OBITUARIES

DM DAVIES

Following house appointments at The London Hospital, Dr ‘Dai’ Davies considered medical journalism as a career, but after a short spell under Theodore Fox at the Lancet, returned to clinical work first at the Bolingbroke Hospital and then back at ‘The London’, where in due course he became Senior Registrar to Sir Horace (later) Lord Evans, and then Receiving Room Physician. In 1962, he was appointed Consultant Physician at Shotley Bridge General Hospital, where he remained until he retired from the NHS in 1986. He then took up the Foundation Chair of Clinical Pharmacology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Dr Davies’ lifelong interests were in rational therapeutics and in adverse reactions to drugs, interests that flowered at Shotley Bridge, where he rationalised prescription sheets, encouraged production of a hospital formulary, and set up the first district general hospital Clinical Pharmacology Unit and an out-patient Clinical Trials Unit. He became a Clinical Tutor, Honorary Lecturer in Pharmacology and Senior Lecturer in Clinical Toxicology at the University of Newcastle, and Director of the Northern Regional Clinical Pharmacology Unit. He served on the Committee of Safety of Medicines for 18 years, and stimulated the inclusion of yellow cards in, originally, prescription pads. He was Examiner in Clinical Pharmacology for the Universities of London and Dundee. In addition to all these activities he was responsible for 52 acute and 100 geriatric beds, being on ‘tackle’ one night in two, and holding four or five out-patient clinics a week.

His greatest influence was through his major publications: the Adverse Drug Reaction Bulletin, the Textbook of Adverse Drug Reactions and the Adverse Drug Reactions and Acute Poisoning Reviews.

His immense contributions to clinical pharmacology never received official recognition.

H de G

SH DAVIES

Howard Davies established the Department of Haematology at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh in 1961 and under his direction, until his retirement in 1979, it grew rapidly to become pre-eminent in the field. He was instrumental in developing the effective model of a combined clinical and laboratory haematology department, that was emulated by many others and which was to become the accepted way in which a haematology service should be provided.

Howard was born in 1914 to a Shropshire farming family of modest means. At the age of 12 years, after his father’s death he moved with his brother and mother to Wolverhampton. Following completion of schooling and a period working for Boots in Nottingham, he went to the city’s University where he took a degree in Pharmaceutical Chemistry. His career, like so many of his contemporaries, was interrupted by World War II when he served in North Africa and Italy. As a Captain in the artillery, one of his responsibilities was to fly in spotter planes which directed firing of the ground-based guns.

After the war, he entered the Medical School in Edinburgh where he had an outstanding undergraduate career culminating in being designated the Etelis Scholar – the most academically distinguished student of his year. He was reputed to have made the best notes, a facility prized by fellow students who had missed lectures and wished to make up the lost ground! He was house physician to Dr Richard Turner at the Western General Hospital and then moved back to Wolverhampton to take up a similar junior post in gynaecology. Thereafter he entered general practice for five years in the Midlands and latterly as a GP Principal in Sutton Coldfield.

In 1958, he wished to return to hospital medicine and was awarded the Kirk Duncanson Research Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. Under the guidance of Sir Stanley Davidson and Dr Robert Cumming, Director of the South East Scotland Blood Transfusion Service, he undertook research in blood coagulation. At this time renal dialysis and cardiopulmonary bypass techniques were being developed. Howard’s investigations established how heparin should be administered and controlled to prevent extra-corporeal clotting of the blood. His exceptional abilities as a laboratory worker and clinician were soon recognised and he was promoted in 1960 to the post of senior registrar in blood transfusion. In the following year he became the first consultant haematologist at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

The duties attached to Howard’s consultant appointment included responsibility for all laboratory haematology services throughout the city. He soon arranged for the appointment of haematologists to the city’s other major hospitals. Over the succeeding six years he developed a large and thriving department in a new building within the Royal Infirmary. He continued his innovative studies in blood coagulation by treating those with haemophilia with cryoprecipitate, when it first became available in 1965, and subsequently with the first clotting factor concentrates of factors VIII and IX produced by the Protein Fractionation Centre in Edinburgh.

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He had a particular interest in the training and promotion of haematology technicians (now biomedical scientists) and many who were trained in the Royal Infirmary currently hold senior posts in hospitals throughout the UK. He served as an advisor to Napier University for the development of training courses.

Howard's commitment and enthusiasm for haematology will be well recalled by a generation of students and junior doctors. His formal teaching programme was supplemented by impromptu tutorials, which were often given in the ward or hospital corridor. With his progressive and forward-looking views he was an influential leader and was much sought after to serve on national advisory committees for haematology services. He was a founder member of the UK Supra-Regional Haemophilia Directors' Committee. Those with haemophilia were exceptionally well served by his unthinking commitment to their holistic care. He was an active supporter of the patients' Haemophilia Society nationally and particularly of the local Edinburgh branch. He also helped establish the East of Scotland and Newcastle Lymphoma Group and with his enthusiastic support it grew into the Scotland and Newcastle Lymphoma Group.

In the College he was an active member of the Library Committee and his contributions were greatly valued by the library staff. He particularly enjoyed the fellowship of the Haematology Travellers' Club. During the early years of his retirement he sat on the Executive Committee of St Columba's Hospice where he played an important role in the expansion of the educational facilities of this leading palliative care service.

Howard Davies was noted for his many achievements and for the time and care he gave to all with whom he met and worked. Many remember him for the warmth of his personality and his generous spirit.

He is survived by Anne Lambie, a retired physician and a Fellow of the College, whom he married in 1961. Howard and Anne shared immense pride in their daughter Sarah, who trained in Edinburgh and practises as a veterinary pathologist.

RHT DAVIES


Richard trained at Kings College, London - graduating in 1996. Pre-registration House Officer year was spent at the Kent and Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells and Kings College Hospital, London. He worked as a Senior House Officer at Warwick Hospital, St James' Hospital and Cookridge Hospital, Leeds. He was most recently employed as a Trust doctor at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford.

Despite his illness Richard continued to achieve a harmonious balance of work, family life and living! Richard loved life. Richard died of bowel cancer aged 31 and leaves a wife and two children.

LJD

AK BLACK

Albert Black qualified LMS in the first batch of medical graduates from the Ceylon Medical College in 1940 but the War interrupted his plans for postgraduate study. After hospital appointments in Colombo he returned to his home town Jaffna, and worked in the area as District Medical Officer for 11 years when he was offered a scholarship to travel to Edinburgh for further studies. He had a clinical attachment at Central Middlesex Hospital in 1953/54 and after obtaining the MRCP he pursued the specialty of Dermatology while working in London. He continued his special interest in Dermatology in Colombo, Kandy and Jaffna in the public sector. In 1964 he took early retirement and transferred to the private sector, migrating to Australia in 1996 to join his daughter in Melbourne. He died peacefully at the age of 88 years leaving his wife, two children, one of them a doctor, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Friends who had known him always remarked on his fine manners. Memorial services were held for him both in Sri Lanka and in Australia with tributes offered in English and in Tamil.

BN FRASER
Basil Newell Fraser, General Practitioner: b. 21.01.1919; d. 03.03.2003. MB Wits 1942, MRCP Edin 1951, FRCP Edin 1971

After graduation Basil Fraser spent three years as a Medical Officer with South African Medical Corps and then gained various Registrar appointments before returning to Durban as Senior Medical Officer at Wentworth Hospital, Durban, South Africa. After Senior Physician positions in Johannesburg and Durban Dr Fraser returned to the south of England where he undertook locum positions.

On his return to South Africa, Dr Fraser became Specialist Physician at the Medical Bureau for Occupational Diseases in Johannesburg. Dr Fraser enjoyed Life Membership of the Old Johannan Society.
the Wild Life Society of South Africa and the London House Fellowship of which he was for 15 years the Transvaal Honorary Secretary.

AJ FRANKLIN

After a variety of posts in the early 1960s Alan Franklin became Consultant Paediatrician in 1972 at the Chelmsford and Colchester Districts in Essex. Within the speciality he developed a further interest in allergic diseases of children and joined the British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology. He began a children’s allergy clinic initially for children with asthma and cystic fibrosis and was appointed to the Medical Advisor to the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, Essex Branch.

Dr Franklin additionally became involved with the adoption of children and became honorary consultant to a local residential school for physically handicapped boys. He regularly attended meetings of the British Paediatric Association and the British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology and made brief appearances on television talking on allergy subjects and lecturing to various groups on similar matters.

JM MATHESON
Major General John Mackenzie Matheson, Surgeon: b. 06.08.1912; d. 09.11.2003, OBE, TD, MB Edinb 1936, MRCP Edin 1939, MD Edin 1945, FRCS Ed 1946, FRCS Eng 1962, FRCP Edin 1972

Major General John Matheson was one of the towering figures on the British medico-military scene of the past century. Amid his numerous impressive appointments, he also found time to write on the subject of Military Medicine for the Dictionary of Medical Ethics (1977) and pen papers for learned medical journals on gunshot wounds, gas, gangrene and sterilisation.

He was given a Regular RAMC commission while serving in World War II and served in the Middle East, North Africa and Italy. As Medical Liaison Officer to the Surgeon General, US Army, Washington DC 1948–50, he gained transatlantic recognition and he served as the assistant chief of general surgery at the Walter Reed Army Hospital, Washington DC, from 1950–1. Following time as a consultant surgeon, he became director of the Royal Army Medical College. He was also the Queen’s Honorary Surgeon (1969–71). From 1971–80 he was Postgraduate Dean, Medical Faculty, Edinburgh University. A senior fellow of the Association of Surgeons GB & Ireland, he served on committees of the British Medical Association.

He was president of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene, Military Surgical Society and Edinburgh University Graduates’ Association.

NJW ROYSTON

Nigel Royston graduated from the Middlesex Hospital Medical School London in 1952 having first served in the RAF during the war. After completing his paediatric training in Cardiff and Great Ormond Street, he was appointed as a Consultant Paediatrician in Somerset in 1963. Here he covered a hospital base in both Yeovil and in Taunton, where he helped set up the Somerset Neonatal Unit. In Yeovil he was instrumental in pioneering a child development centre that integrated all provision from health, social services and education for children with disabilities all on the one site. At the time this was a first in the country and was filmed by the BBC in a programme entitled ‘Under One Roof’. This remains as a successful model of joint working that is in line with current thinking about Children’s Centres. He retired in 1982.

JE MCKNIGHT

Following various House Officer appointments John McKnight joined the Royal Air Force in 1941, servicing until 1946 and obtaining the rank of Squadron Leader and becoming Senior Medical Officer at several Royal Air Force stations. After leaving the forces he entered General Practice in Belfast in 1947 where he developed a special interest in dental anaesthesia. He became Chairman of Industrial Injury and War Pensions Boards, Northern Ireland for many years.

Dr McKnight was responsible for creating the regional organisation of clinical and honorary speciality postgraduate tutors and was also responsible for the implementation of the Vocational Training Scheme for General Practice in Northern Ireland. He instituted continuing education programmes for doctors and dentists organising many courses and symposia. He established Postgraduate Medical Centres throughout Northern Ireland and became secretary of the Northern Ireland Council for Postgraduate Medical Education assisting in its formation.

PG BASU
OBITUARIES

Phani Gopal Basu was born in Calcutta. After qualifying he worked in India and undertook postgraduate training in the UK. He returned to India in 1965 and joined his own college, Calcutta National Medical College, as Clinical Tutor.

He was later promoted to the post of Lecturer in October 1970, Assistant Professor in 1973, Reader in 1975 and ultimately held the post of Professor and Head of the Department of Cardiology until his retirement at the age of 58 on 1 January 1991.

During his professional career he published many papers on his specialised subject in different renowned journals. He used to play football, cricket and tennis very well and playing western tunes on his guitar was a favourite pastime.

He was a very soft-hearted, learned man with an amiable personality and every weekend he used to visit his native village in the district of Hooghly, West Bengal to extend free treatment and medicines to the poor villagers. He will be sadly missed.

RJP RYDER

Kim Ryder was born and educated in Dublin, graduating MB BCh from Trinity College in 1953. He undertook trainee posts in Banbridge Hospital, Co. Down and Guy's Hospital, London where he obtained the Diploma in Clinical Pathology. He then returned to Northern Ireland and undertook further trainee posts at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast and at Altnagelvin Hospital, Londonderry.

During 1963–5 he was a Research Fellow at Tufts University/New England Medical Centre, Boston, his research interest being the development of immunological tolerance to specific antigens as an alternative to 'broad spectrum' immunosuppression in the field of organ transplantation.

At the conclusion of his research fellowship, he returned to his beloved Dublin, and obtained a Consultant post at St James' Hospital. As a busy haematologist, his research opportunities were limited, and his clinical duties became increasingly onerous. He was respected, indeed loved, by his laboratory staff and his talented, sympathetic, and humane approach was a feature of his relationship to his patients.

Kim was a gregarious soul. He loved Ireland, and he was proud and protective of his specialty. He had many friends in the different branches of Pathology, and he felt that the various disciplines of Pathology had much in common ('We're all on the same side, Sam'). So it is intellectually consistent that he devoted much effort to the affairs of the Association of Clinical Pathologists, not only in Ireland, but at the UK level as well. His efforts on behalf of the ACP were recognised and appreciated and he was made an Honorary Fellow of the association in 1997.

Kim's wife Cora, to whom he was devoted, died from breast cancer in 1999. They are survived by their children, four daughters and one son, who were brought up in a caring and kind household, and who share the values of their parents.

His former colleagues still speak kindly of him, and I feel privileged to have had him as a friend.

SDN
The Editor has also been informed of the deaths of the following Fellows and Members of the College about whom very little biographical information is available. It would be pleased to publish a supplementary notice should further information be supplied:

PROFESSOR MOHAMMAD BASHIR AZAMI
General Medicine: b. 01.08.1922; d. 06.01.2004. MB Punjab 1944, MRCP Edin 1955.

DR SYDNEY GORDON FORBES WILSON
Paediatrics: b. 06.05.1924; d. 16.01.2004. MB Edin 1947, MRCP Edin 1953, MD Edin 1960.

DR RONALD FRANK BROOKS

DR IAN WANG

DR ROBERT SUTHERLAND CHAPMAN

DR FRANCIS JOSEPH CYRIL PERERA

DR VYTIALINGAM SIVALINGAM
Speciality unknown: b. 08.08.1898; d. unknown, notified 04.08.2003. LMS Sri Lanka 1924, MRCP Edin 1932.

DR KANKANAMALAGE DHARMADASA

DR ALAN RAMSAY MILNE