



*Ken Morton, MD*

## **Dr Kenneth Sherriffs Morton 1925–2011**

Dr Ken Morton, professor emeritus of orthopaedics at UBC, died suddenly on 13 August.

Ken Morton grew up and received his early education in Burnaby. He received both his undergraduate and his MSc degree from UBC. He graduated in medicine from McGill University in 1950. Upon returning to BC he interned at Vancouver General Hospital and did his residency in orthopaedic surgery, receiving his FRCSC in 1955.

After completing his orthopaedic residency, Ken received the prestigious ABC Fellowship and spent a year visiting centres in the US and Britain. He developed a special interest in the treatment of bone tumors and founded the bone tumor registry.

Ken was first appointed to the UBC faculty of medicine in 1957, and in 1973 he was appointed head of the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery. Ken understood the concept of teamwork, and his efforts led to long-lasting pro-

ductive relations with not only the BC Cancer Agency, but also with biomedical engineers and the Department of Anatomy.

I was honored to have been among the first group of residents appointed during his tenure as leader. In 1984 Ken and I successfully led the battle to gain full university departmental status for orthopaedics (unique in Canada). This was a selfless act on Ken's part since he did not stay on as leader of the new department, leaving it to others to build on the strong roots he had helped create. He was also, to my knowledge, the only person to reject a nomination as president of the Canadian Orthopaedic Association.

He was tremendously caring toward patients and balanced the difficult and stressful field of bone cancer treatment with that of general orthopaedics and academics. He was also extremely productive as an author of original research in our field.

Ken was proud of his Scottish heritage and also of his Burnaby roots. His interests and external hobbies were broad, extending well beyond the field of medicine and orthopaedics. He was a writer and a man of the arts and literature, and he served as president of the Vancouver Art Gallery.

I personally learned so much from Ken Morton, a man who balanced strength and compassion. The orthopaedic community in Canada has lost one of its great leaders. We will miss his presence but remember his legacy. He was a humble and modest man, with little to be modest about.

Ken leaves behind his wife of 60 years, Joyce; their son, Greg; daughter, Laurie (Bruce) Hutchinson; and eight grandchildren, one great grandchild, and nine nieces and nephews. We will all miss this very special man.

—**Brian Day, MBChB  
Vancouver**

## **Dr Richard Alan Churchill Swan 1928–2011**

Dr Al Swan was a remarkable man with an impressive gift of a near-photographic memory. He was a modest but formidable savant in many areas, and it was a treat to be in his company.

After graduating from Queen's University in 1953, he married his lifelong soulmate, Rosa Dirom—it was a most successful union.

In 1954 Al set up practice in Pender Harbour at St. Mary's, a small country hospital built by the Columbia Coast Mission. Here he had to do it all—and he did. His work included house calls by both boat and plane. He truly cared for his patients, frequently taking their problems onto his shoulders.

Al was very competent and never wanted to fall behind. He was instrumental in establishing a sabbatical system for our clinic as we grew in numbers. Every fifth year we would go somewhere for postgraduate training. He was a talented mentor.

Fishing and RVing were his passions. The Swan family, including their three biological children and a foster son, made countless trips on their boat.

A debilitating illness gradually robbed him of his faculties. This he bore with uncomplaining dignity. But from deep down, his remarkable memory would surface on occasion—near the end, surrounded by his devoted family, he muttered "I'm going fishing." He should have written a book.

He was a most honorable man with a great sense of humor. After I had a short locum with him in 1959, he suggested we become partners. I agreed, and asked how we would do that. He replied, "We shake on it." And that's all we ever needed. He was the best partner I could have ever had, and I told him that.

## in memoriam

The end involved the supernatural. He died at 10 p.m. Pacific Standard Time. At midnight Central Standard Time I was in Manitoba and awoke from a most vivid dream. In it Al was at a party, in his prime. He looked at me, gave a gentle smile, and raised his glass. And I knew he had died.

—Eric Paetkau, MD  
Sechelt

## Recently deceased physicians

The following physicians died over the past several months; please consider submitting a piece for our “In Memoriam” section in the *BCMJ* if you knew the deceased well.

Adler, Dr Katrina

Duffield, Dr Anne

Dunlap, Dr David  
Laurie Cleveland

Etherington, Dr John Seymour

Flint, Dr John Ross

Gerrie, Dr R. George

Horton, Dr Donald

Ingram, Dr Herbert George

Lee, Dr Anathalie Winifred

Lovegrove, Dr William Merton

MacDonald, Dr Alexander  
Edward

Maclure, Dr Hugh Lea

Moore, Dr Peter Sydenham

Pine, Dr Enid

Rowe, Dr William John

Ruebsaat, Dr Helmut Johannes

Stenafelli, Dr John

Stibbs, Dr David Michael

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  8. Global Tobacco Control Forum. Canada's Implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control: A civil society “shadow report.” Ottawa 2010. Accessed 7 September 2011. [www.smoke-free.ca/pdf\\_1/FCTC-Shadow-2010-Canada.pdf](http://www.smoke-free.ca/pdf_1/FCTC-Shadow-2010-Canada.pdf).
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