

## **Elizabeth te Groen née Rose**

### Curriculum Vitae

- 1943            Graduated from Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa with BSc in Psychology and Zoology
- 1944            Accepted into Medical School at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1948            Traveled to the United States of America to join students observing innovative procedures and attending lectures on cutting edge research at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, New York and Ochsner Clinic in New Orleans, Louisiana
- 1949            Graduated from Witwatersrand Medical School with an MB BCH and began my internship at Johannesburg General Hospital in Surgery
- 1950-1951     Worked as an ER doctor at Pretoria General Hospital Casualty Department. Was tasked with identifying problems and providing solutions to improving efficiency, reducing waiting times and improving health outcomes. Gained recognition and a promotion to a more prestigious hospital where my recommendations were also implemented
- 1951-1952     Worked part time developing and opening a free clinic for a local underserved community. The community was suffering from a serious disease which we were able to identify as bilharzia, or schistosomiasis. We gathered information on the cause and incidence of the disease and reported this to the Health Department, which then took over the clinic and was able to successfully address the issues
- 1952-1954     Began internship in Pediatrics with goal of becoming a pediatric psychiatrist. Was unable to complete internship because husband bought a practice 800 miles away that did not offer internships

- 1954 Managed an egg and citrus farm for 6 months. Was responsible for supervising 10 staff, staffing, benefits including health and housing. Responsible for water irrigation, harvesting, packing, shipping and export of produce
- 1955 Joined my husband in East London, South Africa where he had his practice. Worked in the Outpatient Clinic at Frere Hospital, providing medical services to low-income patients with a variety of medical conditions
- 1956 The polio epidemic hit South Africa and the hospitals were filled with children and adults with polio. Joined the Orthopedic Department at the Frere Hospital and began working with polio victims and other conditions on procedures such as skin grafting, nerve repairs and muscle transplants
- 1957 Transferred to the Pathology Department at Frere Hospital where we analyzed and reported on biopsies and blood samples and other tissues that were sent to the lab by attending physicians. There we detected an unexpectedly large and increasing number of esophageal cases. We persuaded a colleague, Dr. Rex Burrell, to investigate the problem and provide him with support
- 1959-1965 Returned to the Orthopedic Department. Continued interest in the esophageal cancer research, and met regularly with the ENT surgeon who headed up the research project. Worked with polio victims, manned Outpatient Clinic, assisted specialist with critical surgeries, reduced fractures, performed minor surgeries and manipulations. Was responsible for the care of 120 in-patients a day
- 1965-1980 Appointed as Project Director of the Esophageal Cancer Research Program. Applied and received a major grant from NIH. Formed the Bantu Cancer Registry to investigate and document cancers in the Transkei with particular emphasis on the epidemiology of esophageal cancer. Employed and supervised office and field staff. Directed indigenous herbalist/diviner to collect and describe the uses for 2000 plants used for food and medicine. Published papers in internationally recognized medical and scientific journals
- 1980-1981 Took sailing courses including navigation and radio. Had an ocean-going yacht built and began sailing

- 1981-1983 Sailed to South America on the South Atlantic race from Cape Town to Uruguay. Continued up the coast of South America and onto the Caribbean Islands and the United States of America
- 1985-1987 Taught Anatomy and Physiology at Drury College at the Education Center at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri
- 1987-2003 Taught Nutrition at Lincoln University at the Education Center at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri

## Volunteer Activities

### Senior Companions

Latch Key Kids of Newburg

Started a non-profit day care for children in underserved Newburg MO

Founding member of Newburg Committee Revitalization Program Group

Founding member of Newburg Children's Museum of Natural History