

Dr H. Barss Dimock 1922–2015



Dr Dimock was born in Trail, BC, on 14 January 1922, and grew up in the small town. As a young man he played hockey and tennis and

was an outstanding baseball player. Along with his brother, Bill, even as a junior he was a member of the Trail Senior Baseball Team, which won the Western Canada Championships.

Dr Dimock obtained his BSc and subsequently his MD (with first-class honors) from the University of Alberta in 1945, followed by 2 years of residency in internal medicine in Edmonton. He maintained his interest in sport at university where he was president of the University of Alberta Hockey Team. During his university years he also joined the Phi Kappa Pi fraternity.

After residency Dr Dimock joined the C.S. Williams Clinic, which had a head office in Trail and satellite offices in Rossland and Castlegar—bedroom communities of Trail where most of the male residents were employees of Cominco, a large lead-zinc smelter in Trail. Dr Dimock did general practice in both Rossland and Castlegar for a short time. Making use of the generous postgraduate time offered by the clinic, Dr Dimock completed another 2-year residency in internal medicine and obtained his certification as a specialist in 1954. He was awarded his fellowship by the Royal College in 1972 and practised internal medicine with the clinic from 1954 until 1999.

For many years the clinic had a contract with Cominco to perform medicals on new employees and

interpret blood levels for employees who worked in the lead smelter. As the smelter expanded to approximately 4000 employees, Cominco's operations expanded in British Columbia, Alaska, and the high Arctic, and Dr Dimock took an active part in expanding occupational medicine and industrial health. This occupied at least one-third of his career from 1963 to 1990. He became a Fellow of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

In the intervening years Dr Dimock served on the Board of Directors of the BCMA/Doctors of BC and the Northwest Occupational Medicine Association. He was also chief of staff of the Trail Regional Hospital for several years.

Dr Dimock was an active skier at Red Mountain. He would say that “If you can ski Red, you can ski anywhere in the world.” And a golfer—he even got a hole-in-one in 1990! As an active Rotarian, he had 33 years of perfect attendance.

Dr Dimock served as chairman of the C.S. Williams Clinic from 1970 to 1974. He was made an honorary member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia in 2000.

Even after retirement he remained active in numerous civic activities. He continued to live in Trail, although he traveled extensively with his wife, Sylvia, and enjoyed many summers at their Christina Lake cottage.

Dr Dimock was predeceased by his wife of over 50 years and by one son. He is survived by two daughters, one son, one brother, and several grandchildren. Dr Dimock died of a CVA on 13 October 2015.

—J.R. Harrigan, MD
Vancouver

Dr Roger Sherriff Tonkin 1936–2015



Dr Roger Tonkin's passing marks the loss of a Canadian and international champion for adolescent health and a visionary leader for

health care. Dr Tonkin graduated from the McGill University Faculty of Medicine in 1962, obtained a fellowship in pediatrics in 1968, and then became a faculty member in the UBC Department of Pediatrics in 1969. He had a broad interest in child and youth health and a special interest in adolescent health. As a clinician he had a particular interest in the treatment of eating disorders, while his research interests involved population-based research on broad issues related to adolescent health.

Dr Tonkin excelled as an academic pediatrician by the traditional metrics, with a major research contribution being the BC Adolescent Health Survey. He chaired the Department of Pediatrics at St. Paul's Hospital and the UBC Division of Adolescent Health. He was president of the International Association for Adolescent Health and chaired the Adolescent Health Committee of the Canadian Paediatric Society.

But Dr Tonkin was far from traditional—he was an innovator and builder of interdisciplinary collaborative structures who never accepted *no* as an answer. He had the ability to engage physicians and other health care professionals, learners, government, funders, organizations, and community members in a shared vision of what could be created to improve health care and population health. He was an

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expert in developing an unpaid workforce of individuals who happily volunteered their time, but also a master fundraiser. He conceived of, initiated, and directed REACH, one of the first community health centres in Canada, which is still operating in East Vancouver 45 years later, and developed and chaired the McCreary Centre Society and McCreary Youth Foundation. McCreary Centre became recognized internationally for its research and leadership in adolescent health.

Dr Tonkin was a mentor and inspirational teacher to many colleagues who learned from him how to work with a community to achieve socially relevant goals. Long after his formal retirement from UBC in 1996 he continued to contribute his ideas and leadership to a range of organizations and activities, particularly the McCreary Centre.

Dr Tonkin also received many awards, including the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, the Order of BC, an Outstanding Achievement by an Investigator Research Award from BC's Child and Family Research Institute, a UBC Long-Service Award, a Founders Award from the International Association for Adolescent Health, and a Ross Award from the Canadian Paediatric Society, which recognizes lifelong excellence in the fields of pediatric research, education, health care, and advocacy.

—Carol P. Herbert, MD
Vancouver



Dr Mary A. Murphy 1918–2016

Dr Murphy was born in Calgary and grew up in Vancouver. After she received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of British Columbia, the dean asked her, "Mary, what will you do now? Get a PhD and teach, or go to medical school?" She hadn't considered a career in medicine before she was asked that question, but it led her to apply and be accepted to the University of Western Ontario. Dr Murphy was one of three women in her class. The anatomy professor scowled at the three of them and said, "You will be getting no favors from me." So I wonder how he felt when, in 1948, she graduated at the top of her class.

After medical school Dr Murphy moved back to Vancouver and met her husband, Edwin Markowski,

while interning at Vancouver General Hospital. They began their practice together in Hedley, BC. The Nickel Plate mine was still in operation at the time, and Mary occasionally made the harrowing trip up the mountain in an ore car to tend to a worker. She sometimes received payment in moose meat or fish.

After a short time in Seattle, Washington, she and Edwin settled in Cloverdale, BC, where they set up a joint family practice. Dr Murphy practised medicine for 50 years, finally retiring in 1998 at the age of 80. During that time she tended to her patients' needs with empathy and diligence. She probably delivered close to 1000 babies and developed a sixth sense about it, waking up in the wee hours just before the phone rang.

Dr Murphy had three children as well as many other interests. She played the bagpipes at her daughter's wedding and danced the Highland fling during her 25th wedding anniversary. She loved to travel and visited many parts of the world; she even went trekking in Nepal with her two sons, where she fell off a donkey. Two Sherpas had to carry her to the nearest airstrip 2 days away so she could be flown to Kathmandu for treatment. Her other love was flower gardening—digging holes in the dirt, planting bulbs, and collecting seeds from wherever she was, just to see if they would grow, and many of them did.

Dr Murphy was predeceased by her husband, Edwin, and her son, David. But at the end of her days she left many legacies—flower gardens filled with simple beauty, and lives that she had nurtured, encouraged, and healed throughout her long and rich life. She is survived by her son, Stephen; daughter, Christine; and numerous grandchildren.

Life is a great big canvas, and you should throw all the paint on it you can. —Danny Kaye

—Christine Arpita
Salt Spring Island



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in memoriam



Dr Philip Anthony White 1945–2015

Dr Philip White was born on 20 August 1945 in Bristol in southern England. Dr White received his medical degree from King's College London and St. George's Hospital Medical School in London. After spending several years in family practice, Dr White emigrated to Canada in 1975—first to Moose Jaw and then to Kelowna in 1980 where he set up a practice in the Rutland area. He rapidly built a very busy practice and provided exemplary service to his patients right up until he became ill, and his concern for his patients continued throughout his illness.

Among his other professional interests, Dr White served as the medical director and one of the original chairs of the BC Cancer Agency's Family Practice Oncology Network since its establishment in 2002. Under his leadership the Network developed its nationally renowned General Practitioners in Oncology Training Program. Dr White also led the development and publication of a collection of cancer care guidelines, customized specifically for family physicians. A highly regarded family physician in Kelowna and chief of staff at Kelowna General Hospital from 1983 to 2001, Dr White had the insight, expertise, and charm to drive the Network's suc-

cess. He was a very active member of the BCMA/Doctors of BC, serving on its Board of Directors and the Board of the Society of General Practitioners of BC. Dr White also chaired and was a member of several committees. He was a Board member of Ovarian Cancer Canada and took part enthusiastically in many other initiatives dedicated to improving primary care oncology.

In 1996 and 1997 Dr White chaired the Standing Industry Advisory Committee on Blood and Blood Products, which prepared the recommendations surrounding British Columbia's approach to the hepatitis C issue, including testing and lookback recommendations.

Dr White was also instrumental in setting up the first community walk-in clinic in Rutland, which was owned and staffed by local GPs and ER physicians.

Dr White was a mentor to many of his colleagues and always challenged them to take on new tasks and responsibilities. On a personal note, he encouraged and supported me as I took on various positions within Doctors of BC and the CMA.

Philip enjoyed flying (he had his private pilot's license), skiing, sailing, squash, fly-fishing, and restoring cars. His philosophy was to stay young as old as possible. Philip, you certainly did that and you will be missed by colleagues and patients alike.

Philip passed away after a short illness and is survived by his wife, Marlies, and his two sons, Philip (Annette) and their son Aidan (Kelowna), and Andrew (Jennine) and their children Ella and Finnley (Hong Kong).

A Celebration of Life will be held on 2 April 2016 (2:00 p.m. to 5:00 pm) at Two Eagles Golf Course and Academy, 3509 Carrington Road, West Kelowna.

—**Michael Golbey, MD**
Kelowna

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