

Dr Hedwige E. Chodos (nee Habegger) 1925–2008

Dr Hedwige (Hedy) Chodos died in July after a short, devastating illness. As a friend and colleague, I was asked by her husband, Dr Joel Chodos, to write her story for the *Journal's* In Memoriam section.

Hedy was born in Switzerland in 1925. After graduating in medicine at the University of Geneva in 1950, she joined the university's ophthalmology clinic under the direction of the world-renowned professor Adolph Franceschetti. While working in the laboratory on her doctoral thesis in the early 1950s, she was the first to demonstrate the presence of an organism known as *Toxoplasma gondii* in the fluid of the eye of a patient with chorioretinitis, a potentially blinding disease. This discovery led to various chemical and antibiotic treatments, thereby saving the vision of numerous patients worldwide. Her name was affectionately changed from Dr Habegger to "Toxy."

From 1953 to 1955, at the Harvard School of Public Health (Department of Epidemiology), Hedy worked on important research on the causes of retrolental fibroplasia in immature infants.

In 1957, Hedy married Dr Joel Chodos, a Canadian who graduated in medicine from the University of Geneva. In 1958, she was appointed as co-director of the Uveitis Clinic at the Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia, the largest eye hospital in the US. She was also given a faculty appointment in the Graduate School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, where she taught courses to eye residents at Wills. During her stay in Philadelphia, Hedy developed an epidemiological model for the rapid diagnosis of toxoplasmic uveitis, as well as new antibiotic treatment.

Hedy had difficulty tolerating the weather in Philadelphia, however, and she and her husband decided to move to the warmer climate of the west coast of Canada. In Vancouver, at the first interview Hedy had with the registrar of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia, the registrar was so impressed with her qualifications that he immediately got in his car and drove her from the College to St. Paul's Hospital to get the signature of the College's president, thereby expediting the granting of her BC medical licence. In 1960, Hedy passed the fellowship exams of the Royal College of Canada in ophthalmology and joined her husband in practice in May 1961. She retired in February 2003.

Hedy's great passion was gardening; she was an expert on dahlias and was a longtime member of the Vancouver Dahlia Society, receiving many awards for her flowers. Along with her love of gardening, she was also a talented seamstress.

Hedy was an extremely intelligent doctor and an excellent ophthalmologist, keeping up with the European eye journals as well as all the Canadian and American publications. I had been the lone woman ophthalmologist in Vancouver since 1958, so Hedy's arrival in Vancouver in 1961 marked the beginning of a great friendship, and I will miss her.

—Eileen Cambon, MD
Vancouver

Dr Alfonso Molaro 1930–2008

Alfonso Lawrence Molaro was born in Winnipeg and passed away in New York in June. His father came from Italy and his mother from North Dakota. He was predeceased by his brother Leonard and is survived by his sister Eleanor, of Manitoba. He met Maureen McCarthy in 1950 and they mar-

ried in 1955. He leaves his beloved Maureen, daughters Marcia Carreira and Anita Patricia Molaro, and granddaughters Rhiannon and Nazare Carreira.

Al attended Holy Cross School in Winnipeg, then went on to St. Paul's College, where he was awarded the Governor General's Medal. He received his BA in literature and his MD from the University of Manitoba. He was very active on the debating team. Al did 2 years' postgraduate work at St. Boniface Hospital then traveled to London for further postgraduate work at Middlesex Hospital. He received his specialist degree in internal medicine in Canada.

He loved music, played the piano, and was a strong supporter of the Vancouver Playhouse and the Vancouver Opera. He was very proud of his daughters, Marcia, who also played the piano, and Anita, who played the piano, the violin, and served as concert mistress to the Vancouver Youth Orchestra. Al and Maureen chaperoned the Vancouver Youth Orchestra to Russia, behind the iron curtain.

Al was a perfectionist in every way, from being a meticulous dresser to a finish carpenter. He finished the interior of their home, and later built a one-room house on the back lawn for his beloved grandchildren, Rhiannon and Nazare.

Al was a builder not just of homes but of classic cars, which he successfully entered in competitions throughout North America. He was a very generous person and often rented homes in the US and Europe to spend time with his immediate and extended family. Among his co-workers he was renowned for the courteous and respectful way he treated all. His demeanor inspired confidence and love and he was a source of friendship, strength, and comfort to his family, friends, and patients.

In his profession he was a consummate physician who kept current by attending annual medical meetings in Rochester and New York. In Vancouver he practised with Dr Cecil Robinson and Dr George Walsh. He was on the staff at Shaughnessy Hospital, Vancouver General Hospital, Mount Saint Joseph and St. Vincent's Hospital, and was an assistant professor at the University of British Columbia. Al retired briefly but soon returned to part-time practice to a Downtown Eastside clinic.

He and Maureen returned to his beloved New York for a vacation. Hours after seeing a production of *Country Girl* and enjoying a superb meal, he became ill, was rushed to St. Vincent's Hospital, New York, where he passed away.

Al loved work, loved life, and all that it provided. He left his mark on each of us.

In the words of St. Francis of Assisi, "It is in the giving that we receive and in the dying that we are born to eternal life."

—Lawrence Matrick, MD
Vancouver

Dr Colin Leslie Smailes 1935–2008

Colin Smailes was born in Yorkshire, England, and became a fourth-generation physician of the Smailes family. Educated at the Leys School and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, he later qualified from the Royal London Hospital.

Colin arrived in Vancouver in 1960 and the following year set up his practice in Surrey, with staff privileges at Surrey Memorial Hospital. He quickly established his practice providing surgical, obstetric, and emergency room care to young families. His quiet, calm demeanor made him popular, especially with children. A busy practice did not prevent him from involving himself in hospital administration, leading to his appointment in the late 1960s as chief of staff. He

chaired the hospital's first medical audit committee, which led to his interest in and commitment to doctors' accountability for not only the care they provided, but also for the cost of that care. Later his colleagues showed their confidence in him by electing him to the BCMA Board of Directors, representing District 6. It was the time of the introduction of medicare in the late 1960s, and politically sensitive. When Premier W.A.C. Bennett published the incomes of individual doctors and then moved to prorate the payments to the high-income earners, there was a political explosion and Colin Smailes was at the centre of it.

In 1968 Euan Horniman started the reform group, a small group of Lower Mainland doctors who felt that any agreement between the BCMA and the provincial government must be ratified by the membership by mail ballot. Out of this determination the BCMA politically became a two-party organization, establishment and reform, as it addressed the changes that

government proposed regarding the provision of health care to British Columbians and the payments to doctors for the services they provided. Initially the reform message was sent across the province by the aggressive, hard-hitting District 6 newsletter edited by Horniman and Smailes. With the establishment of reform dominance in the BCMA, Colin Smailes left the political arena to promote the issue of physician accountability through local medical audit committees and conjoint MSP-BCMA Patterns of Practice review. Subsequently the College initiated audit of aberrant practice patterns in cooperation with the Medical Services Plan. Colin Smailes was the pioneer in doctors accounting for the care they provided to British Columbians.

In the evening of his career, Colin joined Dr Ching Lau in developing Surrey's day-care programs for the elderly, and together they set up and ran the transitional care unit, providing 1 month's active post-op care and

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Recently deceased physicians

The following physicians have died recently; please consider submitting an in memoriam to the *BCMJ* if you knew the deceased well.

Andrews, Dr Leslie Gerald
Arato, Dr Judith
Bermann, Dr Gerald Norman
Boorman, Dr Samuel Thomas
Chan, Dr Edward
Coburn, Dr Harris Christie
Collins, Dr Donald Ralph
Cumming, Dr Alexander
Robert Smith
Foster, Dr William
Grewal, Dr Joginder Singh
Hall, Dr Arnold Anton
Halley, Dr Janet Grant
Heatcoat, Dr Roy Edgar Joseph
Hildebrand, Dr Henry Daniel
Jurcic, Dr Predrag Juraj
LeBlanc, Dr Marianne Louise

Lee, Dr Herbert Nai Kwong
McLean, Dr Patrick Michael
Munro, Dr James Grant
Olson, Dr Clifford John
Osborne, Dr James Claude
Perry, Dr Albert William
Purser, Dr Margaret Joy
Reynolds, Dr Peter John
Ross, Dr John Edward
Schmok, Dr Arthur Christian
Stansfield, Dr Hugh
Tanaka, Dr Shuzo
Tucker, Dr Desmond Keith
Wynn-Williams, Dr Robert Neil
Yong, Dr Gabriel Y.S.
Zaleski, Dr Witold Andrew

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rehabilitation to joint-replacement patients.

As a teenager he began a life-long love affair with boats. As a medical student in London he lived on a houseboat on the Thames. In his home in Surrey he built a 33-foot wooden trimarin, having first built the barn in which the boat was to be constructed. He and his wife, Catherine, spent countless happy hours with their three children sailing the San Juan and Gulf Islands. He not only sailed the trimarin, he was a gourmet cook and entertained his family and friends with creative meals.

Without fanfare or fuss Colin Smailes was unique and significant, not only to his family friends and his patients, but also to his profession, to governments, and to British Columbians.

—John O'Brien-Bell, MB
Surrey

Dr Fredrick John Wilson 1937–2007

Dr Fred Wilson died in April 2007 at the age of 70. Born in London, England, Dr Wilson received his medical training at King's College and Westminster Hospital in London before graduating with an MBBS from the University of London.

In 1971, he came to Canada and was chief medical resident, Shaughnessy Military Hospital. Then, as admitting officer he was responsible for two wards until Shaughnessy Hospital closed in 1985.

Dr Wilson worked for Veterans Affairs Canada for over 20 years (1985 to 2005), serving as their senior district medical officer. His deep commitment to meet the needs of the veterans earned him the respect of veterans and co-workers alike.

From 1985 to 2006, Dr Wilson pursued private practice in Vancouver. He worked alongside Drs Murray Baird and George Walsh for many years. As well, for nearly 25 years (1982 to 2006) Dr Wilson was the physician for long-term residents, first at Taylor Manor, then at the newer facility, Adanac Park Lodge.

Dr Wilson was known for his clinical expertise, especially his knowledge and skills in the area of rehabilitation. It was this knowledge that allowed him to smooth the road to recovery for so many. He showed exemplary dedication to his patients, and for those in true need, things were never "too much trouble."

A highly ethical man, Dr Wilson was discrete, careful, unassuming, yet definitive in action. His career was an excellent example of fine leadership and professionalism. Fred is missed deeply by his long-time friend and wife, Maria, as well as by his many colleagues and the patients he served so dedicatedly for many years.

—Bernice Wylie, MD
Vancouver

In memoriam notices wanted

The *BCMJ* depends on you for the In Memoriam department. Please include birth and death dates, full name and the name the deceased was best known by, name of spouse and children (if any), key hospital and professional affiliations, and relevant biographical data. Photos cannot be published; notices should be less than 300 words and e-mailed to journal@bcma.bc.ca.

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