

in memoriam

Dr Gurmeet Singh (Gary) Randhawa 1953–2008

Dr Gurmeet Singh “Gary” Randhawa, past member of the BCMA Board of Directors and president of the Kelowna Medical Society, died 24 January 2008, in New Delhi, India, after a courageous battle with cancer. He was 54.

Dr Randhawa was a pathologist in Kelowna and a leader in the medical community, always advocating for patient care and his colleagues. He stood by his principles, at times even to his personal detriment. He was actively involved in the BC Medical Association, serving on the Board of Directors for 6 years and on the Executive Committee for 3 years, and worked on several committees relating to laboratory medicine. He led the Kelowna Medical Society with energy and enthusiasm and was well known for the health fairs he established.

Dr Randhawa was also a philanthropist who dedicated his life to improving his community, including building a Sikh temple in Kelowna. He touched the life of everyone he met; his positive outlook on life and his high-spirited manner will be greatly missed by all.

He is survived by his wife, Sujata; son, Jason; and daughter, Jasmin.

The BCMA is establishing a perpetual memorial fund in his memory. Donations to the fund may be made to the BC Medical Foundation in memory of Dr Randhawa and sent to the BCMA offices.

—**Brian Brodie, MD
Sardis**

Dr Basil Cartwright Boulton 1938–2008

It is with great sadness that I announce the untimely and accidental death of Dr Basil Boulton, pediatrician, child

and youth advocate, and dedicated family man, at the age of 69. Basil fell from a ladder at his home in January 2008 and did not recover.

Basil was born in Consort, Alberta, as the youngest of seven children. He grew up on Gabriola Island and developed a love of nature at an early age. He went to high school in Nanaimo and was then off to UBC for pre-medicine and medical school, graduating in 1963. His pediatric residency was done at Montreal General Hospital, Charlotte Memorial Hospital in North Carolina, and Vancouver General Hospital. Basil did a year of pediatric cardiology fellowship training in 1968. He established a pediatric consulting practice in Victoria in 1969 and stayed there until he retired from active practice in 2004. During his training he worked with underprivileged populations and continued to do so throughout his career. Basil was truly a consulting pediatrician and cared for the complex health care needs of children and their families in the areas of Aboriginal health, child maltreatment, and fetal alcohol syndrome, to name a few. He was active on many boards and committees that promoted the interests of children, including the R.E.A.D. Society, SALTS, the local hospital board and medical staff, and the BCMA Board and its Child and Youth Committee. He took a year out of practice to work on a child health study that laid the groundwork for the excellent child and youth services that are currently offered in Victoria.

He had many honors bestowed upon him including the Queen’s Jubilee Medal, UBC’s Wallace Wilson Leadership Award, and the BCMA Silver Medal of Service. He was a Life Member of the Queen Alexandra Centre for Children’s Health. Throughout, Basil was a teacher as a clinical professor of pediatrics and was active in the Facul-

ty of Medicine alumni association.

Over the last 9 years he became increasingly active in the Township of Esquimalt and was elected to the municipal council from 1999–2002 and again in 2005. Here, he continued to advocate for children in his broader community on the Capital Region Family Court Committee and the Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth.

Basil and his wife, Marilyn, had four children and nine grandchildren, and were blessed to see them often. They stole time away from Basil’s practice to go to their cabin on Ruxton Island whenever possible.

Basil always enjoyed meeting people and hearing about important issues. His actions supported his convictions to improve the community as a whole, especially for children and youth.

At the time of his death, he was working on a Child Health Care Bill of Rights and a pilot program in the schools that combined a mental health team, medical team, and educators to better support children.

I would ask that we all remember Basil by doing what we can to improve the lives of children and youth in our own lives and in our communities.

—**Todd Sorokan, MD
New Westminster**

Dr Albert Henry Phelps 1920–2007

Al (as he was affectionately known to family and friends) died of metastatic prostate cancer after a few months of loving care from his wife, Linda, family physicians, consultants, home care and hospice support, and was able to stay in his home until the end. He had successfully survived cecal carcinoma of a few years previously. He maintained his mental capabilities until a day or so before he died, and visitors were welcomed graciously and gratefully into a home where peace and tranquility were evident.

Al was born in Toronto—one of six children—and experienced the difficult years of the Depression. His father was a milk salesman and not in good health, and Al had to get up early to help his father with the milk route when he could. He was unable to complete his high school education as he had to go to work to help support the family. He took the route of a vocational training. He graduated from the Toronto Western Technical School in machine drafting and in 1937 became an apprentice in the tool and dye trade where he remained until 1941. During his apprenticeship years he attended night school to upgrade his education, and in 1942 he combined his junior and senior matriculation exams on the same day that he wrote university entrance exams. He was successful in being admitted to the University of Toronto Medical Faculty in 1942 and graduated in 1947. Following one year of internship in Toronto, he went west to enter general practice in Youbou, Vancouver Island, where he stayed for 2 years.

In 1950 he entered a UBC surgical residency training program at the Vancouver General Hospital, which he completed in 1954, then entered his general surgical practice in Chilliwack, where he remained until his retirement in 1989.

Al was the first general surgeon to practise in Chilliwack. He was part of a now-disappearing generation of surgeons who practised before and after the introduction of medicare. Prior to his arrival, surgical care was provided by general practitioners and itinerant surgeons who would come up from the city for emergency or previously arranged elective surgery. Al therefore provided a much needed service and rarely had any time off for the first eight years he was in Chilliwack, until the arrival of a second general surgeon, Dr Henry Pauls, who provided a welcome relief.

Al's patients were his primary concern. He was considerate, kind,

warm, and a concerned master surgeon who worked long hours and was highly regarded by his colleagues. He was gentle in disposition, quiet and unassuming in manner, wise in counsel, and tireless in devotion to duty. He achieved an improvement in patient care in Chilliwack.

His memberships in professional associations were many: fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, fellow of the American College of Surgeons, member of the American College of Surgeons Provincial Advisory Committee, president of Surgical Section of BC Medical Association, Member of BC Surgical Society (he was chairman for two years), member of the Executive of the BCMA for 15 years, and chairman of the Reference Committee of BCMA for three years. In 1988 he was awarded an honorary senior membership in the Canadian Medical Association. In other professional activities he was twice president of the Chilliwack Medical Society, president of the Upper Fraser Valley Medical Society, chief of staff at the Chilliwack General Hospital, and District 7 representative to the Board of Directors of the BCMA for 15 years.

In community affairs he was a member of the Chilliwack Rotary Club since 1960 and President in 1964 and awarded as a Paul Harris Fellow by his club. He had a special interest in the work of his club in the Student Exchange Committee and he and Linda hosted 15 students over many years and kept in touch with them after they returned home, with some returning later for further visits. He had a lifelong commitment as an elder in the Community of Christ Church, where he was local pastor from 1990–95. He was a founding member of the Chilliwack Golf and Country Club (high handicap) and a life member of the Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society.

In his leisure time he fitted in bowling, golfing, photography, cross-

country skiing (in his younger days), woodworking, and gardening. Al and Linda's garden was so beautiful that it was part of a community Rotary Garden Tour. For many years they also hosted a Christmas party for Chilliwack Hospital medical staff with sumptuous food, joyous carol singing, and the warmest of hospitality. They traveled extensively in Al's retirement years.

Albert and his first wife, Mary, had two daughters and a son—Susan in Ottawa, Barbara in Tsawwassen, and Stuart in Revelstoke—and with his second wife, Linda, he had one son, Christopher, in Langley, and six grandchildren. A great joy for Al in 2006 was taking the whole family on an Alaska cruise.

Albert was short in stature, but a giant in living, and his imprint on his profession and community will long be remembered.

—Archie Young, MD
Chilliwack
—Henry Pauls, MD
Chilliwack

Dr Claude Henry Cronhelm 1934–2007

Claude Henry Cronhelm died at age 73 in December 2007 of metastatic malignant melanoma.

Claude was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and graduated in medicine from Queen's University, Belfast. In 1959 he immigrated to St. John's, Newfoundland, where he served his surgical internship and then worked in the Newfoundland Cottage Hospital System. While there he met and married Sandra. In 1963, upon completion of his OB/GYN residency at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal, he received his FRCSC and moved to Vancouver.

Claude first joined the Seymour Clinic. He then entered into partnership with Drs Bill Bie, Ken Nickerson, and later Gary Romalis. When the partnership dissolved after 31 years, Claude

Continued on page 70