

## Dr James Holmes 1934–2016



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dr Jim Holmes on 3 June 2016.

I am deeply honored to have been asked by his family to write a few words about

my very good friend and colleague.

Jim leaves behind his best friend and bride of 55 years, Dixie; his daughters Lisa (Brian), Shelley (Ron), and Jackie (Mark); his son, Robert (Theresa); and a brood of 10 grandchildren who all adored him.

First and foremost Jim was a Prairie boy, and you could take the boy from the Prairies but you could never take the Prairies away from the boy. Jim was born 82 years ago in Consort, Alberta, population 700 souls and home to two famous personages: Jim Holmes and singer k.d. lang. Following his formative years in Consort, the family moved to Mirror, Alberta. During his teen years Jim worked as a fireman on the steam engines of the day. He also became an accomplished baseball player, and it is rumored that he was scouted by one of the big American League teams.

Undergraduate studies were at the University of Alberta, and then medical school followed by postgraduate studies in internal medicine at the Montreal General Hospital, and an exchange in Charlotte, North Carolina, and the famous Hammersmith Hospital in London, England.

These studies came to an untimely halt when Jim's brother, Jack was tragically killed in an air crash and Jim and Dixie returned to Canada to complete his fellowship at the University of Alberta Hospital in Edmonton.

Jim and Dixie moved to Kelowna in 1965 and he practised internal medicine at what was then known as the Knox Clinic. My wife, Bitten, and I came to Kelowna 1 year prior to Jim's arrival and our friendship developed quickly. This friendship was cemented by nearly 45 years of annual bird hunting trips to the Prairies for the four of us. Jim was in his element on these trips and many were our exploits. He was a fan of W.O. Mitchell and his book *Who Has Seen the Wind*, and he always delighted in showing us the wind. While ranging across the Prairies, Jim would bring the vehicle to a screeching stop and we would all hop out and actually look at the wind. Not at the grass and trees but, when the light was right, you could actually see the wind! This will stay with me forever.

I would now like to review for you the advances in medicine made at our Kelowna General Hospital thanks to Dr Jim Holmes. Jim started the first respiratory service in our hospital and introduced the I.C.U. and Emergency Department to the Bird respirator, which was cutting edge at the time. This was followed some years later by Jim introducing our hospital's first dialysis program using peritoneal dialysis. This is now a full hemodialysis program. Jim then established the first cancer clinic in Kelowna and the Interior. He got the first chemotherapy program developed and indeed was our very first oncologist in Kelowna. He then worked incredibly hard to get our full-service cancer clinic to where it is today. This legacy will be hard to match indeed!

Jim will be sorely missed by his friends and colleagues, and our thoughts and best wishes are with his wife, Dixie, and their family.

—Jim Tisdale, MD  
Kelowna

## Dr G. Barrie Purves 1942–2016



Dr Barrie Purves died 11 March 2016 from complications of multiple myeloma for which he had been successfully treated for nearly 14 years. He is survived by this wife, Sherrill Purves; three daughters; and four grandchildren.

Dr Purves graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 1967 and, after interning at Chicago Cook County Hospital, moved to BC to do his residency in neurosurgery at Vancouver General Hospital/UBC Hospital, which he completed in 1975. Dr Purves was active on the committee that negotiated the first PARI contract for UBC residents. He then joined Dr Brian Hunt at Lions Gate Hospital and together they built a busy practice in North Vancouver, which extended to include Burnaby with active privileges at Burnaby General Hospital. They maintained full coverage of these services with a 1-in-2 call for 12 years before they were joined by a third neurosurgeon. Dr Purves also found time to serve as head of the Department of Surgery at Lions Gate Hospital, then chief of staff at Lions Gate Hospital in the 1980s, and as the North Shore representative for Doc-

tors of BC from 1982–84.

In 1992, frustrated by the lack of resources to treat the neurosurgery patients in BC, Dr Purves left the province to join three neurosurgeons in a neurosurgery group in Sioux City, Iowa. He worked there at two hospitals (Mercy Medical Center and St. Luke’s Medical Center) and then played an important role in establishing a Speciality Surgical Center in North Sioux City, South Dakota. His interpersonal skills were also critical for establishing a multidisciplinary group practice called the Center for Neurosciences and Spine. He retired from that practice in 2004 after 2 years of treatment for multiple myeloma.

Fortunately Dr Purves was able to enjoy another 12 years of pursuing his hobbies and friendships, which included a passion for good food and wine, travelling the world to see the wine-growing regions, teaching neurosurgery for 1 month for each of 3 years in Indonesia with the international group FIENS, hunting and building, and enjoying his grandchildren as they arrived.

Dr Purves is remembered by patients, friends, and family as a caring, competent, and compassionate man who enjoyed life with a twinkle in his eye, and who endured the trials of his medical treatments for many years with grace and fortitude.

—Sherrill Purves, MD  
North Vancouver  
—Brian Hunt, MD  
North Vancouver

**Dr John William Ibbott  
1929–2016**



The death of Dr Bill Ibbott on 26 May 2016 marks the end of a remarkable medico-political career. It is worth remembering that the weekend demanded a great deal of Dr Ibbott’s otherwise private life with so many official board meetings held both provincially and nationally.

I served on many executive provincial and national boards with Dr Ibbott, and knew him well while he was president of the then-BCMA from 1975–76 and I from 1976–77 (and 1982–83). It was true that we were often in opposition to each other but this had some valuable political advantages. When we met with provincial health ministers we were able to use our most effective arguments and I do not remember Dr Ibbott ever using our political disagreements at such meetings. Dr Ibbott had a total devotion to high-quality health care for all Canadians. It will be for this that he will be remembered by so many of us, and we owe him gratitude for his lifetime commitment.

—William Jory, MD  
London, UK

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