A Guy named De Klerk
and
a guy named Hippocrates

MLS de Kock
July 2009

(1919 - 1990)  (460 - 370 BC)
A Guy named de Klerk

Younger brother of Bill de Klerk

Married Ria Pienaar from Beaufort - West
Guy and Ria with their 5 children and 4 grand children

A little bit older
Guy de Klerk – the person I came to know as a student and houseman
Guy de Klerk – the person I knew as his registrar
Guy de Klerk – the person I knew as his consultant
Guy de Klerk, a man with visions
Guy de Klerk the man

Groot Brakrivier

Argyle road
Guy de Klerk (1982 – 1990)

Guy de Klerk can be regarded as (one of) the father(s) of Urology in South Africa
A guy named Hippocrates

Do not harm the patient

Kill as Few Patients as Possible

AND FIFTY-SIX OTHER ESSAYS ON HOW TO BE THE WORLD'S BEST DOCTOR

by Oscar London M.D., W.B.D.
The oath of Hippocrates

Hippocrates portrayed as a thinker in late antiquity

A fragment of the Hippocratic Oath on papyrus from the third century BC
Cult of Asklepios

Temple dedicated to Asklepios, 18th century, Villa Borghese, Rome.
The god Asklepios treats one patient and is awaited by another (350 BC).
A typical ancient votive gift was this stone plaque, showing a leg with varicose veins (300 BC).

Ruins of a large Asclepium on the Island of Cos.
Cnidian School of Medicine

Empedocles
(495 – 435 BC)
Hippocratic age

Hippocrates examining urine at the bedside. From medieval manuscript, circa 1300.
Controversies about Hippocrates
Hippocrates: Medical contributions

• Corpus Hippocraticum
• 1st handwritten copy – 11th century AD-“No Oath”
• 60 – 72 works
• Some his own work:
  – Epidemics I, III
  – Regimen and acute diseases
  – Aphorisms
  – Airs, Water and Places
  – Prognostics
Aphorisms of Hippocrates:

• “What cannot be cured with medicaments is cured by the knife, what the knife cannot cure is cured with the searing-iron, and whatever this cannot cure must be considered incurable.”

• “Very fat people tend to die sooner than those who are thin.”
OATH

An oath is either a promise or a statement of fact calling upon something or someone the oath maker considers sacred, usually God, as a witness to the binding nature of the promise or the truth of the statement of fact.

To swear is to take an oath.
Genesis 8:21

God swears (to Noah) that He will “never again curse the ground because of man and never again smite every living thing”.

Genesis 24:2-4
And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh.

And I will make thee swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of Canaanites, among whom I dwell.
Byzantine Greeks wrote the oath in the form of a cross relating to Christian ideas. (12th century)
Hippocratic oath:

“I swear by Apollo the physician, by Æsculapius, Hygeia, and Panacea, and I take to witness all the gods, all the goddesses, to keep according to my ability and my judgment the following Oath:

“To consider dear to me as my parents him who taught me this art; to live in common with him and if necessary to share my goods with him; to look upon his children as my own brothers, to teach them this art if they so desire without fee or written promise; to impart to my sons and the sons of the master who taught me and the disciples who have enrolled themselves and have agreed to the rules of the profession, but to these alone, the precepts and the instruction. I will prescribe regimen for the good of my patients according to my ability and my judgment and never do harm to anyone. To please no one will I prescribe a deadly drug, nor give advice which may cause his death. Nor will I give a woman a pessary to procure abortion. But I will preserve the purity of my life and my art. I will not cut for stone, even for patients in whom the disease is manifest; I will leave this operation to be performed by practitioners (specialists in this art). In every house where I come I will enter only for the good of my patients, keeping myself far from all intentional ill-doing and all seduction, and especially from the pleasures of love with women or with men, be they free or slaves. All that may come to my knowledge in the exercise of my profession or outside of my profession or in daily commerce with men, which ought not to be spread abroad, I will keep secret and will never reveal. If I keep this oath faithfully, may I enjoy my life and practice my art, respected by all men and in all times; but if I swerve from it or violate it, may the reverse be my lot.”
“I swear by Apollo the physician, by Aesculapius, Hygeia and Panacea, and I take witness all the gods, all the goddesses, to keep according to my ability and my judgement the following oath: “
Apollo

One of the twelve gods who lived on Mount Olympus.
Apollo

Apollo was an important god with many facets.
Apollo

Illustration on a krater from Tarente. (4th century BC)
Apollo Temple of Apollo, Pompeii, with Vesuvius in the background.
Apollo

Discus thrower, bronze statuette, Southern Italy.
(5th Century BC)

Apollo`s twin sister Arthemis, goddess of the hunt – killed Coronis, the mother of Aesclepius.
Apollo

Achilles baptized in the river Styx.

Eventually killed indirectly by Apollo.

Chiron teaching Achilles to ride a horse.
Apollo

Chiron was set in the universe by Zeus as the star constellation Centaur.
Asclepius, god of medicine.
(bronze statue from Roman times)
Mythical birth of Asclepius

Birth of Asclepius.
(Painted dish, 16th century)

First “Caeserian” section in history.
(Medical book, Basel 1549)
Asclepius

After his death, the mortal god Asclepius was set in the universe by his father Apollo, as the Snake Holder.
Hygeia and Panacea
The Doctor’s Emblem
Hippocrates – the Father of Urology

I will not cut for stone even for patients in whom the disease is manifest; I will leave this operation to be performed by practitioners (specialists in this art).
Lithotriptor invented by Jean Civiale, 1847

“The Hippocratic oath actually defined, declined and legitimizied Urology as the first medical speciality.”
The Oath Today

Explicit within the Hippocratic Oath are three main ideas:

1. Competence
2. Caring
3. Commitment
Hippocrates is still relevant today.
His greatness lies on a level beyond diagnosis, prognosis and treatment.

His main legacy was:
To be a good doctor one must first of all be a good human being.
• Both can be regarded as a father of Urology.
• Hippocrates was real, a legend and mythical.
• Guy de Klerk was real, and became a legend.
However, the main aspect they had in common was:

Both of them were good doctors, because both of them were good human beings.