

Dr Peter Edward Hoogewerf 1928–2006

Where there is no vision, the people perish.
—Proverbs 29:18

Dr Peter Hoogewerf, born in 1928 in Ranikhet, India, was a graduate in 1954 of King's College Medical School in London, England, long-standing member of the College of Family Physicians of Canada, and practitioner in Kenya, the United Kingdom, Alberta, and British Columbia. He was a gentle and eloquent man of imagination, wit, vision, and above all, action.

It is fitting that a eulogy to mark the passing of Peter Hoogewerf should appear in this theme issue of the *BC Medical Journal* dedicated to influenza and pandemic preparedness. Peter Hoogewerf was himself a devotee of the science and mystery of influenza. He recognized the threat it posed to his own patients as well as public health. Thirty years ago, in 1977, Dr Peter Hoogewerf, together with his friend and colleague, Dr Mike Tarrant in Alberta, responded to this threat in a meaningful and lasting way.

In 1976, while Peter Hoogewerf was a family physician practising in Abbotsford, news arose that the same H1N1 serotype of influenza that had caused the devastating pandemic of 1918 had re-emerged, after a complete absence of nearly 20 years. This reappearance sparked fears of another pandemic. While public health experts debated whether to launch an immunization campaign, Drs Hoogewerf and Tarrant recognized the essential role of the general practitioner in gauging the threat within Western Canada. With calm clarity and remarkable foresight, they set to work to establish an early warning system, the first of its kind in North America, to detect the

possible arrival of the virus and to track its movement, spread, and impact within their respective provinces. Calling his clinical colleagues to aid, Peter established a circuit of sentinel physicians across BC to act as watch-towers—reporting weekly the proportion of medical visits due to influenza-like illness and contributing a steady supply of respiratory specimens to identify the virus and to study its evolution.

Perhaps yet more visionary than having established the physician network was Peter's tenacity in maintaining it long after the initial, and as it turns out, unsubstantiated, fears of a 1977 pandemic had subsided. Such was his conviction about the annual impact of influenza, the likelihood that another pandemic would occur, and the critical role of the frontline physician in responding to emerging disease threats, that Peter Hoogewerf continued to guide and recruit physicians each year to the sentinel program, as did Mike Tarrant in his province, for *another thirty years*. At last in 1995, their example inspired the development of an ongoing sentinel network nationally. It remained a matter of pride to Peter that BC physicians continued to participate in the sentinel surveillance network at the highest per capita rate. That is primarily because Peter personally contacted and welcomed or wheedled physicians into participation, up until and including the last influenza season before his death last year, at the age of 78.

I have had the great honor, and immense pleasure, of being first mentored by and then teaming with Peter Hoogewerf, and his daughter Louise, for nearly a decade on sentinel influenza surveillance in BC. What I will remember most about Peter in this role is his passion, his persistence, and ultimately his proof that inspired ideas and determination can be infectious,

even epidemic, to others. This to me will remain Dr Peter Hoogewerf's lasting legacy.

—Danuta M. Skowronski, MD
Vancouver

Dr Simon Marinker 1913–2007

Despite significant frailty in his final weeks, Dr Simon Marinker took his own pulse minutes just before he died on Easter Monday. A physician to the end of his 94-year, well-lived life!

This life began in Paris, France, where the family of the doctor-to-be could not have anticipated his longevity or achievements. In fact, he was barely saved from the ravages of rickets in his infancy when his parents judiciously chose to move to London, where they knew they could get milk and other vital nutrients for their sickly son. Years later, a fully recovered and intellectually advanced Simon proved to be a healthy learner at Cooper's School as a pre-med intermediate student. From 1931 to 1936, he continued on as a distinguished medical student at Middlesex Hospital London University, receiving several medical degrees and honors, before completing 3 years of resident training and receiving a postgraduate degree in 1938.

As if the demands of his studies were not sufficient, and top marks not satisfying enough, he undertook to challenge the conventions of religion, conquer the complexities of the violin, and be a caring big brother to his 17-years-younger sibling, Marshall, another Marinker who went on to great achievements in the medical field. During a locum in Dover, Simon met his lifetime partner, Maureen, a vivacious surgical nurse from Ireland. After first meeting her, he declared to a fellow physician, "That's the girl I'm going to marry!" And, as he has proven repeatedly over his lifetime, when Simon set his mind to something, there was

no doubt as to the outcome.

The newlyweds immigrated to Estevan, Saskatchewan, in 1939. During the Second World War, he served as a surgical specialist and was in charge of surgery at the Dundurn Military Hospital, where he held the rank of acting major. The couple and their two young children, Peter and Michele, moved to Victoria in 1949, where he became chief of surgery at the Jubilee Hospital, and president of the BC Surgical Society. In his spare time, he mastered chess (gaining a draw from the world-renowned Rashefsky), tennis, poker, ping pong, duplicate bridge, photography, and painting.

Notwithstanding an earlier request from Tommy Douglas to become involved in the CCF vision of socialized medicine, Simon accepted a different challenge in 1963: to be one of the 13 original doctors of the Algoma Group Health Centre in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario—referred to by the Honourable Roy Romanow in recent years as one of Canada’s best-kept secrets, a model for medical care. Simon was 50 years old when he made the move, and not only held his own (and that of the AGHC) during opposition from the city’s medical establishment to this “union clinic,” but also saw many of the downtown doctors eventually move to the clinic. During this time, he also started some of the first peripheral vascular surgery in the Soo. Simon became a life master at bridge (as did his beloved Maureen), played Noah on stage, and cross-country skied. He retired in 1986, having practised as a general surgeon for over half a century, with yet another honor: the John Barker Award presented to those who have contributed to the development of the Group Health Centre (GHC).

He and ever-beautiful Maureen moved to Victoria in 1988. After recovering from an agonizing year suffering with metabolic neuropathy, Simon continued his lifelong exploration of new avenues and new ideas, this time publishing four books in succession,

including *Reducing the Risks of Surgery*, and *Informed Consent to Surgery*.

Simon’s passing was peaceful, as was his last year spent in the gracious, respectful, and caring environment at Hart House, surrounded by the books, art, and music which filled the corners of his enormously full life, one in which he not only healed his patients, but consistently shared his breadth of knowledge to improve the lives of others. Few who encountered Simon will ever forget him.

—Michele Matthews
(nee Marinker)
Vancouver

Dr Annette Elisabeth Hacking 1958–2007

We are honored and privileged to write a memorial for Annette Hacking at the request of her family. Annette died quietly and with great dignity at the Palliative Care Unit of St. Paul’s Hospital, Vancouver, after a long and courageous fight with cancer, and leaves behind a loving family and many colleagues, friends, and patients who grieve her passing. She lived her life with gusto and a remarkable enthusiasm to the very end.

Annette’s path to psychiatry was circuitous—after graduating UBC Medicine-1985, and interning at Dalhousie, she did two years in pathology before deciding that talking to live people was more her forte. Annette became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (psychiatry) in 1992 after completing her psychiatry residency at UBC. In a logic that was uniquely hers, Annette always saw this transition as natural and seamless.

Annette’s professionalism, commitment, and hard work were accompanied by steadfast, unvarying patience, compassion, and good humor. Her resilient, positive outlook was famous (if not at times notorious!). Highly respected by colleagues and patients at


Vancouver’s Mount Pleasant/Midtown Mental Health, she balanced her public service with private practice, where she delivered care to those with serious psychological illnesses.

Annette had a remarkably rich life outside medicine. She was passionate about the underwater world. Along with her dive-buddy family she traveled to many sites local and distant, and was fond of describing herself as equally and at times preferably a citizen of the submarine world. This tiny, petite woman blithely swam with manta rays and sharks in settings that would daunt most of us. She was a qualified dive master and loved to teach; so reflective of her generosity.

Annette’s creativity was reflected in her home: marine and submarine themes abounded—by her hand and others—trompe d’oeil of beaches with sand and shells; a hand-sculpted mermaid; stained glass creations; beachcombing finds and maritime-themed chatchkas complemented an ever-growing collection of sophisticated bronzes, something she described as an entirely justifiable if not wonton luxury. It all worked so well together—precisely managed with an eye to detail more typical of a marine architect (something her friends often felt she aspired to).

Annette led a unique life, famously independent, self-directed and strong-willed, balanced by her abiding optimism, generosity, and great good humour. She was an admirable model, has left an indelible impression, and is greatly missed.

—Michael Cook, MD
—Elisabeth Zoffmann, MD
Vancouver



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