



## Dr David Millar Norwell 1919–2015

Dr David Millar Norwell was born on 2 May 1919 in Kilmarnock, Scotland, and died on 23 May 2015 in McBride, BC. David was the second youngest of four boys and two girls. All the boys, graduates of Glasgow University, became family physicians.

Dr Norwell worked briefly in a law office before joining the British Army to serve much of the Second World War in India. We met in 1946 when we both started studying medicine in Glasgow. David graduated in 1951 and moved to Vancouver in 1953. I admired his courage and dedication to his art when he decided, after a few years in family practice in North Vancouver, to follow his passion by studying music at UBC. But while music fed his soul, medicine fed his family, and 2 years later he returned to family practice. In subsequent years Dr Norwell was active in composing, performing, and producing music.

After retirement in the 1990s David moved to Valemount, where his family lived. He never lost his love of learning and continued well into his 90s to be engaged in the community as a musician and graphic artist. An interview with Dr Norwell from 2010, produced by Valemount Community TV, can be seen

on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=UmgLzsmSua8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UmgLzsmSua8).

Dr Norwell is survived by his wife, Jane; children, Liz, Robert, and Janey; and seven grandchildren.

—**W. Gardner, MBChB**  
West Vancouver



## Dr Mihaly (Mike) Vagyi 1929–2015

Dr Mihaly (Mike) Vagyi was born on 30 March 1929 in Vasarosdombo, Hungary, and passed away on 2 April 2015 at Royal Inland Hospital in Kamloops.

When the student-led Hungarian uprising of 1956 was crushed by Soviet tanks entering Budapest in November of that year, Dr Vagyi became a refugee and fled Hungary, arriving first in France and then immigrating to Canada. Dr Vagyi arrived in Halifax on 14 January 1957 and made his way to Montreal and then Vancouver and Penticton. The early years were difficult for Dr Vagyi due to his lack of fluency in English. He worked a variety of jobs in order to gain a command of the language, the last being as an orderly at the Penticton Hospital. With sufficient English and Canadian citizenship in hand, Dr Vagyi moved to Chase and assumed Dr Mike Trelor's practice.

For over 40 years Dr Vagyi was

the quintessential rural family doctor, routinely working 12-hour days, 7 days a week. During that time he delivered over 2500 babies and attended innumerable house calls. In the 1960s Chase still had a switchboard with a live operator, and Dr Vagyi would keep the operator apprised of his location so that he could be located if required.

Chase is largely a rural community with a farming and logging backbone. Consequently, Dr Vagyi's services were frequently needed to manage injuries, and it was not unheard of for him to be called out to attend patients five or six times in a single night.

Royal Inland Hospital is located in Kamloops 55 kilometres from Chase. Dr Vagyi would make the trip daily to check on his inpatients, as well as to ferry patients back and forth to Kamloops Hospital if they required laboratory work or X-rays.

A devoted physician and active community member, Dr Vagyi gave willingly to Chase. While he had no children of his own, he loved children and his office was adorned with the many photos of those he had delivered. Each Halloween he made a point of giving out a generous treat package, which allowed him to visit with hundreds of trick-or-treaters each year.

A measure of the respect and love the community felt for him was displayed by the memorial service organized by three local First Nations Bands—Adams Lake, Little Shuswap, and Neskonlith—and the Village of Chase. One in five of the 2500 or so Chase residents attended the memorial service and shared their many memories of Dr Vagyi's more than 4 decades of service as their devoted physician, and following the service many individuals were able to collect their baby pictures.

No memory of Dr Vagyi would

be complete without mentioning his love for the lottery. He was a devout participant in Lotto 649 and had three significant wins, the most recent of which was approximately \$1.5 million in 1995.

As the face of medicine understandably changes, it is with great sadness that we witness the passing of such a devoted family physician.

—**Robert N. Baker, MD**

**Kamloops**

—**Nadeen Gavelin, RN**

**Kamloops**



**Dr Morris VanAndel  
1943–2015**

We mourn the passing of a fine medical leader and a true servant.

Dr Morris VanAndel was born in Arnhem, Netherlands, on 12 October 1943, the fifth of seven children. The family immigrated to Canada in 1954, settling in New Westminster.

Dr VanAndel graduated from the UBC in 1968. After completing an internship at the Royal Columbian Hospital he ran a full-spectrum family medicine practice in Burnaby in association with Drs David Harris, Gordon McFadden, and others. Early in his career Dr VanAndel became involved in hospital medical staff affairs at Royal Columbian, where his skills and abundant common sense were recognized. Later, while still in clinical practice, he became involved with programs at the College of Phy-

sicians and Surgeons, which led him to join the College staff as a deputy registrar in 1992. His participation in all aspects of the College’s work equipped him for his role as senior deputy registrar under Dr Tom Handley and eventually his appointment as registrar in 2000, a position he held until his retirement in October 2008.

While he was the registrar we fondly called him “Boss,” but he was never “the boss”; rather, he was our leader. Morris recognized that the deputies and support staff were competent, wise, committed people. He turned us loose to do our jobs, expecting us to keep him informed and to ask for assistance if we weren’t sure. His door was always open, as was he—always willing to share what he knew.

While dealing with physicians who came to the attention of the College posed challenges, Dr VanAndel never forgot that many of these physicians were colleagues with difficulties of their own, needing to be dealt with firmly and fairly, but also with compassion. Often at the interview stage, after listening to the doctor and his or her legal counsel, he would say, “Let me take my registrar’s hat off for a moment,” and then collegially lay the cards on the table, making the way clear to a fair resolution of the issue at hand.

Dr VanAndel epitomized what one expected of a professional—he was competent, compassionate, honest, and humble. What you saw was what you got; he was a person of true integrity. All who dealt with him, including his staff, the profession, the broader regulatory community, government, and the public, respected him for his discernment, integrity, and compassion.

Dr VanAndel was loved by all for his kindness, steadiness, generosity, and sense of humor. His deep faith in God was evident in his daily life. He could be counted on no matter what the need. He loved his family and his friends. These relationships were a

priority for him.

In recognition of his years of dedicated service he was awarded the Dr David M. Bachop Gold Medal for Distinguished Medical Service, the Wallace Wilson Leadership Award, the Dr Cam Coady Medal of Excellence, and an honorary membership in the CMA.

Outside of his professional life Morris had many interests. He enjoyed being active in sports, especially hockey with his buddies. He was captain of his team at the Vernon Medical Association Spring Hockey Tournament for several years. He was a competitor but was also known by his teammates as the diplomatic enforcer, quietly ensuring that those opponents whose physical play exceeded the rules toned it down a notch. He enjoyed crosswords, playing cards, movies, and traveling, and he was an avid reader. Throughout his life he served on various committees in the community related to church, schools, and other agencies.

Morris was diagnosed with cholangiocarcinoma in February 2012. During the extensive surgery and multiple cycles of chemotherapy that followed he was supported by a large cadre of family and friends. Throughout that time Morris and Arlene also found great support through their Christian faith.

Morris is survived by his wife of 51 years, Arlene; three children, Kathy, Carla, and Morris; eight grandchildren; and six siblings.

Morris, you have run the race and run it well. Now it is finished. “Well done thou good and faithful servant... enter into the joy of your Master” (Matthew 25:23).

—**Doug Blackman, MD**  
**Vancouver**

