

Dr Richard Edward Beck 1923–2014



Dr Beck was the first child of Marshall and Mary (nee McBride) and eldest grandchild of the late Sir Richard McBride, 16th premier of British Columbia. Dr Beck was born in the Bute Street Hospital in Vancouver and raised on Lulu Island and in Kerrisdale, where he attended Kerrisdale Elementary, Point Grey Junior Secondary, Magee High School, and UBC. As there was no medical school in British Columbia at that time, he went east to Queen's University, graduating in 1947. Travel to Kingston by train was both long and expensive, so he would often spend Christmas holidays with friends rather than at home with family. He missed his parents and younger sisters, and they him, as evidenced by their regular letters.

Following an internship at Vancouver General Hospital, Dr Beck undertook fellowship training in internal medicine at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal. He returned to Vancouver in 1952 as the first teaching fellow in internal medicine for the newly formed UBC Faculty of Medicine. He maintained a clinical faculty position with the medical school, had an office-based practice in hematology and internal medicine, and worked part-time at the BC Cancer Institute (now the BC Cancer Agency).

Dr Beck was one of the first in BC to work as a medical oncologist, long before medical oncology was recognized as a specialty in Canada. He played a major role in developing the provincial outreach program before clinics were established around the province. Dr Beck firmly believed in the agency's potential to provide friendly and compassionate cancer care of the highest standard across the province, and his legacy lives on today in the province-wide approach to cancer care. As cancer care became his main focus, Dr Beck started working full-time with the BC Cancer Agency and became director of outreach until his retirement in 1988.

Colleagues recall Dr Beck's gentlemanly manner, his devotion to patients, and his keen attention to supporting practising colleagues—especially family physicians, internists, surgeons, and community-based hematologists and oncologists. One colleague remembers that Dr Beck was a hard person to cover for because, to his patients, no one else would do.

Dr Beck was a registrant of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC for 71 years, initially as a student, then a full registrant, and latterly as honorary, nonpractising. He joined the BC and Canadian Medical Associations in 1955 and was recognized with honorary life membership following his retirement. He had long affiliations with the BC and Yukon division of the Canadian Cancer Society, the Osler Society, the North Pacific Society of Internal Medicine, and the Boys and Girls Club of Vancouver, for which he provided and arranged medical exams for children off to enjoy Camp Potlatch.

Dr Beck had everything one could ever wish for in life: a close and loving family and a challenging and rewarding career. He traveled widely,

read extensively, worked in the garden, played golf, went fishing, and followed the Lions and the Canucks. He got a hole-in-one (twice!) and caught steelhead—the last one at age 83. So there was no Stanley Cup, but he had almost everything one could ever wish for.

Dr Beck was loved by family and friends and respected by colleagues, coworkers, and patients. He was kind, generous, witty, respectful, and polite. He will be truly missed.

Dr Beck is survived by his wife, Jean; children, Ruth (Bill), Jean (Jim), and Ted; and four grandchildren.

—Jean Jamieson, MD
Vancouver

Dr John Carl Harold Laudan 1931–2013



Dr John Carl Harold Laudan died suddenly of a heart attack while in hospital in Vancouver on 14 November 2013, recovering from unrelated surgery. He was 81.

Dr Laudan was born in Mildred, Saskatchewan, on 1 November 1931, the son of Dr Harry Laudan and Ethel Laudan (née Bentley). Dr Laudan received his medical training at the University of Washington in Seattle, where he received thesis honors and was awarded the degree of medical doctor in 1957, after which he interned in Vancouver, BC. Dr Laudan joined

the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps as a captain in 1958 and served for 3 years at Fort Churchill, Manitoba. Returning to Vancouver to train as a radiologist, Dr Laudan received his specialist certification in 1965 and became a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in 1972. He practised in Vancouver at Associated Diagnostic Radiologists for many years, retiring in 2010.

Dr Laudan was also a portrait and landscape painter, figure skater, pianist, sabre fencer, husband, father, and grandfather. In his youth he was an excellent rider and worked as a cowboy at his family's ranch. He was an enthusiastic follower of politics and made many friends among the principals and followers of the conservative political magazine *National Review*, which he read attentively throughout much of his life. During an eventful lifetime he found time to be married five times, twice to Lesley—who was the love of his life. He sometimes had a gruff manner and cantankerous opinions, but also deep kindness and great humility. He never wanted to be fussed over. Dr Laudan is missed by his family and friends, and much remembered.

—Dirk Laudan
Vancouver

Dr Roger A.L. Sutton 1937–2014



With great sadness we announce that Professor Emeritus Roger A.L. Sutton, DM, FRCPC, died on 10 September after a courageous 2-year battle with bladder cancer. Dr Sutton led an extraordinary life of accomplishment, adventure, and family. He will be deeply missed by his loving and devoted wife, Wendy, to whom he was happily married for 52 years, and his two proud daughters, Fiona and Nicola.

Dr Roger Sutton was born in Lancashire, England. He received his medical training at Oxford University and his postgraduate training at University College Hospital, London. Roger, Wendy, and their two young daughters immigrated to Canada in the early 1970s, where Dr Sutton worked initially at the Royal Victoria Hospital and McGill University in Montreal. In the mid 1970s the family moved to Vancouver, where Dr Sutton became the head of the Division of Nephrology and subsequently head of the Department of Medicine, Vancouver General Hospital, and president of the Canadian Society of Nephrology. In 1978 he was awarded the prestigious Medal in Medicine from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Possessing an unusually exacting and curious mind, he became internationally recognized and acclaimed in his specialty of nephrology, with particular expertise in osteoporosis and renal stones, and was widely admired for his clinical,

research, and administrative abilities. In 1993 Roger and Wendy traveled to Pakistan to take up a 7-year position as the head of the Department of Medicine at the Aga Khan University in Karachi and then dean of Health Sciences, Aga Khan University, where he was the central figure in the development of the curriculum for the new medical school, before returning to Vancouver in 2000.

Dr Sutton had a lifelong passion for ornithology, and it is quite likely that he ultimately came to know as much about birds as he did about medicine. His love of birds and bird watching started in childhood. Later in life his bird-watching expertise was accompanied by an accomplishment in the photography of birds. His fearless love for travel and adventure has been an inspiration to his daughters.

Dr Sutton's life-long achievements in medicine and birding were associated with quiet calm, a great sense of humor, and enviable modesty. He was passionate about life and took great joy in the company of his family and friends. He was a loving husband and father and a caring physician. He will be much missed by his family, numerous patients, colleagues, and friends, and his many beloved students and fellows who now hold senior positions in medicine throughout the world. Dr Sutton is survived by his wife, Wendy; two daughters, Fiona and Nicola; brother, Nigel; in-laws, Gill, Liz, Michael, and Marshall; and nieces and nephews, Alison, Julia, Andrew, Julia, Ann, and John, all of whom loved him dearly.

Our thanks to Roger's friends, who supported him and his family throughout his illness, and the doctors and staff at Vancouver General Hospital, the BC Cancer Agency, and in particular the Palliative Care Unit, for their compassion and care.

—Wendy Sutton
—Fiona Burrows
—Nicola Sutton
Vancouver

Now we're here for you
24 hrs/day, 7 days/week.
Call at 1-800-663-6729 or
visit www.physicianhealth.com.

Physician Health Program
British Columbia
Connecting Physicians to Health