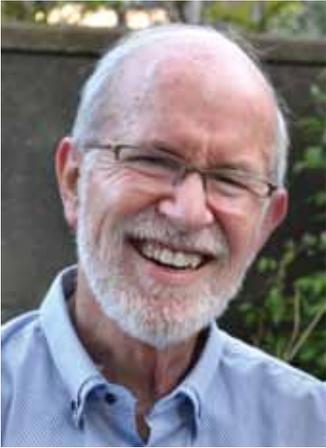


## Dr Richard Wadge 1946–2018



Dr Richard (Rick) Wadge (UBC class of 1970) practised family medicine in the Surrey/Delta region for 37 years. During his lengthy tenure as a family doctor, Rick was devoted to his patients, providing care in nursing homes, making house calls, and delivering over 1000 babies. His compassion, sense of humor, and ability to focus on an individual gave him a personal touch that endeared him as an exemplary doctor to his many patients. Rick clearly enjoyed his career, which saw him help thousands of people, and often spoke about how fortunate it was to be a physician.

After retiring from office practice, Rick, a clinical associate professor, increased his involvement with the UBC School of Medicine, accepting a teaching position with the university where he taught students how to communicate and how to properly conduct physical and sensitive examinations. Rick enjoyed teaching as much as he loved practising medicine, and many of the qualities that made him such a great doctor made him an equally exceptional teacher. Rick loved working with the patient simulation actors and always spoke of them with the highest praise. He was also the chief examiner for the LMCC.

Rick was happily married to his wife Mavourneen for 50 years and together they were blessed with four children: Jeff (Sara), Patrick (Zan), Joy (Remo), and Chantal (Avassa). His eight grandchildren loved him dearly and he was an amazing “Bompa” to them all.

Rick faced his ALS diagnosis with unflinching courage, and when the time came he exercised his right to die on his own terms, in his own home, with his wife by his side and surrounded by his family.

—Alex Wadge  
Sechelt, BC

## Dr John Daniel Garry 1936–2018



Dr John Daniel Garry had an exciting and rewarding life and career that spanned the world. Dad was born in Kildysart, County Clare, Ireland, on 7 June 1936. He was influenced by the many physicians in his family to study medicine, and he completed his medical studies in 1961 in Dublin at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Not being afraid of challenges, he joined the British Army at the height of the Cold War as a physician. He was initially posted to Australia and the Maralinga Nuclear Testing Facility in South Australia. He met his wife, Julie, in Sydney and they were

married at Westminster Cathedral, London, UK, in 1964. He was then posted to the divided city of Berlin, deep inside East Germany. In Berlin, Dad welcomed the birth of a baby girl and boy. The experience of living in Berlin for those years initiated Dad’s love of Germany, its history, people, and culture.

In 1968, John and his family came to Canada, where he would serve as a public health physician starting in Prince George, next in Vancouver, where he obtained his FRCPC at UBC, and then to Kamloops. Harvard University and the United States then beckoned, and he completed a graduate degree in epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health.

John’s public health career continued in Vancouver and Richmond. He had a strong sense of public duty and continued his military interest as a physician in the Canadian Army Reserve Force, becoming the commanding officer of the 12th Vancouver Medical Company.

John’s life was very blessed and he enjoyed many adventures and pursuits. He was an avid golfer his entire life. He and Julie traveled often to Germany, elsewhere in Europe, and to Australia to visit family and friends.

Dad declined over the last year of his life. However, he welcomed his granddaughter, Elise, in January 2017. Elise and Dad formed a unique bond and enjoyed each other’s company immensely.

Our adventures with Dad have ended; however, this is just temporary. Mom, Alice, and I can’t wait to continue the journey with him and join him in the future in everlasting life together.

—Benedict M. Garry, MD, CCFP  
Vancouver



**Dr Fred Ceresney  
1927–2018**

Dr Fred Ceresney was born during the Roaring Twenties, graduated from the University of Toronto, and served in the Canadian armed forces as a medical officer before setting up family practice in Langley.

He was attracted to the area by his military compatriot Dr George Neilson, who was the founder of the original Fort Langley practice, where I now work. Fred served his patients in this same area for over 50 years. He saw Langley grow from a small rural agricultural community to the bustling suburban community it is today.

Medical practice in those days was varied, interesting, and fulfilling—the very definition of a patient-centred service. Fred and his colleagues perfected this model years ago, providing availability and services around the clock to their patients.

“Full service” doesn’t begin to describe it. According to Ina, Fred’s wife of 61 years—who answered the phone 24/7 in addition to caring for 10 children—the average day would end with 10 to 15 house calls. This was often followed by an overnight on-call for the hospital. More often than not she would wake to find the space beside her in the bed empty and cold—Fred would be up at emergency, or in the OR, or in the maternity ward. This

was the nature of practice in those days. Fred relished in it, working late into his life, always on top of things, on time, and enthusiastic.

Fred was also a patient of mine, and of our group practice in Fort Langley, for many years. Providing care to a fellow physician is a great privilege, but can also be a great challenge as they may prefer to direct their own care. They may bristle at the reversal of roles. They may be demanding. Or noncompliant. But Fred was none of these things—in fact, it was a remarkable and mutually shared journey. Yes, Fred was the patient (technically), and I was the physician (technically). But, somehow, together, in a spirit of cooperation and teamwork, we navigated the treacherous waters of his declining health in late middle life, and the rapids of his failing health in old age. And, as the list of ailments and diagnoses grew, as was inevitable, so did Fred’s equanimity

and acceptance. He was indefatigably cheerful, always polite, always considerate.

Every encounter ended with the gentle incantation: “Thank you, and God bless.” His demeanor reminded me of the saying, “The true measure of a man is not to be found when the going is easy. Real character emerges when adversity strikes.”

Fred Ceresney was such a man—honorable in his personal life, compassionate and humane in his dealings with people from all walks of life, ethical in his profession, and finally, courageous and graceful in the face of terminal failure and death. His life, and his living of it, is an inspiration to us all, as physicians and as human beings.

—Alister F. Frayne, MD  
Fort Langley

*Adapted from remarks given at the Langley Division of Family Practice AGM, 26 September 2018.*

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