

# in memoriam

## **Dr Joginder (Joe) Grewal 1945–2008**

Dr Joginder Grewal passed away 28 June 2008 after a long battle with cancer.

Joe completed his master's degree in surgery at Chandigarh, India, in 1971 and came to Canada 1 year later, accompanied by his wife, Surrinder.

Upon arrival here, he immediately went back to medical school and, after finishing an internship in Winnipeg, he obtained his fellowship in pathology at the University of British Columbia in 1979. He became a respected leader and innovator in the BC medical community after he settled in Abbotsford with his family in 1989.

He was active as a director on the BCMA Board for over a decade. He was chairperson of the pathology group for the Fraser Valley Health Authority for many years and president of the Dr Cam Cody group of pathologists as well. Locally, he was the president of our MSA Medical Society and chief of pathology services at MSA General Hospital.

He was a scholarly man with an outstanding list of accomplishments and an impressive breadth and depth of knowledge in many disciplines, but the thing that struck me about Joe when we first met was his kind and gentle nature. You could tell that when he said something he had already carefully considered the impact of his words before he spoke—a quality of his that many have mentioned to me as one of his most memorable and special. His wisdom and wit were always bubbling under the surface of his beatific smile. I especially miss our morning talks over tea in the MSA doctors' lounge. We would often discuss philosophy and politics, two of his many diverse interests, and easily solve all of the world's problems in the 15 minutes we spent together every day. Our only regret was that there

were no world leaders there to listen to us to put our brilliant solutions into action, as they surely would have done immediately if they had only heard them.

In his life, Joe accomplished many wonderful things. Foremost, he was a caring husband, father, and grandfather—his family was the central focus in his life. Professionally, he was a brilliant pathologist and respected leader. Our new hospital in Abbotsford was made possible in no small part because of his tireless efforts in planning our future in his leadership role. He was a visionary and the voice of reason in everything he dedicated himself to. He played a crucial role in our profession's history as a member of many BCMA committees, as well as being a Board director during extremely turbulent times, and he helped provide unique solutions with his insights to complex problems. His stature at the BCMA became clear to me when Joe convinced me to run for his position on the Board after he became too ill to continue. When I finally arrived there, the enormity of the shoes I had to fill was quickly brought home to me when another board member told me, "I hope you can do half as well as Joe did." I am still trying to fill those shoes.

But I think that the true measure of a man's life rests not so much in the things he has accomplished (and in Joe's case these were enormous) but in the legacy he has left in the lives that he touched. In that way, Joe was a man truly loved and sorely missed because of how he gifted us with his beautiful nature. Joe's busy professional life never prevented him from sitting down and giving his precious time to anyone who asked. He was the voice of wisdom and compassion that people came to when they had a problem, and he took the time to listen no matter how large or small that prob-

lem might be. His kindness was given generously to all and positively changed the lives of so many.

As the end of his life drew near, it was painful and sad for me to watch him get weaker and weaker. But never did I hear him complain or bemoan his fate. He was courageous and strong, and even when he could no longer speak, he would give me one of his wonderful smiles or simply touch my hand to let me know how he felt.

Joe's body has left us, but he is still here. His spirit lives in our minds and in our hearts, in the way we act and in the way we listen. His life has touched us with his beautiful way, and the echoes of his being have left this world a better place. He was with us for far too short a time, but we have been very blessed to have had him here. Thank you for being the wonderful gift you were to us all, Joe.

—Barry Turchen, MD  
Abbotsford

## **Dr Henry Hildebrand 1931–2008**

Dr Henry Hildebrand died on 13 February 2008 a few heartbeats short of Valentine's Day. He was born in 1931, the eighth of 11 children. He grew up in a rural Manitoba community in an environment where aspirations to higher education were rare. Henry was committed to becoming a physician at a young age and was single-minded in his pursuit. He graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1956 with his MD and completed his internship year at St. Boniface Hospital. After a year of surgical residency in Cleveland and an additional year of tropical medicine and language training in Belgium, Henry, along with his wife, Hilda, and their two young sons, Lloyd and Ralph, went to the Belgian Congo with the intent to work as a missionary doctor for an indefinite period of time.

Civil war in 1959 cut short their time there and the family, after less than a year, was forced to flee the country. Henry returned to the Congo after the safe establishment of the rest of the family in Manitoba. He spent a very difficult 6 months trying to help in ways medical before he himself found it too dangerous to continue his work there and was forced to return to Canada.

Henry had served as a porter on the CPR during his medical school days. His summer work took him to Vancouver where he later chose to bring his family and complete his residency in surgery. Their daughter, Sharon, was born in 1963. He succeeded in obtaining his FRCS (surgery) in 1966. Through the ensuing years he became particularly interested in the subspecialty of vascular surgery and in 1983, together with his long-term partner, Henry Litherland, and others, became a member of the Royal College fraternity of vascular surgeons. They developed a curriculum and took turns giving special lectures in their chosen fields. When exam time came, all the Vancouver candidates passed and became charter members of the vascular surgery group in Vancouver.

Henry was a dedicated surgeon and participated fully as a teacher and researcher. He was recognized in the operating room as a confident and efficient practitioner with a strong sense of ethics and compassion for his patients. One of his residents describes him thusly: "He had so many fine qualities for a young resident like me to wish to emulate. His surgical skill was peerless. A rare surgical athlete, he possessed speed, precision, and deftness of touch. He was the conductor in the operating room and all eyes were on his movements and subtle gestures."

After his official retirement at the age of 69 he went back to Africa,

Kenya this time, and served as a surgeon in a mission hospital in Kijabe, where he did about 400 surgeries in his 6 months there, including trauma, urology, and orthopaedics in addition to general surgery. Henry became particularly concerned about the many young women with pelvic damage from difficult deliveries. These poor women were commonly ostracized from their communities and suffered immense personal humiliation. He established a fund for vesico-vaginal fistula surgeries that continues as a successful program to this day.

During his tenure as a surgeon at the Vancouver General Hospital and Shaughnessy Hospital, Henry was known as a snappy dresser. He heralded the official beginning of spring for hospital staff when he wore his white patent leather shoes and powder blue suit. He also enjoyed his vehicles and at one time was the proud owner of a 1970 Charger, orange in color, with a black bumblebee stripe and a 383-cubic-inch, 4-barrel muscle engine lurking under the hood. In his fifties, he started motorcycling in order to keep up to his sons and soon was perched on top of a 1986 Kawasaki crotch rocket, 1000 cc and 117 hp, which could beat his Charger off the line handily.

He leaves behind his beloved wife and soul mate, Hilda, his children, Lloyd, Ralph, and Sharon, and eight grandchildren, of whom he was so proud.

He will be dearly missed. He was loved.

—Lloyd Hildebrand, MD  
Brentwood Bay

### Dr Nicholas Marinatos 1931–2008

Nicholas Marinatos was born in Agrinion, Greece. He was the eldest son of Dimitra and Gerassimos Marinatos. Nicholas's brother Peter lives in Athens and brother Alexis in Toronto.

Nicholas studied medicine in Athens and went on to specialize in general and thoracic surgery in England. In 1966 he immigrated to Canada and worked at St. Paul's Hospital before moving to Lions Gate Hospital, where he worked as a surgeon for 34 years.

I joined Dr Marinatos in 1973 and together we provided a vascular surgery service for the hospital over the subsequent 30 years. When the specialty of vascular surgery was established in 1983, we did our examinations together and worked together on our patients. Nicholas was well respected for his clinical acumen and surgical skills and had a very busy practice. He was equally sought after by his friends for personal advice and help. Among his colleagues, he was always the centre of attention with his humor and stories.

He had a wide array of other interests, which included boating, photography, and music. He was an avid reader.

Retirement was great and he enjoyed every year of it. He returned to Kefallonia, where his father was born, and built a summer home there. He very much enjoyed the last summers of his life there as well as traveling throughout Europe.

Nicholas devoted his life to his family and his patients. He leaves behind his wife Ghislaine, his stepsons David and Jean-Francois, his daughter-in-law Lori, and his beloved granddaughters Claire and Sophie.

Nicholas's battle with cancer was a brave one. He was always positive and never complained. He died in Lions Gate Hospital where he had spent most of his life and where he was surrounded by his family and friends. We will miss him.

—Anthony Chan, MBBS  
Duncan

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## Library launches simple search tool

**L**aunching into a quest for medical information requires that the searcher knows the relevant resources to explore. This can be a significant stumbling block, especially for busy clinicians who use online resources only occasionally. As part of the College's new web site, the library has implemented a simple search tool that helps physicians discover valuable clinical information quickly without necessarily knowing the intricacies of a database's interface or even of its existence.

This tool, known as a federated search engine, takes the form of search

boxes displayed on various pages of the library's web site. For example, on the library's home page, the user enters a query into the search box and, with the click of the search button, the query is sent to numerous electronic resources, including bibliographic databases such as MEDLINE, PsycINFO, Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews; the library's online catalogue; and selected web sites with high-quality material (e.g., clinical practice guidelines and patient information). Results are displayed by relevance. Whenever the results point to a journal article, links to the full text document are provided if the library subscribes to that journal. The federated search boxes on other pages of

the library's site are filtered to particular resources. For example, searching from the "books" page limits the results to electronic books to which the library subscribes as well as materials listed in the catalogue.

We envision this as a simple tool for uncovering high-quality material: Google-like ease but more precisely focused. College members are welcome to provide feedback using the survey on the library's web site, [www.cpsbc.ca/library](http://www.cpsbc.ca/library).

—Linda Clendenning,  
Karen MacDonell, Judy Neill  
Librarians/Co-Managers,  
CPSBC Library

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### Dr Edward John Gray 1926–2008

John Gray died in November in the VGH Leukemia unit after a very short illness. It was particularly difficult to accept as only a few days before his passing he was active both mentally and physically, enjoying life. He is survived by his wife Doris Kavanagh-Gray, his three children, Cynthia Nicholas of Aurora, Ontario, Jay Gray of Whistler, Andrea Gray of Vancouver, and six grandchildren.

John was born in Vancouver, the son of a practising Vancouver physician. He was a football star both at Vancouver College, where he received his early education, and at UBC, where he received his BA. His favorite summer break job was working on the Union steamships plying their way up and down the west coast. He went to University of Ottawa, where he not only received his medical degree but met the love of his life, his wife for 54 years, Doris Kavanagh. Following

specialty training in general surgery at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan, he returned to Vancouver to practise at St. Paul's Hospital, where his father had practised before him. He was a past president of the Vancouver Medical Association and was honored by the Vancouver medical community by being named Prince of Good Fellows. In his last 10 years of practice he entered administration, being appointed vice president of medicine at St. Paul's.

John had varied interests: downhill and cross-country skiing, fly fishing, ballroom dancing, and in his earlier years, boating. On retirement he and Doris traveled extensively, cruising about the globe, visiting many countries, and cycling around Europe, often taking grandchildren with them. On their organized bike tours they took great pride in never having to resort to being picked up by the trailing minivan as many of the much younger bikers did. John loved music of almost every genre, be it jazz, big

band, or classical. He took delight in rousing his overnight guests at his favorite retreat at Whistler with the sounds of the massed drums and brass of the Grenadier Guards and Royal Marines Band piped through the chalet.

He read extensively and was always ready with an apropos quote from some major thinker or wit.

His interest and strong opinions on political matters—local, provincial, federal, or international—invariably led to entertaining and lively discussions with his friends.

John loved his life, his home, and his family, and he often said that he hoped he passed before his wife as he could not imagine life without Doris at his side. His wife, his family, and his friends now have to face life without him. It is not easy, but the satisfaction of having had him as part of our lives brings some consolation.

—Terry Rutherford, MD  
—Bill Ibbott, MDCM  
—Stan Stordy, MDCM  
Vancouver