

in memoriam

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demolished in the year of his passing!

Thom's zest for life extended beyond the bounds of family and medicine. He had numerous hobbies and interests. He was an accomplished oil painter and his works enlivened the walls of our hospital.

His education was not limited to medicine. In 1987 he received his degree in yacht architecture from the Westlawn School of Yacht Design, Stamford, Connecticut, and became an associate member of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers of the USA.

Sailing was a constant competing passion with his dedication to medicine. He was at peace with the world when at the helm—the rougher the sea, the better. His sailing adventures were many, including the Caribbean, Mediterranean, and Atlantic. He competed in two Victoria-Maui yacht races. During the last one in 1992, Thom skippered a crew of cardiac surgery survivors, including himself. They were affectionately nicknamed the Zipper Club and finished first in

their division and second overall. In life and at sea, Thom exuded confidence. Confronted with a crisis, be it of flailing spinnaker sheet or engine failure in tight quarters, he was always calm, focused, and resourceful—unflappable. Thom was the ultimate sailing mentor.

Thom was predeceased by his first wife, Anneke. He is survived and greatly missed by his loving wife of 33 years, Anna May (Girard); his sons from his first marriage, Robert (Brenda) and Tom (Pat); grandchildren, Michael, Tommy, Robbie, Lucy, Josie (James); and great-granddaughter, Annika.

Thom will always be remembered by his family and friends as a handsome Renaissance man with a beautiful mind. May the winds be steady and the seas forgiving for your voyage, Old Salt; safe passage to port.

— **John Albrecht, MD**
— **Ruth Albrecht, MD**
New Westminster

personal view

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ing and illegal activities. However, the societal problems that result from a lack of treatment services outweigh the economic costs of making affordable addiction treatment services available.

If all individuals with addictions in BC were able to access appropriate treatment services when they choose to seek help, the benefits would extend beyond the individual to improve the collective health of our communities.

There is a body of medical knowledge on addictions in this province, and I concur with Dr Oetter in her editorial "Addiction medicine is a specialty—let's recognize it" [*BCM/J* 2005;47(10):526] that addiction medicine physicians need to be supported and recognized. These physicians should be compensated fairly when they provide readily accessible treatment services to all citizens as needed.

Conservative cost estimates in *No Further Harm* (1997), a document published by the BCMA Advisory Committee on Narcotics Harm Reduction, revealed that every dollar invested in addiction treatment would result in a fifteenfold return. This document espoused that addiction treatment constitutes a continuum of services that include primary prevention, harm reduction, and clinical intervention.

The BCMA Council on Health Promotion is interested in striking a new committee to review the area of addictive disease and, if appropriate, recommend system and policy changes for BC. BCMA members and others with knowledge and experience in diagnosing and treating addictive disease who are interested in contributing to this committee may contact Ms Linda Munro at the BCMA.

— **Bill Mackie, MD**
Chair, Council on Health Promotion

The following physicians have died recently; we encourage you to submit an In Memoriam notice for future publication.

Alderman, Dr Philip Morton (b. 1925)

Carr, Dr Donald M. (b. 1938)

Changefoot, Dr George, Coquitlam (b. 1928)

Crichton, Dr Erica Pia (b. 1924)

De Roos, Dr Thomas, White Rock (b. 1920)

Dickout, Dr John Maxwell (b. 1916)

Ferries, Dr John Morrison (b. 1924)

Jones, Dr David Purser (b. 1915)

Kepkay, Dr Paul Harvey (b. 1922)

Rothwell, Dr Gordon Sheldon (b. 1912)

Sandhu, Dr Nalini (b. 1943)

Sherman, Dr Robert Philip, West Vancouver (b. 1954)

Spohn, Dr Frederick Joseph Douglas (b. 1926)