

Dr David Stewart Allan 1943–2010

Dr David Stewart Allan passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on 29 March after a short illness while on vacation in Paris. He was born on 8 April 1943 in Vancouver, and attended high school in Port Moody where his father was the principal and his mother taught home economics. He attended the University of British Columbia, receiving his MD degree in 1969.

Following a rotating internship at Vancouver General Hospital he completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at UBC and its affiliated hospitals. He obtained his fellowship and specialty certification in 1973. He joined the staff of the Royal Columbian Hospital (RCH) where he quickly became one of its busiest consultants. RCH became his professional home for his entire medical career.

He served on numerous hospital committees, and over the years he completed terms as head of obstetrics, chief of surgery, and president of the medical staff of RCH and Eagle Ridge hospitals. His excellent organizational skills and attention to detail were displayed when he chaired the hospital's OR Allocation and Bed Utilization Committee.

When regionalization of services was instituted by the provincial government he provided the administrative and organizational support for Eagle Ridge Hospital in Port Moody.

In the early years of his practice he developed an interest in colposcopy and became quite proficient in its use. Along with the late Henry Kelsey he was instrumental in establishing a colposcopy clinic at RCH. Through this clinic he pioneered the use of CO laser therapy for the treatment of preinvasive lesions of the lower genital tract.

More recently he became adept with the personal computer and its

applications. Here finally, was a tool that he could use easily to fire off letters, opinions, and comments to various and sundry individuals with virtually no direct cost to himself, something that appealed to his ingrained frugality.

Those fortunate enough to regularly read his blogs and musings on a variety of topics would marvel at how quickly and easily he seemed to reply to our e-mails.

However, what most failed to realize was that these were not casual replies but rather carefully crafted responses that he had written and edited repeatedly before they were sent out.

David Allan was a unique and complex individual. Gregarious by nature he often displayed a mercurial personality. David was intelligent and well read. He was loyal to his friends, who were extremely important to him.

The pedagogical trait was very strong in David. He loved to pontificate and teach, be it with house staff, students, or colleagues. He was particularly proud achieving the rank of clinical associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at UBC.

He had multiple interests outside the field of medicine. His main interests were culinary arts, oenology, and travel. Every trip was carefully researched and a detailed travel itinerary was constructed, including where and what menu items to eat.

He had an encyclopedic knowledge of wine obtained after diligent research, including extensive sampling and tasting. He was fascinated about how various gourmet dishes were made and put together. This interest extended to his learning how to cook numerous exotic dishes, and he delighted in including these recipes and their origins in his weekly blog. He also enjoyed collecting and reading all sorts of cookbooks, of which he had a vast collection.

He took an intense interest in his children and their careers and tried to instill in them an appreciation for fine wine and food. He was extremely proud of his Scottish heritage and his annual Robbie Burns dinners were extremely popular events.

There was nothing that he enjoyed more than organizing and conducting various wine tours to California, the Okanagan Valley, and the wineries of the Pacific Northwest. These annual wine tours were extremely popular and attracted a faithful group of participants.

He helped found the D.A. Boyes Society. One of the goals of this society was to establish a strong link between community clinicians and the BC Cancer Agency, ensuring women received optimum, up-to-date therapy for gynecological cancer. For his colleagues at the Fraser-Burrard Health Region he established and conducted a scientific journal club open to all members of staff of these hospitals. These meetings often featured a guest speaker and were conducted over dinner with a carefully chosen selection of accompanying wines.

David is survived by his wife of 40 years, Melanie Bishop Allan, daughters Karen and Sandra, son Donald, and granddaughter Sarah. He is also survived by his sister Jane.

He will be deeply missed by his family and large number of colleagues and friends.

—J.L. Benedet, MD
Burnaby

Dr Kerry Margaret Telford Morrissey 1968–2009

Kerry Margaret Telford Morrissey and her infant daughter Sarah Grace died together on 29 November 2009 when the seaplane they were traveling in crashed shortly after take-off. She was 41 years old. In those years, Kerry touched many lives with her compassion and love.

Kerry was born in Grande Prairie, Alberta, to Charles and Eileen Telford. Her sister Carmen was born shortly after. Her family moved to White Rock when she was a teenager where she attended Semiahmoo Secondary School and completed the International Baccalaureate program. She grew up with a strong attachment to Ireland and never wavered in her fondness for red hair and a pint of Guinness. As a teenager, she developed a lifelong relationship with a patient she met while volunteering at Peace Arch Hospital and deeply cherished the lessons she learned from her.

After graduation, Kerry wished to become a missionary; however, her parents convinced her to become a physician first so that she could attend to the physical as well as the spiritual needs of others. Thus it was that Kerry enrolled at Simon Fraser University for her pre-med classes, and despite narrowly missing the application deadline, was accepted into UBC Medical School, class of 1993. Surely she is one of the only students to list playing the spoons as a skill.

As a medical student, Kerry excelled in listening empathetically to her patients. She entertained her classmates with beautiful singing and wrote silly songs about sunburns. At the end of medical school, she felt a need to work in a more rural environment, so she applied to Memorial University for her family practice residency. While there, she fell in love with the people, the bars, and the accents. Kerry then began her work in Yellowknife where she stayed for 5

years. While in the North, she gained confidence in her skills and enjoyed the great variety of outdoor activities. An avid traveler, she enjoyed and needed her trips to many exotic locations to refocus and re-energize.

Despite working in an area of need, Kerry still felt restless and wished to pursue her original goal. After much contemplation and prayer, she decided to travel to a small mission in Peru to assist a group of physician priests who worked there. She would laugh when she thought of the picture she sent them: herself, in full winter gear, tons of snow, and a sled dog. She was determined though, and in 2001 she made the first of her trips to the small mission in Santa Clotilde. Kerry's deep faith in God allowed her to overcome her fears, so that she could travel and work in a different language, in isolated areas, and in environments not generally suited to those who are melatonin deficient.

Between 2001 and 2005, Kerry spent many months in the jungle, often taking other professionals with her. She viewed these trips as a privilege, and always felt that she received as much as she gave to the people of Santa Clotilde. Between times, she would raise money and collect equipment while she worked in the Lower Mainland at the Peace Arch Obstetrical Clinic and the Bridge Community Health Clinic, which provides care for refugees and refugee claimants. During this time, Kerry found Patrick Morrissey. A perfect complement to her, they shared a deep faith, love of travel, music, charity, and a quirky sense of humor. In 2005, Kerry and Patrick were married and settled in Vancouver to start a family. Patrick related a story at the wedding that Kerry would cry during grace because she was so thankful for all the blessings she had received in her life. Kerry joined the South Ridge Community Birth Program and continued her work with refugees and fundraising while she and Patrick began a family. In

2007 and 2009, Kerry and Patrick were thrilled with the arrival of Claire Marie and Sarah Grace.

It was clear to all of us who worked with her that Kerry had a remarkable ability to identify and bond with her patients. She actively listened to colleagues, patients, and friends, and even those who met her only a few times were touched by her great love for others. Kerry made everyone feel special. As Father Maurice Schroeder stated, "She chose to see the best in people and reflect it back to them." Kerry lived as Mother Teresa suggested: "Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier."

A scholarship supporting residents interested in global health has been started in Kerry and Sarah's memory. Contributions can be made to the Kerry and Sarah Morrissey Telford Memorial Scholarship through UBC by calling 1 877 717-4483 fund ID S943 or online at supporting.ubc.ca/kerrytelford.

—Carolyn Van Schagen, MD
Langley
—Helena Swinkels, MD
Vancouver
—Lauren McCarthy, MD
Fort McMurray, AB

Dr J. Michael Rigg 1928–2010

Mike Rigg died recently in the Purdy Unit at UBC, where he had been for several years with advancing Parkinson disease.

He qualified with a Cambridge degree, his clinical training carried out at Guy's Hospital in London, England. After initial house jobs, he served for 2 years in the Royal Army Medical Corps with a Gurkha regiment. He then undertook pediatric training in England and immigrated to Vancouver in 1958 as senior pediatric resident at St. Paul's. He was certified by the Royal College in 1960 and entered general pediatric practice in Vancouver. Mike was also active in the provision

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in memoriam

of traveling consultant services to outlying communities such as Dawson Creek and Fort St. John, and he was medical consultant to St. George's in Vancouver.

His interest in the military continued and he became medical officer to the Seaforth Highlanders.

He was active in professional associations, becoming president of the BC Pediatric Society, president of the Canadian Pediatric Society, and chairman of a task force to review the society's constitution. He was closely involved with the establishment of formal links with the American Academy of Pediatrics and was president of the BC chapter of the Academy for many years.

He served on many hospital committees and was a keen member of clinical faculty, reaching the rank of clinical professor. He was well respected both as a clinician and as a teacher.

Michael enjoyed a wide circle of friends outside as well as within the medical community. He was a trustee for the Koerner Foundation and a member of the Medical Legal Society of BC.

Mike was a first-class pediatrician, as well respected by colleagues who sought his advice as a consultant as he was by the young patients and their parents who came to his office. He was well informed on a broad range of topics, medical and otherwise; a delightful companion and a good friend.

Mike's enjoyment of professional success was marred by an almost unbelievable sequence of medical problems affecting the health of his family, and finally his own health. It was impressive to see the fortitude he showed in the face of adversity.

He is survived by his wife, Alison, and his sons, Andrew and Christopher.

—**Robert Hill, BMBCh**
Vancouver

Dr Kenneth Glenwright Nickerson **1925–2010**

This wonderful man died 30 March 2010 at age 85, surrounded by his loving family. He had been injured in a car accident and never regained consciousness.

Born in Medicine Hat, Alberta, Ken studied medicine at the University of Alberta and McGill. After completing his postgraduate residency training in obstetrics and gynecology at Cornell in New York, Ken moved back to Vancouver in 1955, establishing a successful practice of obstetrics and gynecology with Dr Bill Bie, and later Drs Claude Cronhelm and Gary Romalis. He was the perfect obstetrician who never let the clock influence his obstetric decisions. He was widely respected by his peers for his gentle, meticulous surgical skills in radical pelvic surgery, pelvic floor reconstruction, fistula surgery, and infertility microsurgery. His colleagues often referred their most surgically challenging patients as well as their own family members to him.

Over the years Ken served various leadership roles at VGH, the BCMA Section of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the Pacific Northwest Obstetrical & Gynecological Association. Patients, students, and hospital staff alike loved him for his kind and gentle manner. He received many teaching awards as a clinical professor at UBC and was prized as a teacher of obstetrical and gynecological surgery. He was humble about his skills, and was a role model to younger generations because of his unhurried manner, utmost discretion, and respect for his patients. In 2004, Ken was awarded the CMA Senior Member (now known as Honorary Member) Award.

Always a gentleman, Ken had a smile for everyone and was known for his integrity, patience, wit, and child-like curiosity. He was a lifelong learn-



Kenneth Glenwright Nickerson, MD

er. Being an avid outdoorsman, he loved to fish, golf, garden, hike, and, especially, ski. He felt most at home in the mountains. When he "semi-retired" in 1994, Ken and Shirley moved to Whistler, where Ken continued to provide culposcopy and consultations on a part-time basis in his new community, and they both became active community members. Recently Ken was recognized with a lifetime achievement award for volunteering 40 years on the slopes of Whistler Mountain, and a ski run, Ken's Kut, was named in his honor.

Ken is survived by his devoted wife, Shirley, his son Bill Nickerson (Lisa Nelson), his daughters Cathy Harvey (John), Anne Nickerson (Larry Jackie), Lisa Kirk (Dan), Kendra Nickerson (Paul Inzani), and his 10 grandchildren.

—**Garson Romalis, MD**
Vancouver

