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in memoriam

Dr George Edward Price 1934–2012



After a courageous battle with leukemia, Dr George Price passed away at Vancouver General Hospital on 19 October 2012.

George was born in Winnipeg, but his family moved to Victoria where he attended high school. He later graduated from the University of Chicago and then attended UBC medical school, graduating in 1959.

He went on to enjoy an illustrious career in many of the different fields of opportunity that medicine offers. George was a very highly regarded clinician at Vancouver General Hospital. He was in great demand as a rheumatologist and because of his expertise and interest in acute internal medicine. What separated him from many others in our profession were his special abilities in the parallel areas of medical administration, research, writing, and teaching.

Those of us practising at UBC

Hospital in the early 1980s were privileged to work in a setting that served as an example of how well a hospital could be managed when a straight-thinking, practical administrator with firsthand knowledge of patient care was in charge. George later took on the challenge of running the King Fahad National Guard Hospital in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He was there during the hectic and dangerous era of deployment of US armed forces in the Gulf War. After his term was completed, he returned to Vancouver and resumed an active clinical practice.

George was an avid outdoorsman, enjoying many of the opportunities that BC offers. He was also a great supporter of many nonprofit and

Continued on page 42

in memoriam

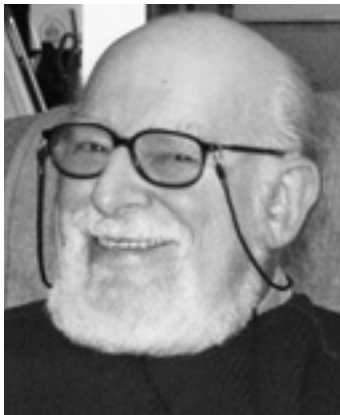
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charitable organizations, including the Arthritis Society, the BC Rehab Foundation, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of South Coast BC, of which he was an honorary director.

George is survived by his wife Dianne; son Bryan (Lori); grandsons Colin, George, and Scott Roderick; and his daughter Megan. They, and all of us who knew and benefited from his generosity, strength, wisdom, and friendship, will miss him greatly.

—BD

Dr Henry Stanley Ballon 1931–2012



The medical community and the province of BC have suffered a great loss with the death of Henry S. Ballon on 6 October 2012.

Henry grew up in Montreal and obtained his undergraduate degree at McGill. He worked briefly as a pharmacist's assistant before attending medical school in Geneva. He spent 6 months as an extern at a Swiss TB sanatorium, during which time he also pursued his love of skiing. He relocated to Vancouver in 1962 to work as an intern at Vancouver General Hospital, staying for the next 3 years to study under Drs Ken Evelyn, J.D.E. Price, and others. He then moved to Shaughnessy Hospital to work under Dr Mac Whitelaw. The following year Henry went to Seattle to study nephrology under Belding Scribner, with special emphasis on home hemodialysis.

He completed his postgraduate training, and during the summer of 1968, he, Mike Moriarty, and Ted Reeve worked together preparing for the fellowship exams. Subsequently the three established a joint office for the practice of nephrology and internal medicine, which continued for over 20 years.

Henry was acknowledged throughout the province for his medical acumen and concern for his patients' well-being. He was a dedicated teacher, interested in both the academic and personal lives of his students. He was president of the BC Society of Internal Medicine for a number of years and a member of the North Pacific Society of Internal Medicine.

All who worked with him would agree that he did not suffer fools gladly—not that he expected everyone to be as intelligent as he was but rather that administrative red tape and personal self-aggrandisement were never acceptable substitutes for patient care and concern.

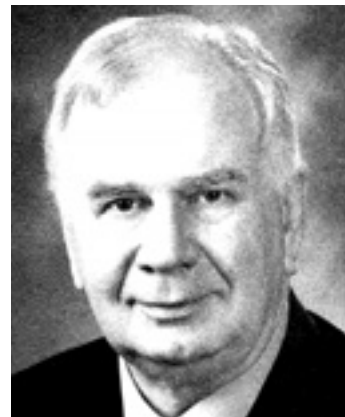
During his years of practice Henry had limited time for outside interests but continued to enjoy music, photography, and his cabin on Gambier Island, often in the company of his daughters Laura and Julia and his granddaughter Sasha. He maintained contact with the Montreal poets of his youth, especially Milton Acorn and Al Purdy.

Following his retirement, he started playing bridge and expanded his interest in photography. While most photography enthusiasts were adopting digital technologies, Henry specialized in darkroom techniques and black-and-white film photography, a strategy in many ways analogous to that which he applied to the practice of medicine, demonstrating again that the best results were obtained by a direct hands-on approach.

He was a dedicated friend and a joy to walk the streets with, as he always had a pocketful of change for those in need. Rest well, dear friend.

—S.C. Naiman, MD, Vancouver
—C.E. Reeve, MD, Gabriola

Dr Larry Raymond Patrick Collins 1943–2012



Dr Larry Collins, a true leader in medicine and a distinguished citizen of our time, left us on 24 July 2012, after a sudden cardiac arrest. He was 68.

Larry was born in Vancouver, and after completing a BSc, received his MD from UBC in 1968.

After an internship at Mount Sinai City Hospital Center at Elmhurst in New York, he returned home to Vancouver to set up practice in family medicine—his life's goal. To his medical school classmates he was invariably polite, gracious, and kind, as well as intellectual and philosophical. A tongue-in-cheek caption below his photo in our graduation yearbook read, "A follower of world affairs, Larry is one of the better read people in our class. He is best described as an ultraconservative with strong left-wing leanings—or is it sympathy with the NDP with definite Goldwaterian tendencies?" During those early years in practice, he worked tirelessly to hold our class together and invited us all to his 40th birthday party.

Early on, he became recognized for his wise leadership of medical staff and organizations. He truly understood the importance of professional standards in medicine as well as just how critical it is to have an exchange of ideas among physicians. He became an icon as a diplomatic chairman, a role requiring high-level negotiating

and mediation skills. He was a great communicator. Larry always listened, and when he spoke it was always to say something concisely intelligent.

In 2003 Larry's colleagues at Vancouver General Hospital awarded him with "The People's Choice Award for the Best Supporting Actor for the Role of Solomon," which was symbolic, as such awards from sincerely respectful peers are almost unheard of in medical politics. In 2007 he received the BCMA David Bachop Gold Medal for distinguished medical service and extraordinary contribution to the profession, acknowledging his expertise in clinical medicine and his contributions to the UBC Faculty of Medicine and to medical organizations. The BCMA Silver Medal of Service, its highest award, was presented to him in 2009.

His exemplary voluntary contributions were widely recognized. These included leadership roles as chief of medical staff and board member at VGH, and chief of family practice at BC Children's Hospital and BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre. During his leadership as president of the Vancouver Medical Association from 2002 to 2004, he drove the successful formation of the Community Medical Staff Association, uniting physicians throughout the entire Vancouver Coastal Health Authority.

A BCMA board and committee member for many years, he also volunteered to chair committees for the Greater Vancouver Regional District and the Ministry of Health. He enjoyed and was very proud of his responsibilities as clinical assistant professor with the UBC Faculty of Medicine as well as his leadership roles in many UBC committees including the Admissions Selection Committee.

His stature and pervasive influence as a leader in clinical and organized medicine were only part of what made Larry a great physician. His wisdom was legendary, and his support of and devotion to his patients knew no

bounds. As his medical colleagues, we quietly understood his respect for us. He was truly the best professional friend anybody could have.

He worked unbelievably hard to improve the lives of his patients, as well as his fellow physicians. To top it off, he was dedicated to seeking recognition and awards for others while remaining incredibly humble.

We would often discuss our philosophies of medical care. His approach to confronting something particularly daunting in his practice was to say, "You know, life is so complicated—you just have to manage what comes." This approach characterized so well his empathy and high emotional intelligence.

Throughout his life and career, Larry listened a lot and pontificated a little. He respected knowledge and curiosity. He spoke his mind concisely and with confidence. At both professional and personal levels, he challenged adversity with vigor. He cultivated and treasured his family and friends, and lived by a saying that all good poker players know: What counts isn't what life deals you, but how you deal with it. He lived the golden rule and never compromised. He led by example based on his own personal experiences. He was the personification of generosity of spirit and was a consummate gentleman. The dignity, compassion, and respect with which he treated absolutely everyone was contagious.

Larry leaves his beloved wife Terry; daughters Lysette, Lisa (Kendol), and Ashley; and grandchildren Malaya and Pia; as well as his mother, siblings, extended family, and friends.

His influence upon everyone he touched will be his enduring legacy. We are all so much richer for having had him in our lives.

—Linda J. Warren, MD
Vancouver

Dr Peter John Hubner 1943–2012



Peter passed away suddenly of a cardiac arrest on 19 November.

He grew up in Vernon and tried a few other things before becoming a mature student at UBC. He was my classmate and friend during medical school, and we graduated together in 1975. He practised as a family doctor in the Fairmont Building in Vancouver from 1976 until his retirement in 2008. His many patients remember him as a dedicated, caring physician who made each patient feel like he or she was the only person who mattered during an appointment. I often covered for him when he took holidays and was always impressed by his perfectly legible and detailed records and his unbelievable memory of every patient. There was no one to take over his practice, so, before he retired, he took the time and energy to find every patient a medical home. His retirement, split between Crystal Beach, Ontario, and Buffalo, New York, was happy, but much too short.

He was a wonderful doctor, a loving father, good friend and partner, and a fine man. He is deeply mourned by our son Robert Wiebe and his partner John Bowen. We miss him so much.

—Ellen Wiebe, MD
Vancouver