

Obituaries

PROFESSOR DAVID DE BONO

David Paul de Bono, Professor of Cardiology, University of Leicester School of Medicine.
b 19.1.47; d 29.4.99. MD FRCP (London and Edinburgh), FESC.

David de Bono came to Edinburgh as Consultant Cardiologist at the Royal Infirmary in 1979 at the age of 32. Sadly he died of motor neurone disease on 29 April 1999 at the age of 52.

David was a Cambridge graduate who received his clinical training at St George's Hospital, London and then held posts in Cambridge and Oxford before taking up his post in Edinburgh as successor to Dr RM Marquis, one time Treasurer of the College.

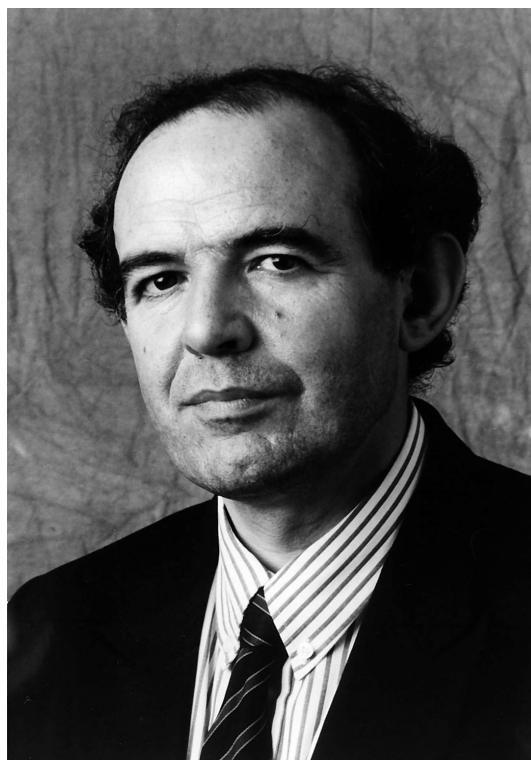
In Edinburgh he inherited a large clinical practice but applied his energies and intellect to developing his own interests, both clinically and in the laboratory. As a research student in Cambridge, he had developed an interest in the endothelium and in Edinburgh he would be constantly 'nipping over' to check on his tissue cultures of endothelial cells and to supervise the fundamental laboratory work of his junior research colleagues.

Clinically he was at the forefront of the development of thrombolysis. Nowadays we take for granted the evidence base on which our current practice is founded. Re-opening of coronary arteries by 'clot busting' drugs had to be demonstrated and this meant emergency angiography, day or night, to display the efficacy of these new-found agents. In his typically innovative way he arranged angiography in the side-room of CCU with recordings on videotape – a new notion at the time – in contrast to the conventional 35 mm ciné film then in vogue.

These were times of very hard work, sharing on call with two colleagues. The weekends not on call were, as often as not, spent reading angiograms in Rotterdam, where the co-ordinating office for a multi-centre thrombolytic trial collated and analysed all the angiographic data. This work established David de Bono as an authority in the field of thrombolysis and led towards his appointment as Professor.

David de Bono's father was Professor of Medicine in Malta and a Chair was always an ambition. Colleagues in Edinburgh rejoiced in his successful appointment to the British Heart Foundation Chair in Leicester but were sorry to see him go, missing his intellect, clinical skills and energy. One testament to his time at the Royal Infirmary is the 'de Bono Pump'. This was a one-off event triggered by a case of cardiac rupture in the cardiac catheterisation laboratory during mitral balloon valvuloplasty causing acute severe tamponade. The day was saved by David aspirating from the pericardium and reinfusing to the right atrium repeatedly, pending the arrival of surgical rescue.

In Leicester he developed a respected Department of Academic Cardiology and focused on coronary heart disease.



Although the field was narrow, the scope was broad, covering basic science, animal studies, clinical research, clinical trials and epidemiology. He attracted other bright minds to work at Glenfield Hospital and succeeded in establishing the Cardiovascular Research Institute with the purpose of co-ordinating cardiovascular research in Leicester.

His last four years were blighted by progressive disability due to motor neurone disease, which he coped with simply by ignoring it. Latterly he succumbed to a wheelchair because he found it was the only means of getting a taxi door opened for him. He communicated electronically using voice synthesisers and computers, partly modified to his own specifications.

He remained in regular touch with the Edinburgh College as Regional Adviser since 1993. He was also active in our sister College in London and chaired the Joint Working Party of the British Cardiac Society and RCP on the management of angina. It is ironic that this was published in May, only a few days after his death. The clarity of thought, lucidity of expression and consistent good sense in the guidelines are characteristic of him. Sadly he died prematurely and had much more to give.

In spite of his enormous commitment to his work his family always played a central role in his life. He loved to sail his boat '*en famille*' on the Forth or on family holidays

in Cornwall. The church was also important and he gave generously of his time. He was a mentor to new communicants.

He coped with the troubles of recent years with great dignity and courage, universally admired. He is survived by his wife, Anne, also a doctor, and two sons, one of whom is studying medicine.

HCM

JOHN URQUHART CRICHTON

Professor J.U. Crichton died on 4 February 1999. He was born on 25 December 1921 in Edinburgh and graduated MB ChB at the University of Edinburgh in 1944. After paediatric training in Manchester and Glasgow, he obtained a Diploma in Child Health in 1950. In 1952 Dr Crichton emigrated to Canada where he entered private paediatric practice. He developed a special interest in paediatric neurology and spent a year as the Clarissa Norman Research Fellow on epilepsy at the Hospital for Sick Children in London in 1964. He returned to Canada and was appointed Professor of Paediatrics at the University of British Columbia. Professor Crichton became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada in 1972. He leaves a legacy in his old department of academic excellence and collegiality. He was elected to the Fellowship of this College in 1971.

DONALD MACKENZIE DOUGLAS

Dr D.M. Douglas died on 11 January 1999. He was born on 2 September 1916 and graduated MB BS at London in 1940. He served in the RAF until 1946 when he accepted the post of Registrar in Paediatrics at Guy's Hospital, London. In 1948 Dr Douglas moved to Edinburgh and was appointed Consultant Paediatrician at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children. He also held the posts of Paediatrician to the Border Group of Hospitals and Paediatrician at the Simpson Maternity Hospital. Dr Douglas became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London in 1968. He was elected to the Fellowship of this College in 1959.

CHARLES HENRY GURD

Dr C.H. Gurd died on 25 February. He was born on 3 March 1920 in Bristol and graduated MB ChB at the University of Bristol in 1943. After two years in war service in the Merchant Navy, Dr Gurd began work with the British Colonial Medical Service in 1946. He specialised in tropical medicine and in 1953 was appointed Physician Specialist in Fiji. For his work in Fiji he was honoured with the OBE in 1960 and with the CBE in 1969. He moved to Darwin, Australia where he became Director of Health in 1973 and then Secretary of the Department of Health in 1979. Dr Gurd had a special interest in cardiovascular diseases and diabetes. He was elected to the Fellowship of this College in 1963.

ALEXANDER HENDERSON IMRIE

Dr A.H. Imrie died in a road traffic collision on 26 February. He was born on 16 June 1908 and graduated MB ChB (Commend.) at the University of Glasgow in 1930. During World War II he served as Lieutenant Colonel in the RAMC. In 1952 Dr Imrie was appointed Physician to the Oban District Hospitals and in 1957 Physician-in-Charge of Wards & Diabetic Clinic at the Royal Infirmary of Glasgow, a position he held until 1973 when he became Honorary Consultant Physician. He had a particular interest in diabetes and in 1971 became Chairman of the Scottish Committee of the British Diabetic Association. Dr Imrie was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London in 1951 and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow in 1962. He was elected to the Fellowship of this College in 1976.

AGNEW BARRY GRANGE LAING

Dr A.B.G. Laing died recently. He was born on 21 September 1922 and graduated MB ChB at the University of Edinburgh in 1945. The following year Dr Laing moved to Malaysia where he developed an interest in tropical medicine, and became involved in research in filariasis and malaria at the Institute of Medical Research, Kuala Lumpur. In 1963 Dr Laing took the post of malarialogist at the Institute of Malaria and Vector-Borne Diseases, Amani, Tanzania, where he stayed until 1966, when he moved to Gambia. Dr Laing returned to Malaysia in 1972 and continued his research work at the Leprosy Research Unit, Sungei Buloh, Selangor. In 1982 he became WHO Consultant on leprosy management in Turkey. Dr Laing was awarded the OBE in 1979. He was elected to the Fellowship of this College in 1983.

VASANT VINAYAK ODAK

Dr V.V. Odak died on 14 March 1998. He was born on 8 February 1928 and graduated MB BS at the University of Agra in 1951. Dr Odak did his postgraduate training at the Grant Medical College, Bombay and gained his MD in 1955. He had a particular interest in endocrinology, and in 1960 was appointed Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Department of Medicine in the Division of Metabolic & Endocrine Diseases at the John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. In 1969 he was appointed Honorary Professor of Medicine at the Grant Medical College, Bombay. Dr Odak became a Fellow of the Maharashtra Academy of Sciences in 1980. He was elected to the Fellowship of this College in 1994.

HILLARY PETER OJIAMBO

Dr H.P. Ojiambo died on 27 April 1997. He was born on 11 May 1933 and graduated MB ChB at the Makerere University College, University of East Africa in 1957. In 1963 Dr Ojiambo became the first indigenous Kenyan doctor to gain MRCP. In 1964 he was appointed Consultant Physician to the Cardiac Unit at the Kenyatta National Hospital, Nairobi and in 1975 became Professor and Head of the Department of Medicine at the University of Nairobi. Dr Ojiambo was elected a Fellow of the American College of Cardiologists in 1972. He became a Fellow of this College in 1976.

BRIAN LLEWELLYN CHURCHILL PHILLIPS

Dr B.L.C. Phillips died recently. He was born on 22 March 1923 and graduated MB in 1943 in London. Dr Phillips started his medical career as House Surgeon at St Mary's Hospital, London, in 1945. He then served in the RNVF until 1948 when he accepted the post of Medical Officer of the Colonial Medical Service in Hong Kong. In 1958 Dr Phillips was appointed Specialist in Medicine and in 1964 Senior Specialist in Medicine at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Hong Kong Government Medical Department where he was responsible for the organisation of the medical services. Dr Phillips' specialty was respiratory medicine. He was elected to the Fellowship of this College in 1967.

BASIL INDRANATHA BANDARA SENEVIRATNE

Dr B.I.B. Seneviratne died on 1 April 1998. He was born on 9 April 1932 and graduated MB BS with First Class Honours in 1957 at Ceylon. In 1962 Dr Seneviratne received the Commonwealth Scholarship in Britain and trained at the National Heart Hospital, London. After his return to Ceylon he was appointed Consultant Physician at the General Hospital, Badulla. In 1973 Dr Seneviratne took the post of Specialist Physician at the Southland Hospital, Invercargill, New Zealand. He later moved to Australia where he worked as Senior Specialist at Repatriation Hospital, Brisbane. Dr Seneviratne was elected to the Fellowship of this College in 1979.

MALCOLM ROBERT JOHN SNELLING

Dr M.R.J. Snelling died on 8 January 1999. He was born on 7 October 1915 and qualified MRCS England and LRCP London in 1939. In 1941 he joined the RAF and served in the Mediterranean. After the war he took the post of Medical Officer at the King Edward VII Sanatorium, Sussex. He moved to Malaysia in 1955 and was appointed Medical Superintendent of the Lady Templer Hospital, Kuala Lumpur and then Honorary Consulting Physician to the University Hospital. Dr Snelling's specialty was thoracic medicine. For his distinguished services in Malaysia, he was awarded the OBE in 1970. He was elected to the Fellowship of this College in 1970.

STANLEY HOWARD TAYLOR

Professor S.H. Taylor died on 13 January 1999. He was born on 13 October 1925 and graduated MB ChB at Birmingham in 1953. He started his medical career as House Surgeon in the Department of Neurosurgery, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham where he was appointed Lecturer in Medicine in 1958. He then moved to Edinburgh in 1961 and took the post of Senior Lecturer in Medicine, Department of Medicine, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. In 1967 he was appointed Senior Lecturer in Medicine at the University of Leeds, Consultant Physician to the United Leeds Hospitals and Leeds Regional Hospital Board and Physician-in-Charge and Deputy Director of the University Cardiovascular Unit. He became a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology in 1982 and a Fellow of the European Society of Cardiology in 1984. Professor Taylor was elected to the Fellowship of this College in 1973.

GEORGE RANKEN TUDHOPE

Dr G.R. Tudhope died on 24 July 1998. He was born on 28 January 1924 and graduated MB ChB in 1947 at the University of St Andrews. Dr Tudhope was appointed Lecturer at the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics at the University of Sheffield in 1954 and Senior Lecturer in 1960. In 1959 he received a Medical Research Council travelling fellowship at the University of Utah where he developed an interest in haematology. In 1964 Dr Tudhope moved to Dundee and was appointed Reader in Therapeutics at the University of Dundee and Honorary Consultant Physician at Ninewells Hospital and the Royal Infirmary, Dundee. Dr Tudhope became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London in 1970. He was elected a Fellow of this College in 1961.

JULIAN VAHRMAN

Dr J. Vahrman died on 13 February. He was born on 1 December 1913 and qualified MRCS England and LRCP London in 1936. He then became a ship's doctor in the Merchant Navy sailing to both South Africa and Australia. On his return to Britain he worked at the Grove Hospital, Tooting, until he joined the RAMC during World War II. After the war Dr Vahrman worked as Senior Registrar in Infectious Diseases at the Royal Free Hospital until 1951 when he became Chest Physician at the Fulham Chest Clinic. In 1965 he was appointed Consultant Physician in Infectious Diseases at the Western Hospital, London. After his retirement, at the age of 78, Dr Vahrman gained an MA in peace studies at Bradford University. He was elected to the Fellowship of this College in 1977.

LESLIE ANDREW WILSON

Dr L.A. Wilson died on 5 April 1999. He was born on 15 June 1917 and graduated MB ChB in 1941 at the University of Aberdeen. During World War II he served in the RAMC. Dr Wilson was appointed Senior Registrar in General Medicine, Aberdeen General Hospitals in 1950. In 1955 he took the post of Consultant in Administrative Charge of the Regional Geriatric Service, North-Eastern Hospital Region, Scotland and he also accepted the duties of Visiting Consultant in General Medicine, Orkney and Shetland Islands. Dr Wilson was elected Chairman of the Scottish Branch of the British Geriatric Society in 1965. At the time of his retirement in 1982 he held a position of Senior Consultant Geriatrician for Aberdeen and the North East. Dr Wilson became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London in 1970. He was elected to the Fellowship of this College in 1971.