This section, *In memoriam*, brings to the attention of Fellows and Collegiate Members the deaths of colleagues and friends. Obituaries – intended to record and pay tribute to the life and work of Fellows and Collegiate Members whose deaths have been reported in *In memoriam* – can be found on the College website: www.rcpe.ac.uk/fellows_&_members/obituaries/index.php

Fellows and Collegiate Members are warmly invited to provide the Obituaries Editor (Dr Derek Doyle, derekdoyle@waitrose.com) with information that will enable him to write or commission obituaries.

**Dr Alan Marsh Barlow, FRCP Edin**
Born: 27.07.1928  Died: 25.01.2009  Specialty: Pathology  

**Dr Nancy Beaton Louden, OBE, FRCP Edin**

**Dr John Kenneth Binns, FRCP Edin**
Born: 23.01.1928  Died: 01.03.2009  Specialty: Psychiatry  

**Dr Arvind Jamnadas Desai, FRCP Edin**
Born: 18.08.1930  Died: 01.02.2009  Specialty: Haematology  

**Dr Janet Lucile Elder, AM, FRCP Edin**
Born: 09.06.1921  Died: 29.01.2009  Specialty: Respiratory/Thoracic Medicine  
MB Melbourne 1946, MRCP Edin 1959, FRCP Edin 1972

**Dr Eveline Patricia Forbes, FRCP Edin**
BSc Cape Town 1944, MB Cape Town 1948, MRCP Edin 1952, DCH Lond 1955, FRCP Edin 1969

**Dr Theodore Lindsay Henderson MBE, FRCP Edin**
Born: 01.04.1924  Died: 01.04.2009  Specialty: General Practice/Primary Care  
MB Edin 1946, MRCP Edin 1950, FRCP Edin 1971

**Dr Alexander Leslie Honeyman, FRCP Edin**
Born: 27.05.1936  Died: 26.01.2009  
MB St And 1960, MRCP Edin 1965, FRCP Edin 1977

**Professor Gustav Adolph Martini, Hon FRCP Edin**
Born: 13.07.1916  Died: 27.12.2007  Specialty: General Internal Medicine (Professor of Medicine, Marburg 1963–81)  
MD Freiburg 1942, Hon FACCP, Hon FRCP Edin

**Professor Robert Ian McCallum, CBE, FRCP Edin**
MB Lond, MD Lond, DSc Lond 1971, FRCP Lond 1970, FFOM 1979, FRCP Edin 1985

**Professor Mohan Sankar John Pathy, OBE, FRCP Edin**
Born: 26.04.1923  Died: 09.04.2009  Specialty: Geriatric Medicine  

**Dr John Francis Webb, MC, FRCP Edin**
Born: 05.02.1917  Died: 05.04.2009  Specialty: Respiratory/Thoracic Medicine  
MB Ncle 1940, MD Durham 1956, MRCP Edin 1966, DTM&H, FRCP Edin 1972

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**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**Nephrotic syndrome in a bee-keeper**  
(*J R Coll Physicians Edinb* 2009; 39:20–1)

Dr Hiemstra and his colleagues make a persuasive case for linking amyloid nephropathy to repeated bee-stings in a 78-year-old bee-keeper. However, they are surely mistaken in saying that secondary amyloidosis was ‘only relatively recently described’. The earliest account of this condition was given by Carl von Rokitansky, in 1842, who noted its predilection to involve the liver, spleen and kidneys.¹ Nineteenth-century physicians and pathologists confirmed the association with long-standing inflammatory and septic conditions, which had been noted by Giovanni Battista Morgagni and René-Théophile-Hyacinthe Laennec years previously. One veterinary ‘model’ of the disease, which might be relevant to the present case, was provided by the unfortunate horses who were used to prepare antitoxins: these hyper-immunised animals often died of amyloidosis. Of course, the categorisation of amyloidosis, and in particular, its association with monoclonal gammopathy (‘primary’ disease) had to wait until the twentieth century. Nevertheless, amyloidosis due to repeated anomalous antigenic stimulation has been recognised for more than 150 years!

Dr Colin Geary, FRCP Edin

¹ Rokitansky C. *Handbuch der speciellen pathologischen Anatomie*.  