



Dr Gilbert (Gil) Edgar Dyck 1942–2014

Dr Gilbert (Gil) Dyck passed away on 12 March 2014 after having battled multiple myeloma for more than 4 years. His life was celebrated at a heartwarming ceremony at Crescent Beach in BC. Dr Dyck spent his career as an emergency physician at the Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster from 1973 until his retirement in 2010. During a short interlude (1999 to 2003) he and his wife, Marion, spent time in Saudi Arabia where Dr Dyck worked in the emergency department at the King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre in Riyadh.

Gil was born in Kitchener, Ontario, in 1942 and lived there until moving with his Mennonite family to Yarow, BC. After spending some time in Vancouver the family moved to New Westminster, where he met his high school sweetheart, Marion Pepper.

The son of a high school math teacher, Gil graduated with an honors math degree in 1964 from the University of British Columbia. As well, coming from a strong Mennonite background, it was a natural fit for Gil to become a Young Life leader. Gil was a Christian mentor for many young people whose lives were deep-

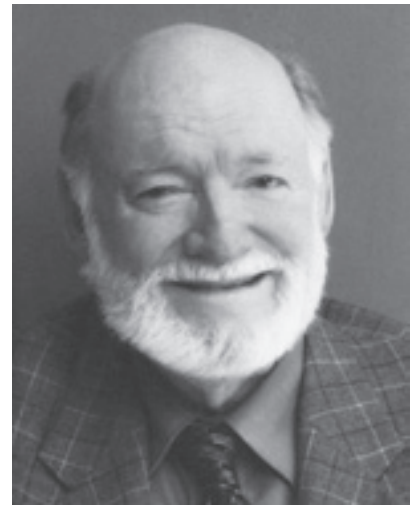
ly affected by his compassion and wisdom. While still working with Young Life, Gil and Marion married in 1966. In 1967 he returned to UBC to complete his science requirements and entered medical school the following year at the University of Alberta. Always willing to get involved, Gil became interested in student politics concerning academic grading and the influence of the pharmaceutical companies.

Eventually, New Westminster drew him back and he became an intern at the Royal Columbian Hospital. Following his internship Dr Dyck became an integral member of the emergency department, which was in the process of developing full-time medical staff. Over the next 10 years the Royal Columbian group was instrumental in developing emergency medicine as a specialty. The group initiated developments in emergency medical services with paramedic training, air ambulance services, and ACLS and ATLS programs. It was only fitting that after being an integral part of emergency medicine's development Dr Dyck obtained his FRCP (EM) in 1983 and became one of the few original EM specialists. As any superstar does, Gil had the ability to slow down the game and make those around him—colleagues and co-workers in the emergency department—better.

While all that was going on, he and Marion had three wonderful daughters, Kristin, Lindsay, and Ashley, who were instilled with Gil's enthusiasm and zest for life with a bite of competitive spirit. This enthusiasm led to many biking, hiking, skiing, and kayaking adventures along with a great deal of piano playing, photography, and enjoying the company of his and Marion's many friends. Gil was very proud of his girls and his grandchildren, who all share his love and joy for life.

Gil died at home overlooking the ocean, listening to music, and surrounded by his family. He is survived by his wife, Marion; daughters, Kristin (Pat), Lindsay (Dave), and Ashley (Johnny); sisters, Lea, Gerda, and Myrna; and grandchildren, Sam, Elle, Sierra, Stella, Tyler, and Sebastian. He was predeceased by his brother, Walter.

—Paul Zickler, MD
Surrey



Dr Alexander Donald (Scotty) MacAskill 1927–2014

Dr Alexander Donald (Scotty) MacAskill grew up in the small northern Saskatchewan town of Glaslyn. He completed his undergraduate studies in Regina and continued on to medical school at the University of Manitoba, graduating in 1955. He completed his junior internship at Vancouver General Hospital and then his residency in ophthalmology. Dr MacAskill spent his final year of training at Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dr MacAskill started his practice in ophthalmology at the Trail clinic and moved to the Okanagan a number of years later, followed by moves to Chilliwack, Vancouver Island, and

eventually Langley, where he practised for over 20 years.

Scotty was a multitalented person. He played the piano as a youngster. He was an avid outdoorsman and a great powder skier and even dabbled in writing novels and competitive ballroom dancing. Dr MacAskill was also highly regarded by his patients, mainly because of his meticulous work—never rushing an appointment.

Dr MacAskill is survived by friend and ex-wife, Shirley; sons, Don, Douglas, Daniel, and Garret; and granddaughter, Katie. He will be deeply missed by his friends and relatives as well as by the hundreds of patients whom he helped. I kept in close contact with Scotty since the first year of medical school, almost 65 years ago, and will miss him dearly.

—Pat Y. Miki, MD
Langley

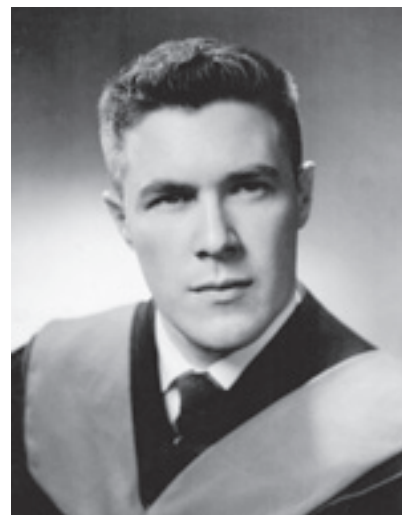
Dr Alexander Hugh Pontifex 1927–2013

It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of Dr Alexander Hugh Pontifex. Known to his family, friends, and colleagues as Hugh, he lived his life with kindness, intelligence, and integrity. Hugh grew up in Burnaby and went to the University of British Columbia, obtaining a BSc in 1950. He then entered the

first graduating class of the new UBC medical school. Dr Pontifex completed a rotating internship at Vancouver General Hospital and then moved to Merritt to work as one of two general practitioners for the area. He left general practice to complete his post-graduate training, first in England as a research fellow in medical physics at Marsden Hospital and then in San Jose, California, to finish his residency in pathology. In 1964 he returned to Canada with his wife and children to work at the Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminister, first in general pathology and medical microbiology from 1964 to 1971 and then as director of hematology from 1971 to 1977. He started the first fine needle biopsy program in the province at the hospital. In 1977 he transferred to the British Columbia Cancer Control Agency in Vancouver and became the first medical director of the pathology lymphoma program, continuing as a consulting staff member until his retirement in 1992.

From 1982 to 1992 he returned to the Fraser Valley and served as director of regional laboratories from 1986 to 1992.

During his career as a pathologist he was involved in teaching medical technologists, medical students, and pathology residents. He was one of the original partners in BC Biomedical Laboratories and served as a chair



of the laboratory accreditation committee. He was president of the Westminister Medical Society, president of the BC Association of Laboratory Physicians, and scientific chair of the Canadian Congress of Laboratory Medicine, 1982. He also published a number of papers during his career.

Dr Pontifex had a long and successful career as a pathologist, retiring at age 70 to enjoy the next 16 years with his wife of 63 years, Margaret, and his extended family of children and grandchildren on Galiano Island.

—Alison Pontifex, MD
Vernon
—Jacques Roy, MD
New Westminister
—Arun K. Garg, MD
New Westminister

J.H. MacDermot Writing Awards

The *BCMJ* invites writing submissions from student authors, and each year awards a prize of \$1000 for the best full-length print article written by a medical student, and \$250 each for the two best med student blog articles.

The *BCMJ* J.H. MacDermot Writing Awards honor Dr John Henry MacDermot, who served as editor for 34 years (1932–1968), overseeing the publication's transition from the VMA Bulletin to the *BCMJ* in 1959. Dr MacDermot also served as BCMA president in 1926.

For submission guidelines and contest deadlines please visit www.bcmj.org/jh-macdermot-writing-awards.

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