“Friends of R.K.Khan are a volunteer organisation. At its launch in November 2002, concerned members of the community gathered and decided that it was time to stop whining and engage the community in a constructive way with the hospital to help patients receive good care. FORKKs objective is to facilitate interaction between health providers and the community, exploring avenues for training and employment of health personnel with the support of the community and also take up issues with the health authorities.

FORKK has also embarked on fund raising projects for special projects and to supplement existing items. Some of the items already purchased are additional wheelchairs, benches,TV sets, fans and paint.

Watching volunteers in service, reaching to help others, gives hope for the future. Many of the volunteers are following through with commitment and action. FORKK aims to engage the community in voluntary work amd to set and example for others to emulate. This wonderful concept of volunteerism will help pave the way for a caring and healthy nation.”

Prof. M. Sankar  
Chairperson FORKK



## **R.K.KHAN HOSPITAL**

### **OPERATING THEATRE NURSING PERSPECTIVE**

Our motto is “striving for excellence”. The field of surgery is dynamic and no other area of nursing requires the broader knowledge base, recall of nursing science, diversity of thought and action, the stamina and flexibility needed in peri-operative endeavours. Staff therefore have to be motivated, dynamic, assertive and multi-skilled in order to ensure that quality patient care is rendered whilst maintaining the principles of Batho Pele.

In-service education programmes held twice weekly presented by anaesthetists, nursing personnel and representatives from surgical companies so that we can keep abreast and face the complex changes that surgery has to offer. Our staff are also encouraged to attend study day programmes and workshops held at venues outside the hospital so that we have an opportunity to update our skills. Laparoscopic surgery is challenging and surgical team members have to continuously learn new skills and practices. A laparoscopic workshop held at Grey’s Hospital enabled some of our scrub sisters to observe and learn about procedures that will be performed in our hospital but we are not far behind in the field of modern laparoscopic surgery. A stapled haemorrhoidectomy workshop was organised and facilitated at R.K.Khan Hospital and this is held on a Saturday on a monthly basis so that doctors from both private and provincial institutions are given the opportunity to learn. Our staff work on overtime basis on these days so that this programme can be successful. We are able to scrub and assist with laparoscopic procedures eg. Nissans Fundoplication, Cholecystectomy, Thorascopic sympathectomy and oesophagectomy. Other complicated procedures include liver resection, repair of diaphragmatic hernia, Zenkers diverticulum, splenectomy, gastrectomy and anterior resection. These are just few of the life threatening procedures that we scrub and assist with. Emergency orthopaedic procedures sometimes require the use of loan sets from different companies and we sometimes use up to three loan sets per day.

Elective surgery is performed in five disciplines and includes specialities with major cases eg. laryngectomy, radical neck dissection, mastiodectomy, tonsillectomy, staging laparotomy, TAH.

Staff have to be knowledgeable in all aspects of theatre work so as to render assistance to the anaesthetist, surgeons and to help with packing and washing of instruments.

An average of 500 cases per month is performed and this includes vascular, multiple trauma and sometimes urology procedures.

Operating theatre is a department where teamwork is imperative and each category of staff is recognised as an integral team member to ensure continuity and quality patient care is rendered. The operating theatre nurse is recognised by the operating team as a team player, acknowledged for her skills, knowledge and expertise and is therefore an expert at her field.



**ARTICLE BY MRS.J. NAIDOO & MRS.K.RAMDIAL**

### **RAINY DAY ROAD SIDE DELIVERY**

Suffia Saddack serves her community well. Rainy and inclement weather does not stop her lending a helping hand. Though not trained as a midwife together with her husband, delivered a healthy 4kg baby on the road side. The lack of sterile gloves, she improvised by using “the” plastic bag. Mother and baby were also transported to the hospital in her own private vehicle.

Thank you to the local tabloid for acknowledging the two good samaritans and we are also proud that you part of the R.K.Khan family.



**INDRAN MOODLEY & SUFFIA SADDACK**