Obituaries

Sir George Smart

A reformer of medical education

George Smart was a physician who specialised in metabolic medicine, nutrition, and endocrinology, but it is for his contribution to medical education that he will best be remembered. The curriculum he introduced at Newcastle and later copied by other medical schools did away with much rote learning and was based on problem solving and the needs of patients. He also improved continuing medical education at the Royal College of Physicians and became an energetic and popular director of the British Postgraduate Medical Federation.

After qualifying at Newcastle Medical School, which was then part of Durham University, taking a BSc in physiology en route, he did his house jobs at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle. He then spent the second world war in the Royal Air Force, where he was part of a team dealing with nutritional standards for airmen. From 1946 to 1950 he lectured in medicine at Bristol University, taking a year out to study at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and to visit other medical centres.

He returned to Newcastle as reader in medicine, becoming head of the department of medicine in 1956, and training many of the next generation's leading physicians. He became postgraduate subdean in 1962, the year in which he introduced a new medical curriculum.

In 1971 he accepted an invitation to become head of the British Postgraduate Medical Federation, which supervised the

postgraduate institutes of London University and appointed the postgraduate deans. He was censor in 1965-7, and senior censor and then senior vice president in 1972-3 at the Royal College of Physicians. He took a great interest in overseas students, showing them fatherly friendship and paving the way for generations of students to come to Newcastle. He chaired the General Medical Council's review board for overseas qualified practitioners during 1979-82, and was made an honorary fellow of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Pakistan. He contributed to several textbooks, but disliked writing and said every word was a drop of blood.

He was an imposing man who put his work first. He had a lifelong interest in science and his knowledge of maths, statistics, and electronics enabled him to build his own laboratory equipment. He loved sailing and served on the Royal National Lifeboat Institution's medical and survival committee. A "devout atheist," he enjoyed locking horns with the vicar in the village discussion group.

He leaves a wife, Monica; three children; and six grandchildren. [CAROLINE RICHMOND]

Professor Abdel Rahman Musa writes: I arrived in Newcastle in the winter of 1965 to join the department of medicine as the first Sudanese postgraduate student under the guidance of Professor Smart. The warm welcome of Professor and Mrs Smart alleviated much of the worry of a young couple leaving home for the first time. For the years to come George and Monica Smart remained "parents" to us.

Professor Smart paved the way for generations of postgraduate students to make the best of Newcastle. The link was kept alive by his successors, many of whom have developed special ties with Khartoum. P+

George Algernon Smart, former director British Postgraduate Medical Federation (b Alnwick, Northumberland, 1913; q Durham 1937; MD, FRCP), died on 2 November 2003 following a broken hip.

William Garden Hendry

Former consultant surgeon London (b Aberdeen 1914; q Aberdeen 1936; FRCS, FRCS Ed), died from cerebral vascular disease on 26 September 2003.

After house posts Garden Hendry enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps and went on to serve in the Middle East. On demobilisation he joined the London County Council hospital service at Highlands hospital (then known as the Northern Hospital), where he worked for 34 years. He had a wide surgical repertoire, with gastric surgery as a major interest. Garden was a keen gardener and an even keener golfer. In his retirement, he wrote a book, *The Dynamic Anatomy of the Golf Swing: A Scientific Approach to Improvement at Golf*. Predeceased by his wife, Mary, he leaves three children and eight grandchildren. [H CAPLAN] P+

Robert Hodkinson

General practitioner Longridge, Lancashire (b Preston 1943; q Edinburgh 1967), died from pancreatic cancer on 6 May 2003.

Robert became a general practitioner in Longridge in 1971. He pioneered a psychosexual medicine service in the area in the 1970s, and was also a trainer and then course organiser for GP registrars. Later he reduced his hours so that he could pursue other interests including mediation in complaints against GPs. He owned a narrow boat, and was perfectly happy steering it for miles on the canals, even in the rain, so long as his pipe was going. He leaves a wife, Kate; three children; and a grandson. [ALICE HODKINSON]

Ursula Margaret Hutchinson

General practitioner Bierfield, Nelson, Lancashire (b 1957; q Galway 1981; MRCP), died from cancer on 29 October 2003.

Ursula trained in Ireland before coming to Manchester in 1986 to complete her general practice training. She became a full time principal in 1986. In 2000 she obtained her diploma in dermatology and went on to set up an intermediate care clinic in dermatology for primary care. In 1999 she became an undergraduate tutor for the University of Manchester. She leaves a husband, Roger. [MIKE IONS, DAVID WEBBORN]

Mary Rose Kirkpatrick

Former medical officer of health Norfolk (b 1921; q London 1945; DCH), died on 1 October 2003 following a road traffic incident.

After qualifying Mary Rose Kirkpatrick worked at Birmingham Children's Hospital. Then at the age of 40 she went to Zululand as the medical superintendent of St Mary's Hospital, Kwa Magwaza, a long established Anglican mission hospital. On returning to England she became a medical officer of health in 1974 with the North Norfolk Community Health Service, where she remained until her retirement in 1986. [JOAN CLEGG]

Hugh Hunter Morrison

Former general practitioner Stanley, County Durham (b Prestwick, Ayrshire, 1919; q Glasgow 1943), died from prostate cancer on 18 January 2003.

During the second world war Hugh served with the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in Simonstown, South Africa, and Kristiansand, Norway—just after German withdrawal—supplying the local hospital with its first antibiotics. He was then involved with the D Day landings. He later settled into

general practice in Port Glasgow before moving to Stanley, County Durham, in 1948. His beloved Austin Healey Sprite is now being restored in his memory. He leaves a wife, Nancy, and three children. [CHRISTOPHER MORRISON]

Richard George Macmillan Poston

General practitioner Oldham 1953-2003 (b Oldham 1926; q St Andrews 1953), died from urothelial cancer on 28 November 2003.

Following house jobs at Dundee Royal Infirmary George entered general practice and remained in the same Glodwick practice until retirement. He was involved in the creation of the first purpose built health centre in Oldham, and throughout his career he never lived more than a few hundred yards from the surgery. For many years he was secretary of the Oldham Medical Society. He leaves a wife, Christine; four children; and four grandchildren. [GRAEME POSTON]

Shri Ram Purwar

Former general practitioner Orpington, Kent (b 1929; q Lucknow Medical College 1952), died from renal failure on 20 September 2003.

Shri was raised in Allahabad, which was then the crucible of the Indian independence movement, and was active in nationalist politics as a teenager. He was even imprisoned briefly and shared a cell with L B Shastri, who was later to become prime minister. Soon after he qualified, Shri came to the United Kingdom. He intended to become a surgeon but, in 1962, when the FRCS he had sought so diligently continued to elude him, he retrained as a general practitioner. In 1966 he was appointed to a singlehanded vacancy in Orpington, where he remained for more than 35 years. He leaves a wife, Valerie; three sons; and five grandsons. [R PURWAR]

Diane Rawle

Former chief executive Premier Health NHS Trust, Staffordshire (b Barnsley 1953; q Sheffield 1978), died from cancer on 23 October 2003.

Following vocational training in Barnsley, Diane entered general practice, but after a year she married, and accompanied her husband to Stafford when he entered general practice there. Diane worked as a clinical medical officer, based in Burton-upon-Trent, subsequently becoming principal medical officer. With the formation of trusts, she became medical director and then chief executive of Premier Health, a community and mental health trust. She was one of the earliest women and doctors to attain a senior management role in the NHS. She leaves a husband and a daughter. [MICHAEL RAWLE]

Rasaratnam ("Esha") Sarvesvaran

Former lecturer in forensic medicine Charing Cross Hospital (b 1931; q Colombo Medical College 1956; MD, MRCP), died from a heart attack on 8 August 2003.

He served in various hospitals in Sri Lanka before being appointed lecturer in forensic medicine at the University of Colombo. On coming to the United Kingdom in 1976 he took up the post of lecturer in forensic medicine at Charing Cross Hospital and police surgeon to the Surrey Constabulary. Three years of his sabbatical were spent in Malaysia as associate professor of forensic medicine. On his retirement in 1994 he worked as an honorary forensic pathologist at Guy's Hospital until his final retirement in 1996. He leaves a wife, Carmela; three children; and four grandchildren. [CHRISTIAN MAHENDRA]

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