

## Dr Alexander Duncan McDougall 1923–2016



Dr Alex McDougall died on 6 September 2016. Alex was born on 25 September 1923 and grew up in Haney, British Colum-

bia. He received his bachelor of arts degree in honors English and history from UBC in 1944, and then served with the Number One Canadian Special Wireless Signal Corp. in the South West Pacific from 1944 to 1946, and received the Pacific Star medal of honor for his war-service efforts. Upon returning from the war he began his medical training at the University of Toronto and graduated in 1951. Dr McDougall interned at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver. He practised family medicine in Williams Lake (1952–1953) and then in Kamloops (1953–1975). He was a superb diagnostician and a compassionate and caring family physician. He was elected and served as the chief of medical staff of the Royal Inland Hospital (1969–1975). He was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977 for his outstanding dedication to his country and community in the advancement of medical services. In 1975 Dr McDougall was appointed as the medical officer to the Workers' Compensation Board office in Kamloops and was transferred to the head office in Richmond as the assistant medical director in 1978. He subsequently served as the executive director of medical services of the Workers' Compensation Board of BC from 1981–1988.

Dr McDougall was active in the

College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) and held both the certification and fellowship with this accrediting body. He helped develop, and was in the first group of physicians to receive, the CFPC fellowship designation. He was president of the BC chapter of the CFPC from 1970 to 1971.

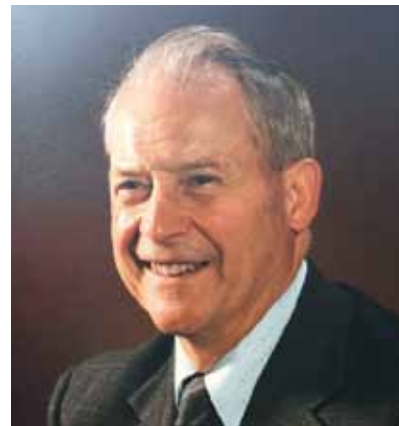
Following his stroke in May 2001, Alex tackled his rehabilitation and recovery with his usual quiet determination and achieved remarkable improvements that allowed him to return to his home in Kamloops for more than 13 years. Alex was predeceased by his loving wife, Marguerita, and by his father and mother, Colin and Lillian McDougall; four brothers, Campbell, Stewart, Dougald, and Murray; and three sisters, Beulah Christensen (Anker), Helen Legge (Victor), and Islay. He is survived by his two daughters, Elspeth and Jennifer (Patrick Egan). He also is survived by three treasured grandchildren, Curran, Brenna, and Gwyneth Egan.

—**Elspeth M. McDougall, MD,  
FRCSC, MHPE  
Kamloops**

### 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](mailto:journal@doctorsofbc.ca).

## Dr Robert Riley Wilson 1921–2016



Dr Bob Wilson, occasionally known as Riley, died quietly on Thanksgiving Monday, after a life well lived, and in narrow avoidance of “any fuss” for his 95th birthday. Born and raised in North Vancouver, he was kept (mostly) in line by his three older siblings (Ellen, George, and Berte).

He quarterbacked and captained the North Vancouver High School football team and played scrum half both in high school and for the North Shore All Blacks. He met his beloved Ethel at school, and they married in 1945.

During the Second World War, Bob worked at the Burrard Shipyards, first as a general hand, and then as a draughtsman. His work was deemed an essential service, and thus he was not able to enlist in the armed services. Since he was not eligible for any of the educational benefits that were available to his returning friends, Bob and Ethel worked hard to put him through bachelor's and master's degrees in biology, and then medicine, graduating in the UBC class of 1955. He was considered the “old married guy with a family” in the class. Ethel worked to support the family, and Bob studied in the woodshed and worked on weekends digging ditches and graves,

## in memoriam

and swamping on the garbage truck.

After internship, he practised in Vernon and Port Renfrew, and then joined friends and med school classmates Peter Postuk and Mel Smith in Duncan, where he practised for the remainder of his career. He was a family doctor beloved by his patients and highly respected by his colleagues. Dr Bob made house calls, even after his official retirement, because he said he could learn more about patients by seeing them in their home for 5 minutes than he could by seeing them in the office for 25. He also served as local coroner for many years.

The little spare time that he had was spent with his family at the Maple Bay cabin, or for several years, sailing. From a Sabot, to a friend's Lightning, to a chartered Cal, to his own Coronado, Bob and a close-hauled sailboat were made for one another despite Ethel's less-than-enthusiastic response to heeling!

From night school classes he took up metal lathe work, and he was a creative solver of many construction and mechanical problems for his children and grandchildren. His New Year's trumpet playing and hot air balloon UFOs will be missed by his family, if not by the neighborhood.

Fly-fisherman, dog lover, decent and gentle man, an inspiration for young and aspiring physicians, another of the good guys has gone.

He was predeceased by his wife, Ethel (2006); son, Jim (1998); son-in-law, Gerry (2006); and his siblings.

A month before Bob passed on, his daughter, Joan, asked him for advice, some words to live by, and after a few minutes of reflection he said, "Three things: do your best, tell the tales, take care of your own boat."

—Joan Wilson, BSc, DipEd  
—Donald Hilton, MD, FRCPC  
Duncan

## pulsimeter

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Cisplatin is frequently used to treat children with leukemia, brain, bone, and liver cancers. It can cause permanent hearing loss in some patients. Anthracyclines treat leukemia, bone tumors, and other cancers, but can lead to heart damage that may result in heart failure and the need for a heart transplant. Children are at particular risk for these complications and live with the effects for the rest of their lives.

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Leading the program are Dr Bruce Carleton, director of the Pharmaceutical Outcomes Programme at BC Children's Hospital and a professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of British Columbia, and Dr Rod Rassekh, an investigator and oncologist at BC Children's Hospital and a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of British Columbia. Drs Carlton and Rassekh and their colleagues are working to expand the testing program to hospitals across Canada and to patient groups beyond oncology. They are currently collaborating with clinicians and researchers at hospitals in Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto, London, Ottawa, and Montreal on the groundwork and logistics necessary to offer testing at treatment centres in those cities.

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