

Dr John Gordon Watt 1931–2014



Dr John Watt, orthopaedic surgeon, passed away peacefully at his home in Langley surrounded by his children and his wife, Mary. He led a long, fulfilled, and generous life. Born and educated in Vancouver, he spent his summers in Cariboo ranching country, where he first gained his love of farming and cattle. He was part of the third graduating class of the University of British Columbia's new Medical School in 1956, the same school that his daughters Maggie and Beth would later attend.

Upon graduation, with his new bride, Mary, and his classmate, Roy Schofer, John drove to Fairfield, Alabama, to do a rotating internship at a public hospital. He often talked about his time there and the great practical experience he gained. After the internship, Dr Watt returned to Vancouver

and joined the fledgling UBC Orthopaedic Residency Program under Dr F.P. Patterson. Dr Watt was the first UBC medical graduate to join the UBC Orthopaedic Training Program, and during his training period he spent a year studying and teaching anatomy under Professor Sydney Friedman and a year of clinical training at the University of Western Ontario under Dr Jack Kennedy. Dr Watt successfully completed his Royal College Fellowship examinations in 1962 and joined the clinical faculty of UBC and the staff of Vancouver General and Shaughnessy (Veteran's) Hospitals. He also joined Dr Cam Allen and Dr Donald Starr in a partnership practice that is still in place almost 70 years later as the Division of Orthopaedic Trauma at Vancouver General Hospital. As well, Dr Watt was a consultant and performed surgeries at a hospital in Nanaimo dedicated to the care of the First Nations people, for whom he held a lifelong appreciation and sympathy. In his early years, Dr Watt was very active in teaching medical students and took a particular interest in teaching surgical anatomy to residents. He continued teaching students and residents for his entire 27 years of practice.

Dr Watt was an excellent and very fast technical surgeon. He wasted no time or movement and took the surgical care of his patients very seriously. He had a great sense of humor and many interests, and he spent more

time than usual talking to patients, not only about their health but about themselves. He didn't suffer fools gladly. Pretentiousness was not part of his personality and he disdained it in others, frequently letting them know it. Dr Watt had a special place in his heart for those who were less fortunate and took genuine pleasure in the lives of ordinary people. He and Mary had a large family and always seemed to have some live-in guests staying for a considerable length of time.

Orthopaedic surgery was his vocation but farming and Simmental cattle were his avocation. After he retired in 1989, Dr Watt moved to his farm in Langley and remained very active in the farming community and the Simmental Cattle Association.

As well as his many friends and colleagues, he leaves to mourn his wonderful wife, Mary; his children, Beth, Maggie, Jane, Heather, Hugh, and Bruce; and many grandchildren. His family has set up a John G. Watt Memorial Fund at UBC dedicated to raising money to help students from rural areas attend UBC Medical School (www.memorial.supporting.ubc.ca/john-g-watt/).

—Robert N. Meek, MD

In Memoriam continued on page 34

Recently deceased physicians

If a BC physician you knew well is recently deceased, consider submitting a piece for our "In Memoriam" section in the *BCMJ*. Include the deceased's dates of birth and death, full name and the name the deceased was best known by, key hospital and professional affiliations, relevant biographical data, and a high-resolution photo. Please limit your submission to a maximum of 500 words. Send the content and photo by e-mail to journal@doctorsofbc.ca.

Now we're here for
you 24 hrs a day,
seven days
a week.

Call at
1-800-663-6729
or visit
www.physicianhealth.com.



Physician
Health Program
British Columbia

Connecting Physicians to Health

Continued from page 33

Dr Peter Allen 1921–2014



Dr Peter Allen passed away peacefully on 17 November 2014 at the age of 92 after a brief illness. Dr Allen was the adored husband of Dr Dolly Bhola and beloved father to her son Abhay. Along with his predeceased wife, Mary Allen, he was the parent of Elizabeth, Peter (Joan), and Graham (Sandra). He was the proud grandfather of Alex, Emily, and Stephanie Rankin; Michael and Brian Allen; and Christopher Allen. Dr Allen was predeceased by his brother, Keith, of Seattle. Dr Allen's maternal grandfather, Sir George Bury, and his mother, Doris Allen, were the most influential role models in his early life.

Born in Germantown, Pennsylvania, on 13 December 1921, Dr Allen was schooled in Vancouver and graduated from the University of Toronto Medical School in 1946. After he received his FRSCC in general surgery in 1953, he held a fellowship in thoracic surgery in 1964 at the Royal Brompton Hospital in London, England. He also completed a year of study in internal medicine in Amsterdam.

Dr Allen was a professor at the UBC Faculty of Medicine and practised at Vancouver General Hospital as a cardiac surgeon for 36 years. He performed the first open heart surgical procedure in British Columbia

(closure of ASD) on 29 October 1957. In 1993 Dr Allen retired as an emeritus professor of clinical surgery from UBC.

Dr Allen's international contributions included performing the first coronary bypass surgery in Cardiff, and establishing the first cardiac surgical centre in Bhopal in 1977. In Bhopal he became a major influence in the practice of cardiac surgery and the teaching of medical and nursing students for many years.

He was a member of Pete's Club, founded in 1959, which is a group of cardiac surgeons from the United Kingdom and western Europe. He was also a member of Jane's Surgical Group, a forum for the exchange of scientific knowledge in the international surgical community, which met for 36 consecutive years starting in 1953.

For the past 16 years, Dr Allen was on the board of directors at the Ian Anderson House Hospice in Oakville, Ontario, and served on the Grants Committee of the Oakville Community Foundation. His life was defined by eternal optimism, adventure, enthusiasm, and incredible friendships. He was an avid historian with an unsurpassed thirst for knowledge, an accomplished athlete—tennis player, skier, fly fisherman—and a published author. He traveled to all corners of the world and especially to all corners of Canada. Dr Allen was a fiercely loyal and proud Canadian and in recent years visited historical sites of the First World War and the Second World War, including attending the 90th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. He was a generous, kind man who was unwavering in his love and dedication to his family and friends. He will be deeply missed, but his legacy is one which all his loving family and friends are committed to perpetuate.

—Lawrence Burr, MD
Vancouver

Dr Michael Claude Philip Livingstone 1928–2014



“He was a great man,” was some warm praise from a grateful patient in memory of Dr Michael Livingstone, who gave half a century of his life to family practice. Charles Dickens once said that great men are seldom well dressed, and Dr Livingstone—tall, handsome, and patrician in appearance—fulfilled that criterion: mismatched socks and a sweater, which was an antique in the Boer War, also suggested that vanity had no place in his makeup. Dr Livingstone's greatness lay in his love for medicine, a searching curiosity, great kindness, and a sympathetic ear. He agreed with Michael Balint that listening to a patient's story is *sine qua non* for an accurate diagnosis. He was also a well-read intellectual who enjoyed Carl Jung and wanted to unearth any psychological contributions to a patient's illness.

Dr Livingstone was born in England. His father, Sir Philip Livingstone, was an ophthalmologist in the Royal Air Force who was knighted for his research on night vision in fighter pilots. He studied medicine at Cambridge and St. Thomas' Hospital and finished his degree at the University of Alberta. He studied surgery at St. Paul's Hospital for 2 years before

choosing family practice in Richmond, where he sometimes cared for several generations of patients.

Dr Livingstone resembled his beloved Anton Chekhov, who was also a busy family doctor and writer, and he kept his mental furniture brightly polished. He wrote four books and 26 papers, all of which are erudite, carefully researched, and sparkle with historical and literary allusions. He had a special interest in whiplash and other spinal injuries and built a reputation as a manipulator for back pain.

Dr Livingstone was also a keen sportsman who enjoyed tennis, skiing, duck hunting (with his father's old shotgun), and especially cricket. He loved the game, and well into his 60s was a first-class bat and somewhat alarming leg-spin bowler. He met his wife, Diana, at Brockton Cricket Ground. They married in 1954 and had three sons: Peter, John, and Tim. Tim died at age 19 in an accident and is remembered fondly: "... he was a beautiful boy."

Diana was a nurse who seemed either waist-high in flowers (she was an accomplished gardener) or knee-deep in golden retrievers, who were a cherished part of the family. Diana and Michael would talk happily together for hours. They adored their sons and grandchildren, Philip, Michael, Kaylyn, William, and Sophie.

Diana predeceased Michael by several months. He seemed quite serene to shuffle off this mortal coil as he probably longed to see Diana and Tim again, perhaps in a heaven full of flowers and golden retrievers.

Dr Livingstone was too humble to give advice about this life, but he would probably have said, if pressed, "Live as well as you dare. Play with a straight bat and keep your eyes on the ball." He was a great man, a gentleman, and a gentle man.

—**Christopher Marrant, MBBS,
FRCP, Richmond**

Benjamin Benito Trevino, QC 1931–2014



In 1979, after a decade of poor results in negotiations with the Government of BC, the then BCMA decided to hire a nonphysician expert in negotiations to enhance the ability of the profession to maximize the results in the negotiation of 1980–1981.

Mr Trevino was one of the three people interviewed by the Negotiating Committee of the day, on which I was the junior member. We met Ben at Armando's Restaurant on Pender Street and were completely fascinated by his personality, his interest in the upcoming negotiations, and his ability to down martinis! Although Ben's experience was in representing management in corporate/union negotiations, he quickly assessed the situation and sketched out for us of an approach that recognized our members' identification with management while being on the other side of the table in negotiations. We recommended to the Board of Directors that we retain Ben, and he was hired to advise the BCMA throughout the negotiation. With his guidance, we were able to negotiate a 40% increase in fees over a 2-year period!

Ben was thus the first professional negotiator to work with a provincial/territorial medical association, blazing the way for the now standard practice of having professional help

with the government negotiations across Canada.

Ben advised our association about negotiations until 1994 when he left his practice to sit as a bencher for the Law Society. He also worked with the Ontario Medical Association and helped other associations and the CMA with issues.

After he left the role of negotiation advisor, he was appointed to be a commissioner of the Medical Services Commission, a post in which he represented the interests of the people of the province and the doctors of BC with great wisdom and humility. He served in that role for 6 years.

In recognition of his more than 20 years of work for and with our association, he was awarded the BCMA Silver Medal of Service in 2007. He was only the second nonphysician to be so honored.

Ben was the president of the Alma Mater Society at UBC as a student and then served that institution as a member of both the senate and the board of governors.

In addition to being a bencher, he served the lawyers of this province as their treasurer. He loved gardening, fly fishing, and martinis.

On 20 November 2014, Ben passed on after a long fight with cancer with his daughter, Serita, at his side. He was predeceased by his teenage sweetheart, Jackie, to whom he was married for 63 years. He is survived by Serita; his son, Andre; their spouses; and his grandchildren, and is fondly remembered by the many partners and associates at Fasken Martineau DuMoulin as well as many of the physicians and surgeons of the province, whom he served.

"Gentle Ben" touched many lives with his charm, warmth, eloquence, and advice. British Columbia is a better place thanks to him, and the doctors of BC owe him a great deal.

—**Brad Fritz, MD
Vancouver**